

**The Wisdom of Complaining:  
The Place of Lament in Faithful Living**  
Laura Andrews

Intro

We can easily drift from hesitation to speak to God to “deadly silence”

Reasons we abstain from sharing our hardships and needs with God

1. We fear that our experience of pain is invalid, or our complaints illegitimate.
  
2. We want to avoid displaying our sinfulness, foolishness, or immaturity.
  
3. We feel too weary to speak.

To summarize: We aren't confident that God welcomes or legitimizes our complaints, or that sharing our complaints is worth the risk or cost.

God Insists We Complain to Him

1. Jesus validates our experience of suffering and models how to voice it in prayer.
  
2. Approaching God with our lament is a demonstration of wisdom and a means of growing in holiness.
  
3. God gives us His Word, His church, and His Spirit to help us pray in our weakness and weariness.

Becoming Good Complainers

1. Keep in mind the contrast between who God is and who we are (i.e. what are God's capabilities and roles, and what are our own)
  
2. Allow for the tension between our current experience and God's past work and words in our reflections

3. Allow for the tension of praying candidly, boldly, and repeatedly while keeping your hands open to God