

Jonah, Part 5

Miserable

Because of Pride

Revised 1-8-2014

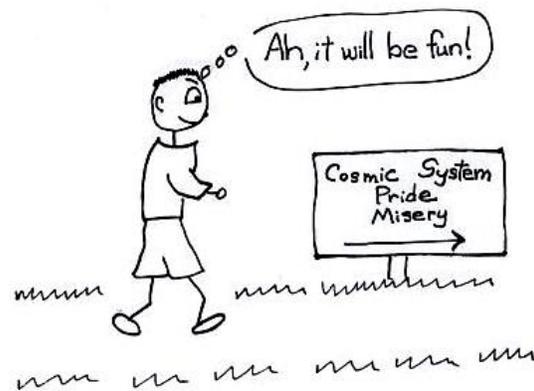
Let's start out with a definition of pride. Here are a couple from the dictionary: 1. Proper respect for one's own dignity and worth. 2. Excessive self-esteem; conceit. We learn proper respect for our own dignity and worth from Bible doctrine! We learn what God expects of us and what we are to expect of ourselves. We can boast in the Lord and His thinking! What comfort! We learn excessive self-esteem from our old sin nature and the cosmic system. We learn what our old sin nature and the cosmic system expect - arrogance and self-induced misery!* Ouch!

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Jonah Part 3* and *Jonah Part 4*.

Proper Self Respect



Excessive Self-esteem



Romans 12:3 For through the grace given

to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

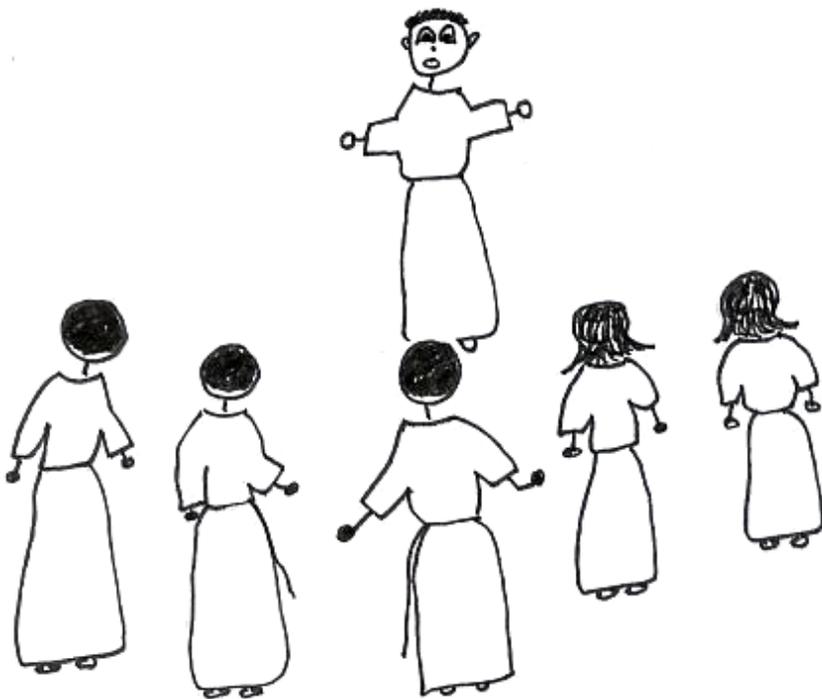
Jonah was a highly respected prophet. He went to Nineveh and told the people that God was going to destroy them because of their wicked ways. Remember, the Ninevites were enemies of Israel and Jonah was from Israel! The people of Nineveh changed their ways for the better, or repented*, and God did not destroy them. This made Jonah angry because he thought his countrymen would not think highly of him. Jonah was thinking too highly of himself, **excessive self-esteem**. He was being subjective, self-centered. He wanted creature credit! Jonah was miserable!

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *It's What God Does That Counts, Not What You Do*.



Jonah 4:1-2 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what **I** said while **I** was still in **my own** country? Therefore in order to forestall this **I** fled to Tarshish, for **I** knew that You are a gracious God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness [grace], and one who relents concerning calamity.

