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## Draw Nigh Unto Me .... Part 83

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### Defaced - Week 75

#### God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 22

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (continued)

So we have now established the first fact that Jonah indeed was a Prophet of God.

We also saw that the Book that bears his name is among the writings of the Twelve Minor Prophets.

In being human, there is innate competitiveness within us all that to varying degrees is so readily demonstrated in our words & deeds.

If we look closely enough, we will soon see it infects every facet of our thinking & too often directs our actions.

And it is all linked to a continual need to gain or maintain a personal sense of achievement upon which we, or others, then make assessments of our worthiness.

It is our human nature to see everything by how valuable we perceive its worth or merit to be in our eyes.

We either spend our lives forever trying to increase, hold or maintain a significant ranking in our own or other's sight.

Then when we feel any inability to attain, or a sense of being held back, we can readily fall into suffering varying degrees of lack of self-worth.

Therefore, when any ability or action gains public recognition, we immediately soak in the glory it promotes, even if it has absolutely nothing to do with us.

Who of us has not witnessed or even basked in the rapture of our sports team taking The Cup while correspondingly seeing the instant & overt depletion of self-worth in the opposing team & supporters?

Our team's win has nothing to do with us in reality other than we chose to support that team yet the momentary euphoria overrides all our lacks to suddenly transport us to a great sense of self-worth.

For a time we are on top of the world & wish the feeling should never leave us!

Sport is but one arena in life universally accepted to be based upon open competition to determine who or what is deemed most worthy of the very best.

As was pointed out earlier, human nature is based majorly upon competitiveness in one form or another.

Subtle deception awakened it in Adam & the overt actions of Cain established it in the nature of humankind.

The world sees it as natural, promotes it in a good light & encourages us to be competitive to succeed & achieve our goals.

Even though we all know there is only one winner at the end of any race.

A fact in itself, which can serve to promote its form of decay & destruction in both its outworking & its aftermath.

And the template of which is continually being applied repeatedly in a myriad of different ways & in every form of life known to man.

It is the subtle deception that lies in self that then makes it sin.

The very Teachings of Jesus speak against the promotion of self.

Yet today we are seeing so much self-promotion in the churches all being promoted in the Name of Jesus!

The Bible tells us that Jesus spoke so much to us of denying self, either directly, indirectly or through The Parables & other stories.

He spoke of Oneness in Unity, of His Being One with His Father & we all being parts to His One Body Of Christ.

The root of sin is self, pride its outworking & eternal separation from God its result.

When Satan first approached those made in the Image of God he used subtle deception to cover his real intent to rob, steal, kill & destroy.

He robbed Adam & Eve of their innocence & purity, stole them from the Presence of God, killed their spirit man & destroyed all hope of returning.

Glory to God for the Second Adam who has now provided the way back to anyone who Believes in their hearts that Jesus Is The Son Of God.

In being a lie, the concept of self through beguiling but harmful entrapment, subtly & stealthy works to spread treachery through the competitiveness in & of humanity.

If we, even for a moment, could be totally honest with ourselves just a scratch to the surface of our self-image would start to reveal the truth of this.

The Truth is that even in anything a man might perceive to be the purest form of competition, self still resides at the root of it & in the Light of God's Righteousness that makes it sin.

As with all Truth, a realisation of this does not rob, steal, kill or destroy but instead brings new life & a new way.

A new way for our lives to be led even in the midst of personal competitiveness for it will persist to some level as long as we can still take a breath.

Jesus asks us to deny ourselves & surrender to Him the Perfect One, not to strive for our perfection for it in itself is competitive by nature & therefore still sin.

For it was the disobedience of man that defaced Christ's Image in us.

As True Christians we have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb & we have been restored into the Image of God for Jesus Is Now Alive in us!

We can only truly overcome through the denying of self to the enabling of the defacing of our image through His Obedience now restored in our spirit man.

If we truly desire a deeper Walk In God then our natural competitiveness needs to be surrendered to Christ that His Obedience might begin to erode it!

This natural competitiveness in the world has fostered most of the strifes, unrests & violence to be found & seen in every corner of the earth.

I will leave each one of you to meditate with Holy Spirit upon that as it is far more than could be related in tens of thousands of books much less here.

In fact, millions of books have probably already been written delving, looking & seeking to cure the common ailments of men without finding & treating the common cause only because it hides in the deceit of self itself.

Now I will attempt to get back on track here regarding Jonah by trying to make a summation out of this vast subject that has arisen.

This innate competitive nature in man forever causes us to summarise & regulate everything in order of our perceived superior quality or worth, excellence or approval.

To illustrate what I see in my mind I will try to relate the essence in simple terms by sharing a little parable of my own regarding my younger brother.

When we were young, our father kept a shop in which he had a big plastic bin full of varying types of unpackaged biscuits for sale.

At times, my brother would for morning tea help himself to ten or more of these biscuits.

He would sit down & lay them out in order of taste preference.

