

Running

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We all run from God. We disobey. We refuse to listen to our perfect, loving Father, and we go—sometimes quite far—in the opposite direction. But then we find ourselves sitting in the belly of the big fish, and like Jonah, we realize that we are finally done running (Jonah 2). “Running” vividly describes this point in a believer’s life and illustrates valuable truths for each of us.

We all disobey God.

Everyone has sinned (Romans 3:23). The best person you know has sinned, just as the worst person you know has sinned. There are no exceptions. But sometimes we stop clinging to God’s Word and His promises, and we get into a pattern of sin, continually doing things that fall short of God’s glory. This is where “Running” begins. After a season or pattern of sin, of continually saying no to God and yes to ourselves, we renounce our sin: *“I’m done running/ Chasing after lesser things/ I’m done fighting/ For my old familiar ways...”*

You are not your own.

The repentance that begins in the chorus of “Running” continues in verse two, as the believer forsakes doing things their own way and commits to walking in obedience to God: *“I’m letting go of the need to be my own/ I am Yours and Yours alone have Your way.”* We are God’s and God’s alone: “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

God celebrates when a sinner is done running.

“I hear heaven rejoicing as just one returns/ As You bring me back to the place I belong...” We know from Luke that there is much joy in heaven when a sinner stops running and returns to the Lord (Luke 15:7). But the angels are not the only ones dancing. A few verses later, we see the prodigal son return home, and his father is waiting, watching, and then running to greet his boy. He embraces his son after all of his disobedience and running, and then throws him a party (Luke 15:20-25). God celebrates when we run back to Him.

