

Encounter Church
Sunday May 18, 2025

Jonah
It's Time to Pray

INTRODUCTION: God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach repentance but Jonah didn't want to.

When God ask you to do something you don't want to do there's always a boat going in the opposite direction.

Because of Jonah's disobedience to the voice of God he ends up in the belly of a big fish!

In this story notice that even though Jonah ignored God's instructions and went the opposite direction, God was still actively involved in his life.

At any point in the story God could have changed things. He could have calmed the storm. He could have allowed the sailors to take Jonah to shore.

God could have sent a giant turtle so Jonah could have rode on its back to shore.

God could have sent a really good looking mermaid to help Jonah.

God didn't do any of these things but he was actively involved in Jonah's life even though Jonah was in pain.

DON'T MISS GOD WORKING IN YOUR LIFE IN EVERY PHASE OF YOUR LIFE!

*******Don't forget to embrace the phase your life is in right now and celebrate what God is doing en-route to your ultimate destiny!*******

Jonah's worst nightmare was just what he needed! WHY? HE REMEMBERED THE POWER OF PRAYER!

Jonah said, **"It's Time To Pray"**

Jonah 2:1- "Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish."

After Jonah said forget you God, Jonah called on God, and God in His mercy answered him!

DON'T LET THE POWER OF THAT PASS YOU BY!

It's Time To Pray

James 4:14-16- "So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

James 5:13- "Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray...."

Are You Hurting? It's Time To Pray

James didn't say it's time to worry, it's time to complain or it's time to blame! It's time to pray!!

Was Jonah in trouble? YES! Some of you can relate! Your marriage is in trouble! There's trouble in your finances! Theirs trouble in your health! Theirs trouble with your kids. Theirs trouble on the job!

No matter why the trouble! Your fault, someone else's fault! IT'S TIME TO PRAY!!

You're running from God.....PRAY!

You've disobeyed God.....PRAY!

You feel worthless.....PRAY!

You feel Helpless.....PRAY!

(SHARE PERSONAL STORY)

THREE THINGS ABOUT JONAH'S PRAYER WE NEED TO KNOW:

1. Jonah prayed from a place of distress.

Jonah 2:2- "I called out of my trouble and distress to the Lord, And He answered me;...."

Jonah prayed from a place of trouble that he caused! AND GOD ANSWERED!
Psalms 18:6- "In my distress I called upon the Lord , And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears."

2. Jonah remembered the Lord.

Jonah 2:7- “As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple.”

Jonah couldn't do a single thing to save his life. A friend couldn't help! A college degree couldn't help! Being a prophet couldn't help!

ONLY THE LORD COULD HELP HIM! JONAH WAS HELPLESS BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE WAS HOPELESS.

HE REMEMBERED THE LORD HIS GOD! JUST LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON REMEMBERED HIS FATHER AND THE FATHER'S HOUSE!

Psalms 103:8- “Lord, you're so kind and tenderhearted and so patient with people who fail you! Your love is like a flooding river overflowing its banks with kindness.”

3. Jonah didn't just pray, he praised.

Jonah 2:9- “But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the Lord alone.”

In believing anticipation of sure deliverance, Jonah offers thanksgiving!

2 Chronicles 20:21- “After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: “Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!”

GOD HONORS SUCH CONFIDENCE IN HIM!

Philippians 4:6- “Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

CONCLUSION: IT'S TIME TO PRAY!

Anyone here like Jonah? Messed up big time! You've been through some stuff! God is still working, no matter where you are, no matter what you've done.

GOD HAS GRACE FOR YOU! HE LOVES YOU!

LET'S PRAY

