

Jonah, part 4:
“Faith in the Darkness”
Jonah 2:1-10

Genuine faith shows remarkable characteristics, particularly in the darkest of times!

1. Faith Prays in the Darkness

*“Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God
from the fish’s belly.”*

(1) The Test: the darkest of experiences

- “great affliction” – a “death-like” experience!
Everything seems to say, “God is against me.”
- Under God’s discipline! *“You cast me into the deep...I have been cast out of Your sight.”*

(2) He prays!

- out of the belly of Sheol
- though a castaway

(3) True faith cannot be extinguished by adversity; rather it shines forth

2. Faith Is Strengthened in the Darkness

*“When my soul fainted within me,
I remembered the LORD;
And my prayer went up to You,
Into Your holy temple.”*

**(1) When the child of God most feels his weakness
that is when faith finds its best, its true footing.**

- “When I am weak, then I am strong.”
- He is sure that God hears him

(2) True faith cannot be diminished by adversity; rather it grows

3. Faith Confesses Christ in the Darkness

- (1) Confession concerning the worthless life (8)** *“Those who regard worthless idols
Forsake their own mercy.”*
- cf. The example of the mariners
 - The worthless life, the wasted life is that in which Christ has been rejected
 - Jonah is saying, “Mine is the life of worth.” (!)

- (2) Confession of personal devotion to His God (9a)** *“But I will sacrifice to You
With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed.”*
- “My life is yours; all that I am and have I give to you.”
 - **Q: What does he now have to give?**

- (3) Confession that salvation is entirely of the Lord (9b)** *“Salvation is of the LORD.”*
- Without Christ I am entirely lost
 - Salvation can only come by God’s hand
 - Salvation can only come because of God’s grace

Further Application: