

Determined Faith Choose The Truth

I. Jonah, Lessons In Responses To God

Jonah 2:1-2, 10 (NIV®)

¹ **From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.** ² He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. . . .

¹⁰ And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 3:1-3 (NIV®)

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." ³ **Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh.** Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days.

Jonah 3:4 (NASB®)

Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

Jonah 3:5-9 (NASB®)

⁵ Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶ When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. ⁷ He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. ⁸ "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. ⁹ "Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

Matthew 12:41 (NASB®)

"The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

II. Courageous Faith

Courage def = The ability to do something that frightens, strength in the face of pain or grief

Coward def = Person who lacks courage

A. The Invitation

Jeremiah 12:5 (NIV®)

"If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"

B. Jeremiah's Complaint

Jeremiah 12:1 (NASB®)

Righteous are You, O LORD, that I would plead *my* case with You; Indeed I would discuss matters of justice with You: Why has the way of the wicked prospered? *Why* are all those who deal in treachery at ease?

III. Responding To Truth (There Is Truth & It Can Be Known)

A. Given

1. Life Is More Difficult Than I Prefer

2 Corinthians 11:24-25 (NIV®)

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.

²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,

2. I Am Predisposed To Ungodliness

Romans 7:15, 19 (NIV®)

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . . ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.

3. Help Is Available

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV84®)

²⁶ In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

B. Variables (We Have Choices To Make, Beyond Conversion Decision)

1. Overcome Or Overcomer

Revelation 2:7 (NIV®)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life,** which is in the paradise of God.

2. The Choice Of Obedience

Mark 10:21-22 (NIV®)

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

3. Faith And Learning

Colossians 1:10 (NIV®)

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, **growing in the knowledge of God,**

Prayer

Almighty God, I cry out to You today. You and You alone can bring deliverance to my life. You are righteous in all You do, teach me to walk uprightly before You. Forgive me for my rebellion and stubborn refusal to cooperate with You. I turn away from all ungodliness, I lay aside every idol. I choose to honor You with my whole heart. I choose Jesus as Lord of all that I am. May my life be pleasing in Your sight, amen.