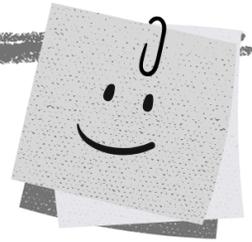


Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY

March Vol. 1-26



Laugh a Little

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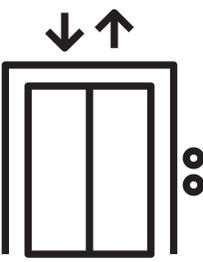


Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Genesis 3) 10-03-2003
"THE GARDEN IS STILL AWESOME, WISH YOU WERE HERE ... LOVE GOD"

What do you call a hippie's wife?
MISSISSIPPI



**IN ENGLAND IT'S CALLED A LIFT.
IN AMERICA IT'S CALLED AN ELEVATOR.
I GUESS PEOPLE ARE JUST RAISED DIFFERENTLY.**



**WHAT DID THE PIRATE SAY WHEN HE TURNED 80 YEARS OLD?
AYE MATEY**



What do you call a reluctant potato?
A hesitater.



And...Introducing a new feature in Faith and Funnies—our very own cartoon!

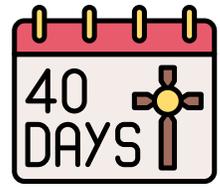
Nadine Says:
"I used to hide candy from my kids.
Now I hide it from the nurses."



©M.Carter

Let's Stop Complaining!

written by Marla Carter



One of the things people often associate with the season of Lent is the practice of giving up something—a small sacrifice that is meant to bring to mind Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. For some people it might be chocolate, or sodas, or social media. What if we expanded upon that idea and said that not only will we *give up* something, we’ll *take up* something in its place! This Lenten season I have been focusing on giving up complaining and taking up rejoicing!

The Bible says in Philippians 2:14, “Do everything without grumbling or arguing...”. Grumbling means quiet complaining under your breath. Arguing means letting it spill out louder and involving others. That passage in Philippians goes on to say: “Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life” (Phil 2:14-16).

When we don’t complain or argue, we shine like stars. The world we live in is so full of people who complain and argue, that when we don’t do that, we look different. We stand out. Like stars.

Complaining usually comes from pain, disappointment, loss of control, or loneliness. God understands those things. He understands sorrow and frustration. God wants us to bring those things to Him. But there’s a difference between crying out to God... and complaining against Him or grumbling and arguing with others.

So the replacement for complaining, what we want to try to take up, is Rejoicing!

continued on page 3...

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 says, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Notice it doesn’t say give thanks FOR all circumstances. It says rejoice always and give thanks IN all circumstances. Bad things happen sometimes—really bad things—and those aren’t things to be thankful *for*, but we can be thankful and rejoice *in the midst* of them.

This doesn’t mean we pretend things aren’t sad and life doesn’t hurt. It means we choose not to let hurt have the final word. We may not be able to control our circumstances – but we can still choose our response. We don’t have control over other people, but we do have control of ourselves.

So let’s practice. Here’s a complaint you might have. “This food is terrible!” We can say instead: “I’m thankful someone made this for me,” or “I’m glad I have food to eat because many others do not,” or “I’m glad I don’t have to cook and clean the dishes!” Can you think of other things to say? Can you practice with some other common complaints you might find slipping out?

A few chapters later in the book of Philippians, where we just read about how we should do everything without complaining or arguing, it says, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Phil 4:4) The man who wrote those words was Paul. He was sitting in a prison when we wrote them. He was in a prison cell and he said, “Rejoice always.” If Paul can write ‘rejoice’ from a prison cell, that shows us that joy isn’t about location. It’s about our attitude.

Imagine how our attitudes can change if we practice taking up rejoicing instead of complaining! Imagine how we could change the people around us if they join in. After all, complaining tends to be contagious, doesn’t it? So let’s spread rejoicing instead.

March

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DAFFODILS
EASTER
RAINBOW
WINDY
MADNESS

GREEN
ST PATRICKS DAY
LEPRECHAUN
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
BASKETBALL

GROWTH
SHAMROCK
SHOWERS
PARADE
LUCK