

Be Thankful in All Circumstances **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

A. How can we get to the place of thanksgiving?

Almost everybody knows the story of Jonah.

Because of his refusal to do God's will,

God sent a monster storm and an enormous fish.

Jonah found himself in one of the worst crisis possible.

B. But Jonah made it to the place of thanksgiving.

How did Jonah do it? ----- How can we do it?

I. CRY OUT TO GOD FOR HE WILL HEAR YOU. Jonah 2:1, 2

A. We cannot overestimate the power of prayer.

Only God could have gotten Jonah out of that whale.

And only God can help us with these Critical issues we face today.

B. How can we get to the place of thanksgiving?

Cry out to the Lord for He will hear you.

II. LOOK UP TO GOD IN HOPE. Jonah 2:3, 4

A. Jonah spoke with hope as he talked to God:

Remember that the giant fish saved Jonah from certain drowning in the sea.

B. Look up to God in Hope.

Remember that God sent His Son to save us.

III. SPEAK OUT TO GOD ABOUT HIS HELP. Jonah 2:5, 6

A. Jonah spoke to the Lord with great gratitude.

God wants us to speak out to Him about the great things He has done.

God wants us to speak out to others about the great things He has done.

IV. TURN TO GOD IN HEARTFELT OBEDIENCE. Jonah 2:7-10

A. Was there anything he could do to save himself? -- No, of course not.

But Jonah trusted in the Lord.

And so should we, because salvation is of the Lord.

B. The story of Jonah really is like the story of Christ. **Matthew 12:38-41**

The big difference is:

1. Jonah went through intense suffering for his own sins.

Jesus went through infinite suffering for our sins.

2. Jonah felt like he was dead.

Jesus really did die.

3. Jonah was spewed out of the fishes mouth to preach to Nineveh.

Jesus rose from the grave to save everyone who will trust in Him.

C. With Jesus:

We stand Redeemed! We stand Ransomed! We stand Salvaged! We stand Secure!