

# Trusting God's Way

A message from Numbers 16 & 17 — *Pastor Leia | Sunday PM, March 8th*

NUMBERS 17

TRUST & SURRENDER



# Part 1: The Problem of Pride and Complaining

NUMBERS 16:1–3

While God's people traveling through the desert; a man named Korah started a massive rebellion. He gathered a crowd and confronted Moses and Aaron directly:

"You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them... Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?" — Numbers 16:3

## **Key details about Korah:**

- Lineage: Korah was the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi.**
- Rebellion: He challenged Moses and Aaron, claiming that all Israelites were holy and questioning why only them were leading the congregation.**
- What happened to him?: According to Numbers 16, God punished Korah and his followers by causing the ground to swallow them.**
- Descendants: Despite his rebellion, his sons did not die with him and later became prominent in Temple service, with several Psalms attributed to the "Sons of Korah".**

# Korah's Fatal Mistake

## He Confused Position with Pride

Korah thought leadership was about being "important." He wanted the role for himself — not because God had called him, but because he felt entitled to it.

## He Trusted in his own understanding

We must trust and surrender.

The ground opened and swallowed Korah and his followers.  
(Numbers 16:31–33).

## The Terrifying Lesson

When we rebel against what God has decided, we lose our footing — literally and spiritually.

Korah's story is a warning: don't oppose the will of God.

Numbers 17  
New Living Translation

**17** <sup>[a]</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Tell the people of Israel to bring you twelve wooden staffs, one from each leader of Israel’s ancestral tribes, and inscribe each leader’s name on his staff. <sup>3</sup> Inscribe Aaron’s name on the staff of the tribe of Levi, for there must be one staff for the leader of each ancestral tribe. <sup>4</sup> Place these staffs in the Tabernacle in front of the Ark containing the tablets of the Covenant, <sup>[b]</sup> where I meet with you. <sup>5</sup> Buds will sprout on the staff belonging to the man I choose. Then I will finally put an end to the people’s murmuring and complaining against you.”

<sup>6</sup> So Moses gave the instructions to the people of Israel, and each of the twelve tribal leaders, including Aaron, brought Moses a staff. <sup>7</sup> Moses placed the staffs in the LORD’s presence in the Tabernacle of the Covenant. <sup>[c]</sup> <sup>8</sup> When he went into the Tabernacle of the Covenant the next day, he found that Aaron’s staff, representing the tribe of Levi, had sprouted, budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds!

<sup>9</sup> When Moses brought all the staffs out from the LORD’s presence, he showed them to the people. Each man claimed his own staff. <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said to Moses: “Place Aaron’s staff permanently before the Ark of the Covenant <sup>[d]</sup> to serve as a warning to rebels. This should put an end to their complaints against me and prevent any further deaths.” <sup>11</sup> So Moses did as the LORD commanded him.

# Part 2: The Test — Twelve Dry Sticks

NUMBERS 17:1–5

Even after Korah's judgment, **the grumbling continued**. God decided to settle the argument once and for all — with a remarkably simple test.

"The rod of the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling." — Numbers 17:5



# What Made the Test So Powerful

## 1 Dead Wood

Each rod was a dry, cut walking stick — completely lifeless. No roots. No soil. No natural chance of growth.

## 2 Chosen by Name

Each leader's name was written on his rod. Aaron's name was on the rod for the tribe of Levi (Numbers 17:3).  
The test was personal and specific.

## 3 Placed Before God

Moses placed all twelve rods inside the Tent of Meeting, right before the Ark of the Covenant — in God's very presence. The verdict would come from Him alone.

## 4 One Would Sprout

Only the rod God chose would come to life. The message was clear:  
**We cannot force ourselves into a position God hasn't given us.**

# Part 3: The Miracle — Flowers in the Morning

NUMBERS 17:8

The next morning, Moses walked into the tent. Eleven rods were still exactly as they had been — dry, lifeless wood. But **Aaron's rod was completely different.**

"Aaron's staff... had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced ripe almonds." — Numbers 17:8



# In God's Time There are Miracles.



## It Budded

Tiny green growth pushed through dry wood — the first sign of life where there had been none.



## It Blossomed

Beautiful flowers appeared overnight — visible, unmistakable beauty that no human effort could produce.