Look at the situation from Jonah's eyes. He had a certain joy in being the one to tell the Ninevites what would happen to them because they were so wicked. He didn't expect them to repent. What he claimed would happen in Nineveh never happened. Jonah thought he would look bad in the eyes of his countrymen



because the Ninevites repented. This is **excessive pride** speaking! He's relying on his flesh, the expectations of his old sin nature, and not on the mercy of God! He has his eyes on himself and not on the Lord. This makes his life miserable.

He expected himself not to fail. The truth is, in God's eyes Jonah didn't fail as a prophet; he helped 600,000 Ninevites turn to God! His failure was his excessive pride!

Jonah 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

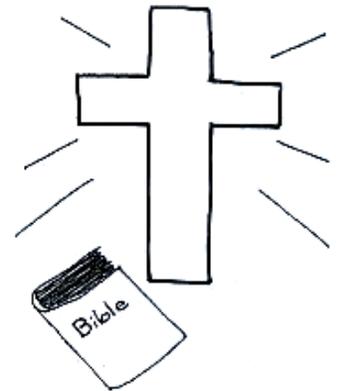
Jonah is so upset that he asks God to take his life! (Read Jonah 4:3.) Is that relying on God's help? He chose not to live in grace-orientation.* He was living in self-righteousness and human power. If he was living in God's righteousness and divine power, he wouldn't have been disappointed. He would have been living in God's grace and mercy, and he would have shown grace and mercy to the Ninevites. He would have had proper respect for the dignity and worth of others and for himself.

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *GRACE ORIENTATION*



Philippians 3:9 ...and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith....

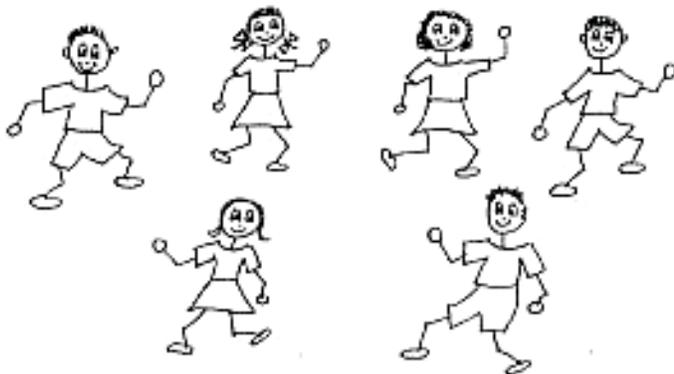
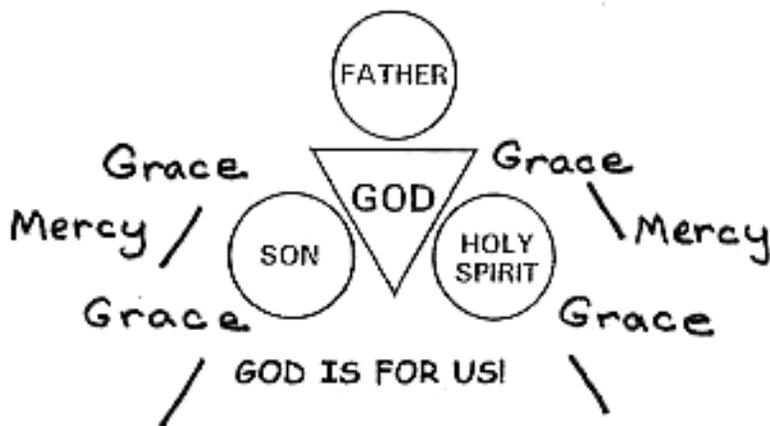
Jonah was the prophet God made him to be and it didn't matter what others thought of him. We all can fall because of our own expectations. When we do, grace-orientation is the answer. God wanted Jonah to show himself grace. To show yourself grace means you don't expect yourself to be sinless! God knows we are going to fail at times. He wants us to realize it, take the responsibility for it, turn back to God and move forward with our eyes on Christ! He wants us to show ourselves grace! This is true freedom. Even when we do fail miserably, our disappointment or pride is squashed by grace-orientation.



