

Jonah 4:1-11
The Whale and the Worm: God's Exposure of Self-Righteous Jonah

Purpose: Jehovah must be accurately represented by His people in hatred and judgment of evil, but also in a deep, redemptive heart of mercy (Mt.22:37-40).

Who, When, Where:

Jonah "dove" son of Amittai "truthful"
 - Prophet in the NK in reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 BC)
 - Saw fulfillment of the LORD's prophecies (II Kgs.14:25)
 - Autobiography – testimony of a self-righteous prophet exposed by God, and dependent upon His mercy (I Tim.1:15-16)

Ninevah – Capitol of Assyria

- founded by Nimrod (Gen.10:8-12)
 - Shalmaneser III forced tribute on Israel
 - Assur-Dan III – six year famine and solar eclipse (763 BC)
 - Sargon II – final deportation of NK Israel in 722 BC
 - "their wickedness is come up before me" -Jon.1:2, 3::10; Is.10:12,36:18, Am.4:2

The Storm: We cannot outrun Sovereign God's desire to refine us for His glory.

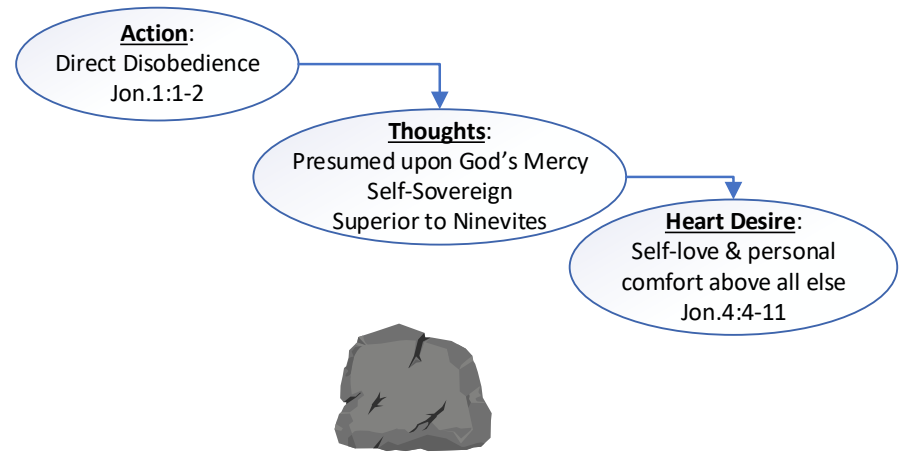
The Whale

- Jonah's internment in the belly of the whale looked forward to Christ burial for 3 days and 3 nights (Jon.1:17, Mt.12:40)

-my tiny little life, in which I have great pride, is about my will and enjoyment, then a major attention-getting calamity happens, and I have a time for prayer, find final deliverance, and all is good. I go back to my tiny little life focusing on my will and enjoyment!

The Worm

-I'm begrudged about the whale experience through divine intrusion and develop an attitude toward God with anger under the surface until the tiny little worm shows who I really am—a self serving believer who has anger issues with God whenever I can't enjoy my will and easy life as a believer.



Underneath the Rock of Jonah's Disobedience

Self-Will and "sovereign" over his life: desired his personal comfort against the will of God and the spiritual benefit of others (Jon.1:1; 4:4-11)

Self-deceived: He was comfortably numb justifying his sin and twisting God's character to fit his narrative (Jon.4:2). He thought he could withhold God's mercy, all the while he had the greatest need for God's mercy.

Self-righteous: the esteemed prophet of God was far superior to the clueless Ninevites.

Angry and Afraid: He was content to watch the Ninevites die and go to hell because it cost him personal comfort. **He was stubborn in his "right" position** that Ninevah was evil, but neglected to reflect the mercy of God toward sinners.

Practical Unbelief: He did not trust God outside of his God-given blessings and personal comfort because he lost sight of God's mercy, which was better than he deserved (Ezek.16:1-7)

