



# “GOD CAN PUSH US TO GO AND MAKE CHANGES”

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God can push us to go and make changes. Sometimes he will push us, force us to make the changes that He wants.

**Nahum 3:1-4** *“3 Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs. 2 The noise of a whip And the noise of rattling wheels, Of galloping horses, Of clattering chariots! 3 Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, Countless corpses — They stumble over the corpses — 4 Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, The mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her harlotries, And families through her sorceries.”*

**.NKJV**

**Jonah 1** *“1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” 3 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. The Storm at Sea 4 But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. 6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.” 7 And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble*



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*has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Jonah Thrown into the Sea 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. 11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?" — for the sea was growing more tempestuous. 12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me." 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, "We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You." 15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows. Jonah's Prayer and Deliverance 17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." **NKJV**.*

We just read 2 books of the prophets. I detected something that puzzled me. Verses 1 and 2 of Jonah says: **Jonah 1:1-2** *"Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.""* **NKJV**.

When I compare verses 1 and 2 and 9 that puzzles me. **Jonah 1:9** *"9 So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.""* **NKJV**. This doesn't make sense to me. If indeed He feared God, He should not have departed from Nineveh to Tarshish. He testified of himself and said I am Hebrew by birth, a nation that fear God. My problem is that after God spoke to him sending Him to go to Nineveh, instead he went to Tarshish. The question now is why didn't he want to go to Nineveh? Why did he abandon the work of God or why did he rebel against the word of God and turn instead to



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Tarshish?

In Nahum we read that the city of Nineveh was a bloody city that killed everybody who didn't share ideas and beliefs with them. When you entered the city there were bodies of people who had been killed, attacked etc. Some people had been raped and many other sinful sins. Corpses lying all over in the city. It wasn't a weekend thing but a daily thing. Witchcraft was rife. According to prophet Nahum this city was a wicked city. It was a daily routine to kill somebody, it wasn't such an amazing thing. That is why Jonah didn't want to go there. God spoke to Jonah face to face: arise and go to Nineveh, go and make changes in that city. If you don't go there, that city cannot change. There are places where God will send us which are not comfortable for us but where we have to go.

The bible says God spoke to Him. The bible doesn't say God sent the prophet. The bible says God spoke to him. What worries me is that when God speaks to people, people do their own things. Sometimes we blame Jonah. As we are seated here we may blame him and say, God spoke to him directly. Jonah was human also. The city of Nineveh killed anybody, Christians and non-Christians. This made Jonah to be very afraid.

Jonah decided to run and headed for Tarshish. You can run away from God and run fast, if God wants you to go to say Zamkomste you can go to another direction, say Muduluni and spend time, efforts and energy running away but you will be surprised when you arrive at Muduluni and you won't understand why and how. God will force you to go where He wants you to go. By the time you find yourself at Zamkomste, you find that the taxi has left and the next taxi is only coming the following day. You hear that they are killing people at Zamkomste at night. What will you do? Sleep under the bushes? You will be forced to pray and to preach so that you can see the one who sent you. God can force you to go and make changes.



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The bible says after God spoke to him, Jonah didn't say "Lord you know about Nineveh, they are killing people." But he accepted. There are many people who accept or receive instructions knowing well that they won't do it.

The devil says to Jonah "Are you going there? Well go!"

Stop listening to people but to God. The job of satan is to scare you. Jonah listened to the devil and said "satan you are right, I have once seen those bloody corpses there, no ways I am going back there." The devil says "Blind God, go to Joppa and travel to Tarshish." Who do you liken this story to in the bible?

I want to talk about the creation of Adam, Eve and the snake. The devil came to the wife, in the absence of Adam, and said to Eve, "No that is not what God is saying". The bible says when God speaks He has spoken. Don't allow anybody to come and change it unless God is using that person to speak to you. A lot of people end up in Tarshish in a place where God did not assign them to be and they make a mess there and pray and say "God you sent me" and God says "I never sent you there, you sent yourself."

The bible says Jonah went to the port thinking there will be a ship going to Nineveh. At the port there were ships going to Nineveh Tarshish and to other different places. In his mind he thought God would be blind. He thought God would see him only in the port and then Jonah would sneak into the one going to Nineveh. He thought if he went to the upper bunk of the ship God would see him. So he decided to go where God would not see him. What a blind man! The bible says he went to the lower bunk, he took the blankets and covered himself. I doubt if it was cold. He was hiding before the eyes of the Lord. The ship departed, travelled a kilometer, nothing happened. The ship travelled more kilometers he saw nothing was happening and now Jonah started to relax and enjoy himself. Then along the way, say 5 kilometers the ship starts to have problems, then



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further around 6kms they were now facing shipwreck. The mariners had not faced something like that before, the ship was tossed to and fro and they were afraid. They said No, this has never happened in our experience. Everybody start praying to your gods. That was before they went to the lower bunks. It looked like the prayer was making it worse. They even prayed in tongues. They said Our prayers are not working! Be careful, are you not the one who is sinking the ships of other people? The house where you live, are you not the problem? Maybe where you stay things are not moving because you are running away from God and the people there are suffering because you are running away from your call. You are asking why things are not moving in the house where you are. Somebody is staying in the house and instead of going to Nineveh he wants to go to Tarshish.

The bible says that the storm became worse. Perhaps the storm in your house is due to your fault. They went to the lower bunk and when they looked at Jonah they saw a lovable person. When they saw him they liked him. They wanted to kill him and somebody said: No, not yet, maybe these luggage is too much, let us throw them away. Because of one person. They threw their luggage overboard but after that the storm became worse: because of 1 person?

Four questions: 1) Who are you? Your presence in a place can affect other people. Which nation do you come from? He says **I am a Hebrew and I fear God**. Now they had a clue of who he was. The storm was still continuing. What I like about these people, they said Let's cast lot to see who is bringing trouble to us.

In your family they will end up casting lots, it is unfortunate as in this world it means that they will go to a *sangoma*: they wanted to catch somebody. Indeed the lot caught him, now what must happen? He had been caught. Isn't it the people of the world go to a sangoma to catch a person so they can do something to him?



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What I like is that before they throw him overboard they prayed: They said: "God don't find us guilty, we are not doing it because of hatred but because he didn't listen to God." People will kill you for not listening to God.

I like the Spirit that is in Jonah. After he realised that he was the cause of the storm and the problem, he said, I am the cause of your problems, now take me and throw me into the sea. This man wants to die because he is running from his call. Where does he think he will die and go to? To the same God he is running away from? God can force you to go to a place where He wants you.

God can arrange a taxi for you in the middle of the sea. God prepared a very big fish, a taxi to wait for Jonah. He took out the teeth of the whale and put one chair in the mouth of the whale. The whale then closed its mouth and then went along on the journey of God. Listen to this, after Jonah was swallowed by the fish, and was now in the belly he now started to think about God and started to pray and worship God. There are people who don't care about God but once they are in trouble they call upon Him.

The taxi travelled and threw up, throwing him onto the beach and when he opened his eyes he saw "Welcome to Nineveh" then he was saying "Yo yo yo!" When he looked back to check the taxi, the taxi is already gone. God prepared people right there on the sand on the beach. I think, they were ready with knives to kill him "I was not coming here. I was on the way to Tarshish, not Nineveh!" "Hey can't you see, this is Nineveh, can't you see. You are not in Tarshish?"

God will take you where He wants you to make changes and nobody can stop it, whether people like it or not, whether you like it or not. Jonah ended up in Nineveh, the fish vomited him and left him there. If God speaks listen to God. If you really heard that this is from God, do exactly as God says you must unless



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you listen to satan.

When he arrived in Nineveh he was not aware that God had already prepared the people in Nineveh. When God sends you to a place He has already prepared the people. The people in Nineveh no longer had the strength to kill and shed blood. When he arrived in Nineveh he was left with no option but to preach the word of God. Even the king of Nineveh repented. Then the king asked Jonah what must be done to please God? When you refuse to go, somebody can die because of your refusal. That is why some decide that where they are, whichever place it may be, they must preach the word of God, even if it means door to door preaching. Jonah preached and the people repented. After this the king declared a very powerful fasting in Nineveh as they wanted a very powerful presence of the Lord. I like the king of Nineveh he said Everybody in Nineveh, young and old, cats, dogs, horses, we are on a fast, don't give your animals any food. Let all the animals in your yard fast.

Have you ever fasted with your cattle, or your cat, your chickens etc. The whole of Nineveh fasted and said we want to see the God of Jonah and thereafter Jonah praised the Lord and started to blame himself: I was refusing to preach to people who have already repented. You can't make a person repent. Only God can do it, your job is to take the person to God.

Check what David says in **Psalm 27:1-4**.

War is not measured. **Verse 3: Psalms 27:1-4** "27 The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. 3 Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. 4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple." **NKJV**.





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Sometimes in your life there will be a war that is extremely too much for you, be like David, I don't care how big is the war but I am going to move on. Even Paul said this in **Romans 8:35**: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"* **NKJV**. What can separate me from God, meaning nothing?

I remember David, the people around him encouraged Him kill Saul, he said No ways, there is no way I can touch the anointed of God. Even the servant the Saul said I am afraid, I cannot touch the anointed of God.

In life there are people who don't fear God. You remember when we spoke about Zacchaeus, he forgot about his background, that he is short, that he is a rich man, he didn't want these two things to prevent him from seeing God. He was not ashamed to be seen running and climbing a tree. When Jesus Christ arrived he was shocked, he could neither move forward no backwards. Where he was coming from he had passed many trees. The tree he climbed on, had a magnet that made Jesus not to continue and it made Jesus to stop and terminate his trip. He was supposed to go further but because of the magnet of faith of somebody who wanted to see Jesus, Jesus stopped and said: Zacchaeus come down, today I want to come and eat in your house. The people with Jesus started to grumble: Why is He is going there, He has never entered my house before and I have known Him longer.

What made Jesus to come into the house? The faith of Zacchaeus. Remember when Jesus was traveling and there was the woman with the issue of blood who touched Jesus and he didn't move further, he was touched. There is strong faith here that makes me not to move. If I don't address this faith I can't move, after I speak to this faith I can then move further. Then He said something to the woman. Your faith has healed you and then He was released. His job is to release people. Child of God let's listen to God. Stop





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listening to people.

Jesus was correcting the people as they are full of judging each other: He said You call him a sinner but today I am going to his house to eat there. To me he is not a sinner, he is a child of Abraham. People can be abusive to you, they will remind you of all your sins and all the wrong and bad things about your life.

Lastly, Jesus said I am not here for those who are holy, I am here for the sinners. The bible says in **Matthew 7:1** the same judgment you use to judge others will be used against you.

See also **Proverbs 19:5**. A lot of people forget these verses and forget that punishment will come against them. There is no other end except that which the bible speaks of. If the bible says you will be punished then that is what will happen to you. Obey the word of God.

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