## It Produced Almonds

Real, ripe fruit — edible and abundant. This was God's "supernatural résumé." He was declaring:

**"I chose Aaron. Look at the life and fruit coming from him!"**



# Part 4: How Aaron's Rod Points to Jesus

This story is far more than an ancient miracle. It is a **preview of Jesus Christ** — a picture painted centuries before He arrived. Every detail of Aaron's rod whispers His name.



## Life from Death

A rod is dead wood. Jesus was crucified on a wooden cross and sealed in a cold tomb. Yet just like Aaron's rod, **He came back to life** — declared the Son of God by His resurrection (Romans 1:4).



## The Chosen High Priest

Aaron's rod proved He was chosen to stand before God on behalf of the people. Today, **Jesus is our Great High Priest** — the only One through whom we can boldly approach God (Hebrews 4:14–16).



## The Branch

Centuries before Jesus was born, the Bible called Him "**The Branch**" — a shoot from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1). Like Aaron's rod, Jesus is the Branch that brings life to a dead and broken world.



## The Firstfruits

**Almond trees are the first to bloom in the spring.** Scripture calls Jesus the "**firstfruits**" — the first to rise from death so that we, too, could have eternal life (1 Corinthians 15:20).



**Aaron's rod didn't bloom because of its own strength. It bloomed because God's presence touched it.**

## **Bringing It Into Our Lives**

Trust and Surrender

God invites each of us to look honestly at our own hearts and ask:

*Am I holding a dry stick and wondering why nothing is growing?*  
The path from dry wood to blooming life is the same for us as it was for Aaron:

**Submit to God's perfect will.**

# Our Test — Dead Wood vs. God's Power

## We All Carry Dry Sticks

There are areas in every life that feel dry — relationships, callings, seasons of waiting.

Like the twelve rods, we carry these situations to God and wonder:

*will anything ever grow here? It needs to grow inside of us first!*

**The Lesson:** You cannot force life into a dead situation.

Striving harder doesn't make the rod bloom.

**Only God can make things grow.**

# The Rod Kept in the Ark

God told Moses to **keep Aaron's rod inside the Ark of the Covenant** as a permanent warning sign (Numbers 17:10). Generation after generation would see it and remember:

## The 11 Dry Sticks

Fighting God's Word dries up our spirit. We lose peace. We stop growing. We bear no fruit.

## Aaron's Blooming Rod

Submitting to God's perfect will causes us to bloom — buds, blossoms, and fruit in due season.



# Reflection- I MUST...

## 1 Stop Grumbling

Am I complaining about where God has placed me — my season, my assignment, my leaders? Grumbling is the soil where Korah's spirit grows. It must be replaced with gratitude and trust.

## 2 Start Trusting

Am I trying to be my own boss, or am I genuinely following Jesus? Trusting God means releasing control of the outcome and letting Him determine what sprouts and when.

## 3 Bear Fruit

A life yielded to God is like Aaron's rod — it becomes full of life, beautiful blossoms, and nourishing fruit. That is the goal: not just to survive, but to **bloom where God has planted you.**



## Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."  
— John 15:5

Aaron's rod is a picture of this truth.  
Connected to God's choosing and God's presence, it produced what NO amount of human effort could manufacture.  
**Remain in Him — and bear much fruit.**

# Take It Home This Week



## Identify Your Dry Rod

What area of your life feels dry or stuck? Name it honestly before God this week. That's the rod He wants to touch.



## Catch Your Grumbling

Notice when you are complaining about your circumstances, your leaders, or God's timing. Replace grumbling with the prayer: *"Lord, I trust Your plan."*



## Stay Connected to the Vine

Spend daily time in God's Word and in prayer. Abiding in Jesus is how dead wood becomes a blooming branch (John 15:5).



## Trust God's perfect will

Trust that when you submit to God's perfect will, fruit will follow — in His timing. He is faithful. He has never left a surrendered rod unattended.

 **Numbers 17:8** — "Aaron's staff... had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced ripe almonds."

This is God's promise for every life fully yielded to Him.

If any area of your life is dead, today is the day to put it in the presence of the Lord.

# Journey to a Blooming Life

**1 Placed Before God**  
Surrender, trust, and humble  
submission occur.

**2 Be Touched by His  
Presence**  
Transformation and miracle  
happen.



**Blooming Fruit**  
Life, peace, and good fruit in  
God's will.

**This is the journey God invites every believer to walk.**

**The transformation isn't earned — it is received. Surrender your rod, trust the God and let Him do what only He can do. The impossible!**