

God's Presence In Our Lives
Part 4

We spoke in the previous part about how God presence was with His people when God used Aaron to do miracles in front of Pharaoh to convince him to allow His people to go out from Egypt. And we will continue to speak in this part about how Aaron's rod or staff had budded.

Even after the Lord brought up his people out of Egypt the Israelites still they continued to grumble against God by grumbling against Moses and Aaron. In Numbers 11 (Read the whole chapter of Numbers 11 in your own bible) they grumbled by asking God to give them meat. In Numbers 12 (Read the whole chapter of Numbers 12 in your own bible) Miriam and Aaron grumbled against Moses. In Numbers 13 and 14 (Read the whole two chapters of Numbers 13 and 14 in your own bible) after Moses sent men for exploration the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

In Numbers 16 (Read the whole chapter of Numbers 16 in your own bible) Korah, Dathan and Abiram grumbled against Moses and Aaron, ***"1 Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites--Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth--became insolent 2 and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. 3 They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?" (Numbers 16:1-3) "4 When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. 5 Then he said to Korah and all his followers: "In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him." (Numbers 16:4-5)*** God finally dealt with those who rebelled and rose up against Moses.

Therefore with all the above events of grumbling God was sad about all that and He wanted to make an end of this grumbling:

"1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. 3 On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral

tribe. 4 Place them in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Testimony, where I meet with you. 5 The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites." 6 So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and their leaders gave him twelve staffs, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and Aaron's staff was among them. 7 Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the Testimony. 8 The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Testimony and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented the house of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds. 9 Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD's presence to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each man took his own staff. 10 The LORD said to Moses, "Put back Aaron's staff in front of the Testimony, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die." 11 Moses did just as the LORD commanded him." (Numbers 17:1-11) With such clear and profound result God further instructed Aaron with the following: ***"1 The LORD said to Aaron, "You, your sons and your father's family are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the sanctuary, and you and your sons alone are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the priesthood. 2 Bring your fellow Levites from your ancestral tribe to join you and assist you when you and your sons minister before the Tent of the Testimony. 3 They are to be responsible to you and are to perform all the duties of the Tent, but they must not go near the furnishings of the sanctuary or the altar, or both they and you will die. 4 They are to join you and be responsible for the care of the Tent of Meeting--all the work at the Tent--and no one else may come near where you are." (Numbers 18:1-4)***

From the above Scriptures we can learn and apply the following:

1- Don't grumble: God does not like grumbling and this is one of the sins the people of God is not much aware of. ***"Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!" (James 5:9) "9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1Peter 4:9-10)*** Therefore ***"14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." (Philippians 2:14-15)***

2- God will deal with those who grumble against you and against your ministry: You also expect and facing grumbling even from the body of Christ as Moses and

Aaron faced from their follow Israelites, and you need to trust God that He will be the one to deal with them, and what you need to do is to continue to serve Him.

3- Live as a royal priest: *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1Peter 2:9)* You need to live in holiness and to be a royal priest to lead your family and your children in the ways of the Lord.

4- Serve God: God’s presence will continue to be in your life when you chose to be a responsible person and start to serve Him. As we lead our families in holiness then we and our households will be serving the Lord.

5- Be willing to suffer for God: *“1 The LORD said to Aaron, "You, your sons and your father's family are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the sanctuary, and you and your sons alone are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the priesthood.” (Numbers 18:1)*

When you draw near to God and start to serve Him and live according to His will you might face opposition and offences as Aaron and Moses faced, or as Paul and the rest of the apostles faced. If you are willing to suffer for God then God’s presence will sure be there in your life.

6- Submit to the church authority that cared for you and taught you the word of God: Moses and Aaron were not trivial leaders to the Israelites, but they are chosen by God and had laboured much for the welfare of the Israelites, therefore it was improper for the Israelites to rebel against them. In the same way those who taught you the word of God and cared for you listen to them and heed what they are saying to you. *“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Hebrews 13:17)*

The New Testament speaks about people who did similar to those who oppose Moses. Paul wrote to Timothy the following:

“1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the

good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. 9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.” (2Timothy 3:1-9) Not only among the non believers but among the believers and inside the body of Christ you will find evil doers who do terrible things and who will oppose the truth. They will try to live in sin and use the grace of God and the blessings of God to approve that they are right and their stand is correct, *“having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” (2Timothy 3:5)* They will be like the magicians who opposed Moses and try to counterfeit the miracles that Aaron did with his rod. But the Lord will expose them and deal with them as you stand firm and rely on His presence in your life to fight the battle for you.

Paul stated further to Timothy, *“10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2Timothy 3:10-13)* Your suffering is an authentication that you are walking in the ways of God and abiding in His will and presence and receiving His approval.

My dear and beloved: *“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it.” (2Timothy 3:14)* The Lord is at your side and he will be the one to deal with those who are opposing you as you endeavour to keep his presence in your life as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord kindly handle those people who oppose me and trouble me _____ . Provide my needs and sustain me in this time of trial and testing, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*