2 Peter 1:2 -3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness [spiritual life], through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

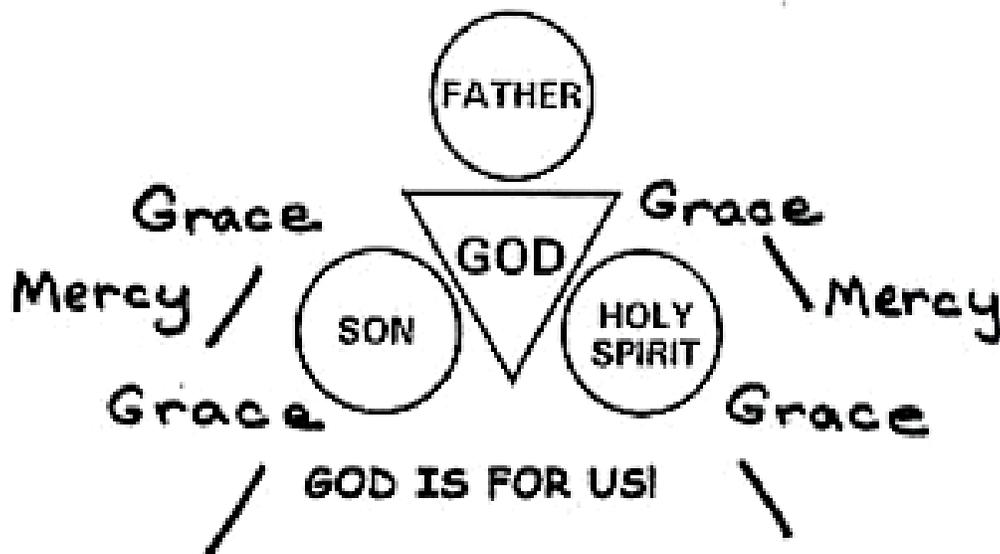
God gives us a command, **1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always.** "Rejoice" from *chairō* means to have inner happiness because of one's relationship with the Lord. If we obey this command we will have inner peace; we won't focus on the expectations of this world. In fact, sometimes the road God takes us down is quite an adventure! If we don't focus on Him and use His power - the power of the Holy Spirit and God's word in the Bible - we'll be miserable! When we stick with Him, even though the journey is **rough**, we can **DEPEND ON GOD** and use His power! We can have inner peace. *

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Sharing the Happiness of God*.



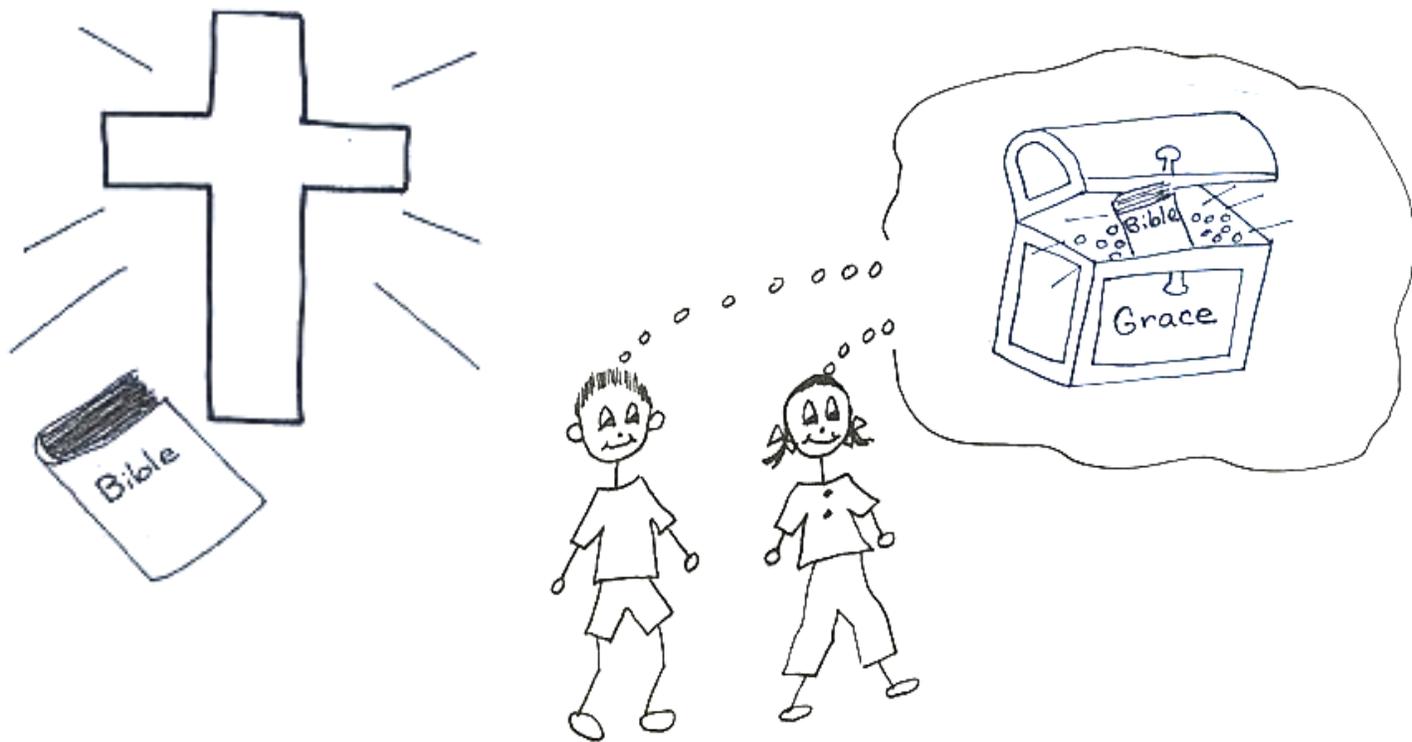
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Jonah 4:4 The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?" God asked Jonah a question. He could have said, "You have no right to be angry!" God wanted Jonah to examine his thinking. God's question forces Jonah to consider his current situation and his thoughts and actions. He wants Jonah to have "0" confidence in the flesh and "0" expectation of self-deliverance. God wants Jonah to see **His grace and mercy!**



Romans 8:7 Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Sinful pride is a condition of the flesh, the old sin nature, which is opposed to grace. We are to look at no one through the eyes of our flesh because it hates grace. So, if we look at others through our flesh, we are looking at them without grace in mind. As soon as our eyes fall off Christ, we are going to be too proud in ourselves! The person who is too proud tries to elevate himself above others. The flesh is proud of itself and refuses to boast in the Lord. Any boasting we do should be in the Lord!

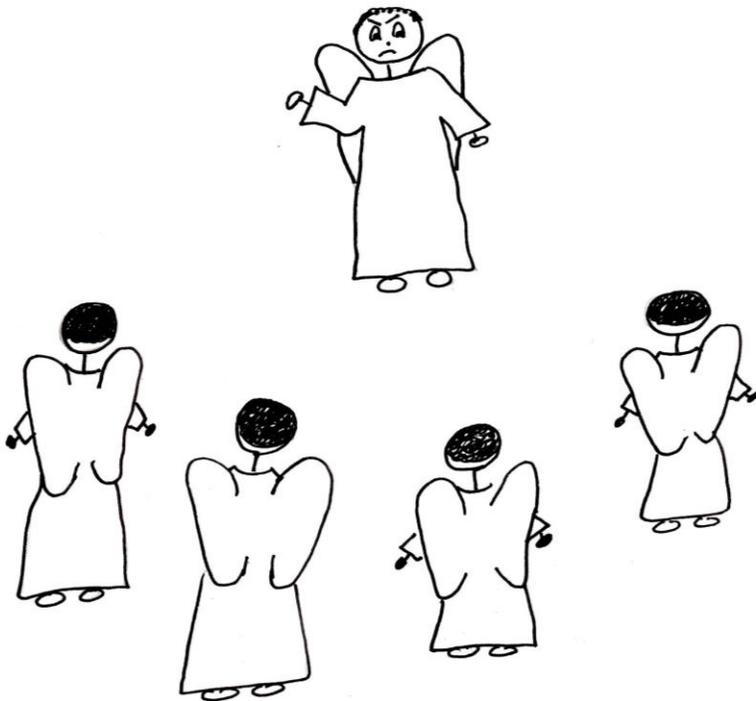


James 4:16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.
2 Corinthians 10:17 But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.

The first creature to show sinful pride was Satan. He was subjective and became arrogant and too proud! He looked at his beauty and became very boastful! His subjectivity destroyed his wisdom.

