

## Running from the Lord

### Scripture

"Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD." (Jonah 1:1-3 NKJV)

### Commentary

Have you ever run from the Lord? It doesn't require you to purchase a ticket like Jonah. All you need to do is ignore the Lord's commands. While it is true that the Lord will not speak audibly to you, He will speak to your spirit if you are willing to listen.

There are many times when He will say to you, "Share your faith with that person, or be kind to another." When you shut that down it is like running from the Lord.

Are there times when you might misread God's promptings? Sure there are those times, and you must learn to discern the Lord's voice. How do you do that? Well there is not enough time to detail this obviously, but a couple ideas are worth mentioning.

First, do you have the peace of God to do what you think God is telling you to do? Peace is not the absence of fear. Peace comes by grace and enables you to overcome fear. If that is missing, then proceeding would be reckless.

Paul often began his letters with, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; Ti. 1:4; Phi 1:3; Rev. 1:4). Grace and peace are link so often in Scripture that one must take note.

As it is written, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV)

Next, does doing what you think God is asking you to do violate any Scripture? "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." (James 1:13-14 NKJV)

For example, say you believe God is asking you to share your faith with someone, but to do so would require you to violate your conscience. God won't ask you to do that. Therefore, a little common sense goes a long way here.

We must use discernment, but we must also be courageous. That does not mean we need to muster up our manhood and push ahead. It means we must know the Lord's promises and act upon those promises in faith. Don't run away from the Lord. Just make sure it is the Lord speaking and not an angel of light.

