

"Don't Quit—The Lord Is In The Repair Business!"

Jonah 2:1–10 (NIV) — (1) From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. (2) He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. (3) You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. (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. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. (7) “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. (8) “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. (9) But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD.” (10) And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

I) God's Grace Can Not Be Earned.

Jonah 2:3–4 (NIV) — (3) You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. (4) I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’

Romans 3:23 (NIV) — (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NIV) — (9) They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV) — (8) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— (9) not by works, so that no one can boast.

II) God's Grace Is More Than Expected.

Jonah 2:4–6 (The Message) — (4) I said, ‘I’ve been thrown away, thrown out, out of your sight. I’ll never again lay eyes on your Holy Temple.’ (5) Ocean gripped me by the throat. The ancient Abyss grabbed me and held tight. My head was all tangled in seaweed (6) at the bottom of the sea where the mountains take root. I was as far down as a body can go, and the gates were slamming shut behind me forever— Yet you pulled me up from that grave alive, O GOD, my God!

III) God's Grace Is More Than Enough.

2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (NIV) — (7) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. (8) Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. (9) But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (The Message) — (7) Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn’t get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan’s angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! (8) At first I didn’t think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, (9) and then he told me, My grace is enough; it’s all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness.