

Key word for Jonah 2: **restoration**

Key word for Jonah 3: **acceleration**

Is it possible to “*speed up*” God?

Is it even ok to ask this question?

Psalms 71:12

God, **do not be far** from me; my God, **hurry** to help me.

2 Chronicles 16:8-9

Were not the Cushites and Libyans **a vast army** with many chariots and horsemen? **When** you depended on the Lord, He handed them over to you. ⁹For the eyes of the Lord **roam** throughout the earth **to show Himself strong** for those who are wholeheartedly devoted to Him. You have been foolish in this matter. Therefore, you will have wars **from now on.**”

God is on the **prowl** to show Himself **powerful** to us.

2 Peter 3:18

... **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:15-18

Pay careful attention, then, to how you **walk**—not as unwise people but as wise—¹⁶ **making the most of the time**, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So don’t be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸And don’t get drunk with wine, which leads to **reckless living**, but be filled by the Spirit ...

God works (always); we respond.

→ Practice of **spiritual response** leads to the experience of divine **acceleration**.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NLT)

... Pray that the Lord’s message will spread **rapidly** and **be honored** wherever it goes.

Where we are going as a Church ...

Jonah graphic

Baggage graphic

Coram Deo graphic

Jonah 2:10-3:2 (CSB)

Then the Lord commanded **the fish**, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

³ The word of the Lord came to Jonah **a second time**: ²“**Get up!** Go to the great city of **Nineveh** and preach the message that I tell you.”

1) Know that God is the God of the Second Chance

- a) He has to be → because of us
- b) He has to be → because of Who He is in Himself

Divine discipline and restoration (Ch. 2) are also divine preparation (Ch. 3).

God has a vision for Jonah/us beyond the fish.

Reject the forces of deceleration:

- Debilitating shame & condemnation
- At least I'm not where I used to be!
- Compliance Christianity & Narcissistic Christianity
 - Instead of Presence Christianity

Places of departure (and discipline) can be starting points for divine acceleration!

Jonah 3:3a

Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the Lord's command.

2) Settle the issue: obey all that you know.

→ Immediately & without debate

Know the nature of the 2nd chance: it is not a "do over" but more of a "takeover"

- Get delivered from 'self'
- Get out of the way so God can "*rapidly*" do what He purposes

Jonah 3:3b-5

... Now Nineveh was an extremely great city, a three-day walk. ⁴Jonah set out on the first day of his walk in the city and proclaimed, "In forty days Nineveh will be demolished!" ⁵Then the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth—from the greatest of them to the least. When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he issued a decree in Nineveh: By order of the king and his nobles: No person or animal, herd or flock, is to taste anything at all. They must not eat or drink water. ⁸Furthermore, both people and animals must be covered with sackcloth, and everyone must call out earnestly to God. Each must turn from his evil ways and from his wrongdoing.

3) Receive the warnings in God's Word and embrace the fear of the Lord.

We must regain our familiarity with spiritual danger.

- True danger always creates urgency

2 Great Dangers:

- Facing the **wrath of God**
- Living a **wasted life**

The 40 Day Function:

- Is this the way I want to spend *the rest of my life*?

NOTE: the power of God's word + spiritual response

- Nineveh responds quicker than Jonah!

Jonah 3:9

Who knows? God **may** turn and relent; He may turn from **His burning anger** so that we will not perish.

4) Light or rekindle the **flame of earnestness toward God.**
=heart level intensity, diligence, zeal & fervor toward God

Fight the deceleration of spiritual **dullness & distractedness**

Are we **serious about knowing, experiencing & serving God ...?**

Jonah 3:10

God **saw** their actions—that they had **turned from** their evil ways—so God relented from the disaster he had threatened them with. And He did **not** do it.

{bullet points come up one at a time; same slide if clear}

5) Be continually and increasingly amazed at the **heart of God.**

- His 'natural' inclination is lovingkindness
 - His instinct, delight & first reaction = grace & favor
- He is provoked to anger ... but NOT to love.

Lamentations 3:31-33a (ESV)

For the Lord will not cast off forever, ³² for, though **He cause grief**, He will have compassion according to the **abundance of His steadfast love**; ³³ for He does not afflict from His heart ...

Isaiah 54:7-8 (NLT)

“For **a brief moment** I abandoned you, but with **great compassion** I will take you back. ⁸ In a **burst of anger** I turned **My face** away for a little while. But with **everlasting love** I will have compassion on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer.

Jonah 3:9a

Who knows ...?

Psalm 27:8 (NASB)

When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.”