Isaiah 14:12-14 "How you have fallen from heaven, o star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart 'I will ascend to heaven....'"

Satan's subjectivity also destroyed his life forever! Revelation 20:10
And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.



Jonah was subjective or self-centered, and became arrogant and too proud. When we are subjective or self-centered, we become arrogant and too proud. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, Jonah and we will never lose our salvation.* However, the sin of pride will blind us to the Living Truth, Jesus Christ. We will lose our focus on our Great Shepherd. When that happens, we are to acknowledge it and get our focus back on our Great Shepherd! In His grace, He will reach out with mercy and bring us close to Him. He will help us to be occupied with Him instead of occupied with ourselves!

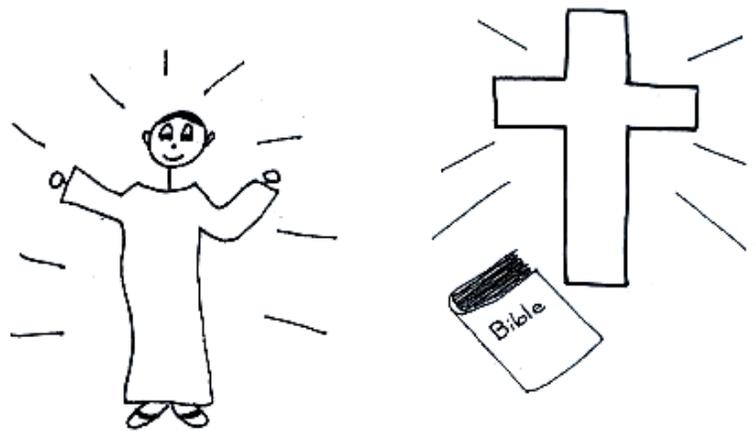
*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Occupation with Christ*.



Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling

In His humanity Jesus had certain expectations - hope and confidence in the plan of God. The purpose of God's plan was a joy to Him even while He was suffering because He knew its purpose!* When we are occupied with Him, our expectations are with Him and His expectations. We're going in the right direction. We have a joy set before us as well, even when we are suffering! We know we are in God's plan and purpose for our lives. Our lives have meaning. We can throw away our excessive pride and boast in the Lord! What joy!

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *The Hypostatic Union*



Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race



that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Points To Remember

1. Definitions of pride: 1. Proper respect for one's own dignity and worth.
2. Excessive self-esteem; conceit.
2. Jonah is a highly respected prophet. He is concerned about his countrymen losing respect for him.
3. Jonah had excessive pride; this caused him to stumble and follow the thinking of his old sin nature, the flesh.
4. Jonah is so upset he asks God to take his life!
5. Jonah was the prophet God made him to be and it didn't matter what others thought of him.
6. God gives us a command, **1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always**. "Rejoice" from *chairō* means to have inner happiness because of one's relationship with the Lord.
7. God asks Jonah if he has a good reason to be angry.
8. Pride is a condition of the flesh, the old sin nature, which is opposed to grace.
9. Satan was subjective and became arrogant and proud!
10. Jonah was subjective or self-centered, and became arrogant and proud. When we are subjective or self-centered, we become arrogant and proud.
11. Jesus, in His humanity, had certain expectations - hope and confidence in the plan of God.

Questions For Discussion

1. How do you define pride? How do you define subjectivity? How do you define objectivity?
2. How would you describe the old sin nature? How would you describe our new nature in Christ?
3. What was Jonah's thinking concerning the Ninevites? How did Jonah let excessive pride take over his thinking?
4. What kind of thinking did God want Jonah to have?
5. How can we have God's inner peace?
6. Did Jonah have a good reason to be angry with God? Do we ever have a good reason to be angry with God?
7. What was Satan's downfall?
8. What will the sin of pride do to us?
9. In whom can we boast?
10. What is occupation with Christ?

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Miserable Because of Pride

References: Eusebeia Bible Church

Pastor Ed Collins

www.eusebeia.org

Lessons: 1- 25, 27, 30 - 2011

There is now a search engine on the website,
allaboardgodstrain.org. Just type in the subject you are
looking for, and if it is there it will pop up! Technology!