Then he would attempt to stack them up one upon the other before taking part in the self-gratifying task of consuming them all.

The first one atop the biscuit stack was always the one least to his liking.

His next least preferred followed with the rest arranged in like manner until his most favoured sat at the bottom.

The above example is a simple illustration of the innate competitiveness of human nature displayed even in such a trivial matter as having some morning tea!

Self, in this case, being his taste buds competed against each individual biscuit in an effort to ensure ever-increasing gain on the way to final victory.

Each & every time, with a lick of the lips & a quick pat of his belly he would get up & walk away satisfied, his face displaying great achievement in a job well done.

That is human nature in a nutshell!

We like to sort & rank our options according to our fleshly lusts & work through them in the hope of our attaining the ultimate desirous ending.

It is one thing to do it when all elements are entirely under our control but quite another to try & repeat the feat in the midst of the multitude of variants we encounter in life.

But if left unabated, self will always serve to ensure that our fleshly desires ultimately direct the paths we take.

Hence why Jesus continuously urged us to deny ourselves through strong appeal, thought-provoking argument, warning or advice.

In fact to 'hear' from God, to be led of Holy Spirit, to learn Spiritual Truths, to be receptive of God's Revelations to us personally all require us to deny our natural human ways of thinking.

The obvious hindrances are the easiest; it is the small deceits deeply shrouded by our inground habits or desires that become our personal stumbling stones.

So it is that before we move on to take a closer look at Jonah, I feel we all need to overcome what may have already been our human reaction to him being known as one of The Twelve Minor Prophets.

What if each one of my brother's biscuits bore the name of one of every Prophet named in the Books of the Major & Minor Prophets in the Bible!

The Minor Prophet biscuits would be at the top to quickly get them out of the way to make way for the 'best feed'.

Our human minds have been taught that the bigger the better yet in this instance we need to take a moment to remember that in God we are all equal.

Therefore let us move on fully understanding that minor in this instance is not referring to the Prophet himself or his status in God.

Instead it is regarding the Book of the Bible that bears their name as being lesser or smaller in amount, extent or size.

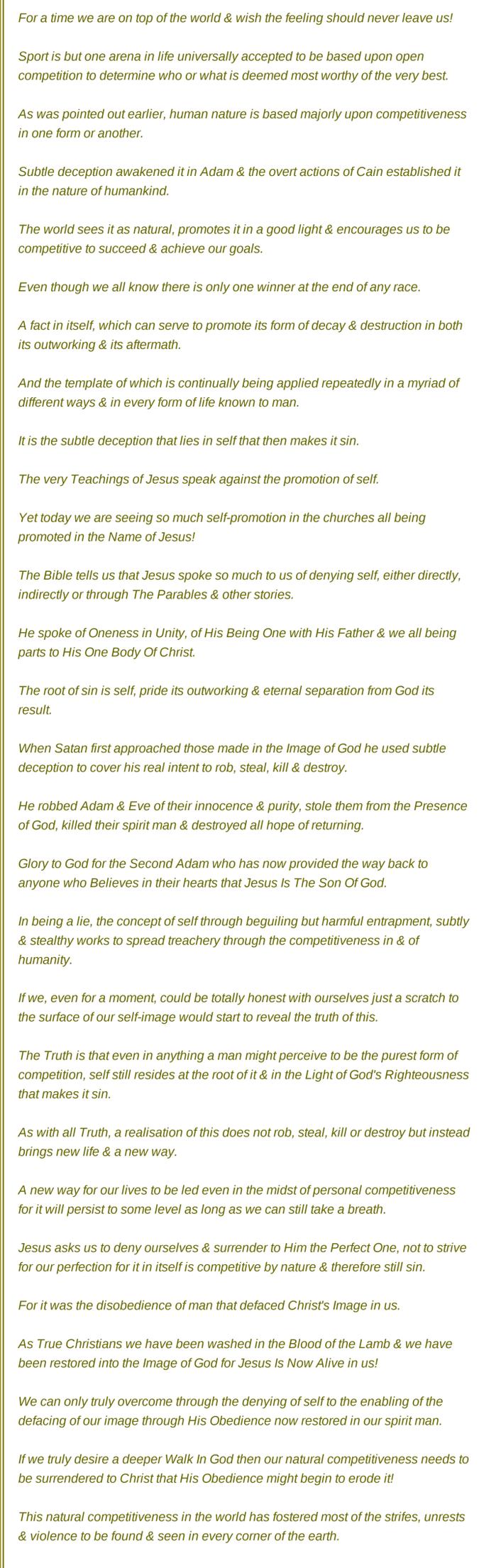
But most definitely not as we might instinctively perceive it to be implying of being of a lesser importance, rank or stature.

**The getting past of this possible restraint in our minds might actually enable us to See&Know something more of why this short book was put there in the Bible for all to read.**

**Love,  
Mwesigwa**

[Defaced - Week 76 follows next week]

**Your prayers of unity with us for God's Provision are most welcome.**



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