

Run Back to God in Prayer!
Run With Purpose! Pt.4
Jonah 1:17-2:10
April 21, 2024

Jonah 1:1, The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” **3** But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Jonah 1:17, Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:40, For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

How Do We Run Back to God?

1. RUN to God in the Trial

Jonah 2:1, From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

Romans 8:28, And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. KNOW God Hears You Wherever You Are

Jonah 2:2, He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. **3** You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas,

and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

Psalm 139:7, Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? **8** If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. **9** If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, **10** even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE the Consequences of Your Actions

Jonah 2:4, I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ **5** The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. **6** To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever...

4. REMEMBER God Still has a Plan for Your Life

Jonah 2:6, ... But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. **7** “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

Philippians 3:13, Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

5. COMMIT to Obedience Regardless of the Outcome

Jonah 2:8, “Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. **9** But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’”

Exodus 20:8, *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*

Numbers 15:40, *Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God.*

6. **EMBRACE** Your God-Given Second Chance

Jonah 2:10, *And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*