



The awful consequence of backsliding

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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Monthly Newsletter

March 2023

Hosea 11:7 – “My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.” God said to the Prophet Hosea, “My people are bent in backsliding from me” and what that means in Hebrew is ‘My people habitually have a habit of drifting away from me, turning their backs on me. He said my people have always had that tendency --- a habit with my people that’s the habit of all of Israel.’ Read the history and the story of Israel and it says that one generation after another they were always backsliding. Jeremiah 5:6 says, “Therefore a lion from the forest will attack them, a wolf from the desert will ravage them, a leopard will lie in wait near their towns to tear to

pieces any who venture out, for their rebellion is great and their backslidings many.” The danger of backsliding is that the lion, wolf, and leopard lie in wait ready to be given the greenlight to tear you to pieces, all of a sudden. People mostly backslide in times of prosperity and blessing when God is blessing you. When you’ve got God’s favor upon your life, marriage, finances; that’s the time to be on the alert! Why? That’s the time that backsliding usually comes to Gods people. Many Christians do not know how to handle success and the blessings of God. It is at that time that they have the tendency to put God last and put down their guard in the spiritual things of God. The first thing that they abandon is their consistent **PRAYER LIFE**, the second **READING BIBLE**, third

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, and the fourth is **BIBLE STUDY**. The backslider is the Christian that has drawn his heart away from God and his heart has grown cold towards God. They no longer seek Him, they no longer go to His Word, and their prayer life is gone. They become foolish and are without understanding. Their conversation changes and they don't talk the way they used to talk. There's a hard time getting them into the house of God and they don't testify of the love of Jesus to their friends or their co-workers anymore. Jeremiah 2:19 says, "Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the LORD your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord GOD of hosts. Jonah is a type of a backslider in the Word of God. God will not stand by and let the devil take you away from Him. He will send a storm your way to get you back! God never sits back and lets His people run away from Him. There are Three Awful Consequences from God if you are running from God or if you are backsliding or the devil is trying to get you to backslide.

YOU BECOME ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PERSONS ON EARTH

Jonah 1:3 says, "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." The moment Jonah got into the ship that was going to Tarshish, he became the most dangerous person on that journey.

Every sailor who sailed with him is in danger and many other ships that were in the same route were hit with the great storm of God. When you run from God and backslide it affects and hurts others around you. Your family, Your marriage, Your children, Your friends. You have become the most dangerous person on earth because God is after you and He will throw a great storm at you to bring you back. Jonah 1:4 says, "Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up." The storm the backslider cause is now destroying the family, the marriage and the children. They are bitter of that Jonah in the house and they are mad, they're mad at God, they're mad at dad, they're mad at mom they're mad at the whole world. That Jonah in that household has become the most dangerous man in that family because the storm he brought is destroying everything around him.

When king David sinned when he counted Israel he also became the most dangerous man on earth. When God send judgment on David, seventy thousand innocent men died because of that sin. Because of one man's sin it cost the lives of 70,000 men. (1 Chron. 21:1-15) "So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead." 1 Chron. 21:14 There are Three Awful Consequences from God if you are running from God or if you are backsliding or the devil is trying to get you to backslide.

YOU ARE GOING TO BE REBUKED BY THE WORLD



Jonah 1:6 says, “So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.” The captain who is a sinner rebukes Jonah and tells him to pray to his God. God had to use a sinner to wake up Jonah from his slumber and backsliding. Everyone on that ship is in danger of perishing because of Jonah, the most dangerous man on earth. (A big difference when Paul was in a violent storm) “So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?” He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) Jonah 1:8-10 Jonah was saying, “I am a backslider and I am running from God and this is why this storm is upon us.” (I left the Home without completing program) Jonah became a man that was without power and authority because he ran from God and could not

present a powerful God to the lost souls. The captain and all the sailors and men on that ship doubted that the God that Jonah serve could help them. They probably said, “That’s the reason we don’t believe in your God! They tried their best to fight against the ‘Storm of God’ but were unsuccessful. Why? Because God was after Jonah. “The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.” Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.” Jonah found out the hard way that you cannot run from God and not expect Him to go after you. Once you have been touched by God it will never be the same if you run away from Him. You can run but you cannot hide. Jonah brought a bad report and a reproach to the Christian walk. There are Three Awful Consequences from God if you are running from God or if you are backsliding or the devil is trying to get you to backslide.

GOD IS GOING TO TAKE YOU TO THE LOWEST PIT KNOWN TO MAN



Jonah 1:17 says, “Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” When a Christian is running from God or backsliding a crisis is coming upon you sent by God. In that crisis you will be tossed upside down by the ‘Storm of God’ and this is what Jonah went through. You cannot escape it because God send it to you. God allows you to go deeper into your sin and darkness. Why? God is after you because He loves you and wants to get you back in the right direction in your life, serving Him. After the storm, comes the most critical dark moment in the life of the backslider. Jonah 2:1-6 says, “From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. 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. 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. I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I

will look again toward your holy temple.’ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.” When Jonah was in the belly of the whale, God is revealing to us the condition of the life of the backslider without the life of God in his life. The Jonah’s of today will find themselves in that same belly of the whale, dead and empty of the presence of God, down a very dark pit. Jonah was in the pit of hopelessness and misery. Jonah found himself in a stinking place of darkness, the belly of the whale who dove to the bottom of the ocean. This is a picture of the backslider who continues to reject the dealings of the Holy Spirit, that he winds up in a very deep dark pit separated from God. For the backslider you only have two options when you go down into the belly of this crisis that God brings. You can give up to hopelessness because you think God cannot help you anymore. Never fulfil God’s plan for your life. You can call upon the name of Jesus to help you and set you free. Thank God Jonah made the right choice. Jonah 2:1-2 says, “Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish’s belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.” If you find yourself like Jonah, feeling hopeless and depressed that God will not forgive you, cry out to God and He will answer your prayers like He did Jonah. Jonah 2:2 says, “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.”

The Jonah Christians and Backsliders of today also have two options that Jonah had.

#1. You can die in your misery or in your hopelessness and feel sorry for yourself in self-pity and die in that manner.
 #2 You can cry out like Jonah unto the Lord Jesus to help you: “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.” God restores Jonah back to his first love. Jonah 2:10 says, “And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.” Jonah obeys God and is anointed with the power of the Holy Ghost and goes to preach in the city of Nineveh and brings about a great revival. “Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” The Ninevites believed God.” Jonah 3:3-5a There is hope for anyone that runs like Jonah or any backslider if only you make the right choice and call upon the name of Jesus. Jeremiah 15:19-20 Says, “Therefore this is what the LORD says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD. “I will save you from the hands of the wicked and

deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”