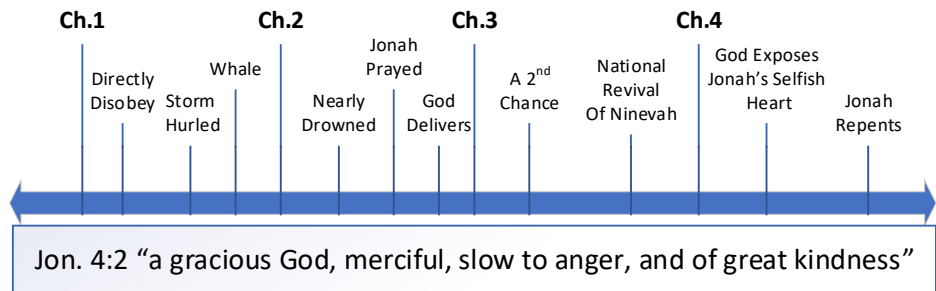


Figure 1

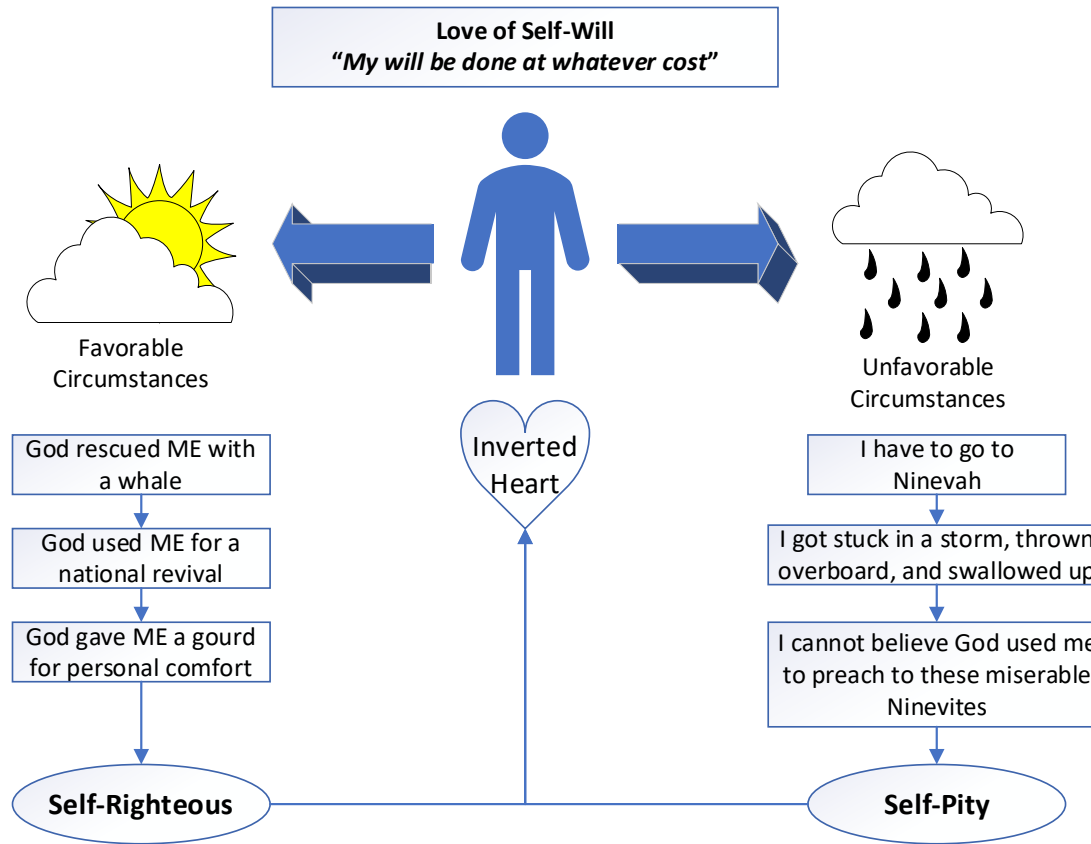
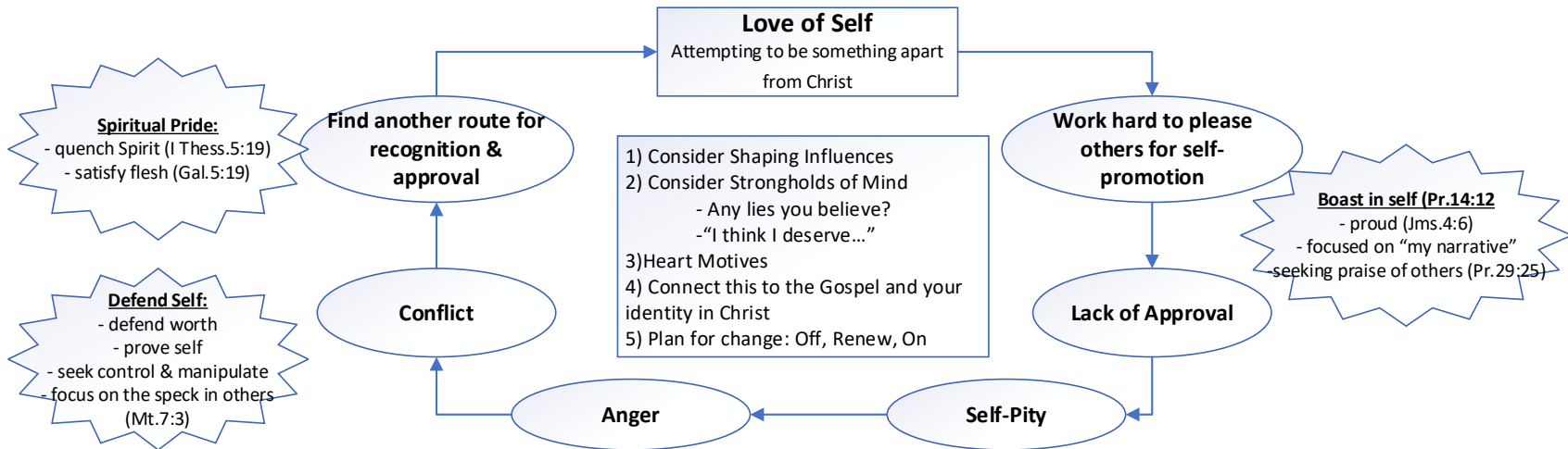


Figure 2



Humility vs. Self-Righteousness



The Humble-at-the-Cross Individual

I Timothy 1:15-16 “...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief...for this cause I obtained mercy.”

- 1) Thought-life
 - = self-aware: recognizes limitations
 - = others focused, teachable, grateful
 - = trusts in God’s sovereignty in all areas of life
- 2) Words
 - = encouragement, provides support
 - = gentle and respectful in speech
 - = gives credit to others, admits mistakes, listens more than speaking
- 3) Actions
 - = looks to serve others, pays attention to others, gives up personal gain
 - = acts with integrity, transparent, asks for help, active repentance
- 4) Character
 - = strong moral compass, values all image bearers, patient
- 5) Demeanor
 - = calm, composed, warm, welcoming
 - = humor – laughs at oneself, relaxed and open body language

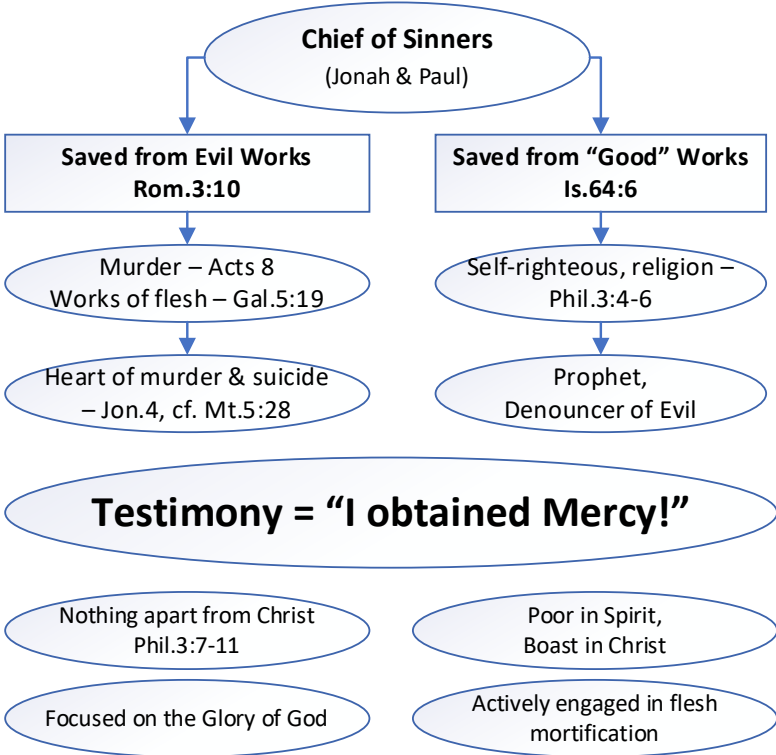
The Self-Righteous Individual

Luke 18:9 “The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are...”

- 1) Thought-life
 - = Arrived, God’s gift to Christianity
 - = self-assuredness, overestimates abilities
 - = self-centered, know-it-all, expects recognition
 - = trusts self, seeks revenge
- 2) Words
 - = critical of others, uses abrasive language,
 - = seeks personal credit, refuses to admit wrongs
 - = talks too much, pleasure in expressing opinion
- 3) Actions
 - = self-serving, interrupts, dominates conversations
 - = hoards resources and time
 - = hypocrisy, behaves differently when seen
- 4) Character
 - = compromise, flexible morals for gain
 - = looks down on others
 - = easily frustrated with others
 - = flaunts achievements
- 5) Demeanor
 - = agitation, easily stressed or angered with others
 - = distant, aloof, sullen
 - = takes self too seriously (cannot laugh at mistakes)
 - = secretive
 - = arrogance, closed and defensive posture

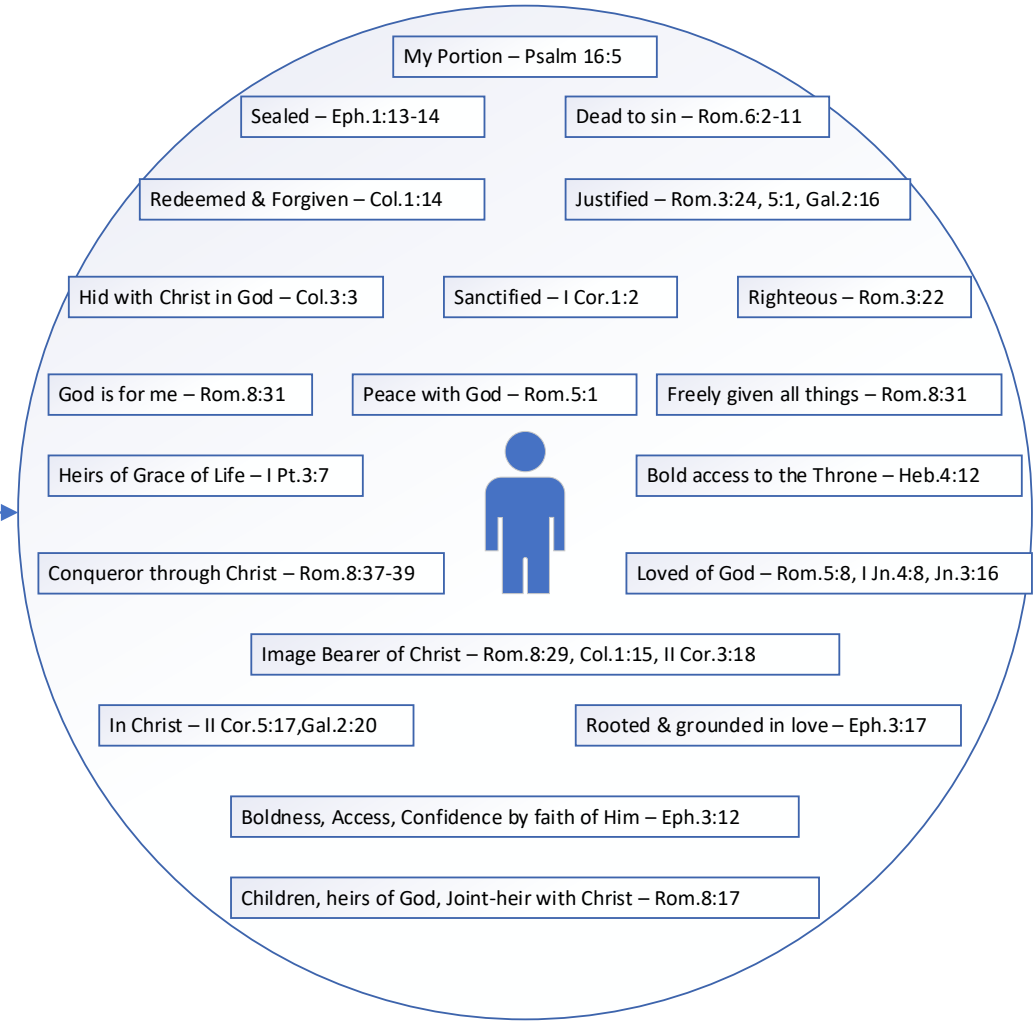
Where do you see yourself in view of irritating and unlovable people?
How does revisiting the Gospel help you see yourself in an accurate view?

Identity in Christ I Tim.1:15-16



Position in Christ

"For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him..." Col.2:9-10



Where does your identity Rest?

- A non-transparent, guarded, and self-righteous individual who performs for self and others?

Or

- Humbled, openly flawed, imperfect, struggles with old nature – *"I obtained mercy!"* (Rom.7:24)

- Resting in the finished work and righteousness of Christ, which satisfied the Father's wrath?

- Walking after the Spirit to crucify the flesh for the glory of God today!

When we rest in our position in Christ, we are free to serve and love others without reciprocity...just as Christ did for us (Rom.5:8, I Jn.4:7)