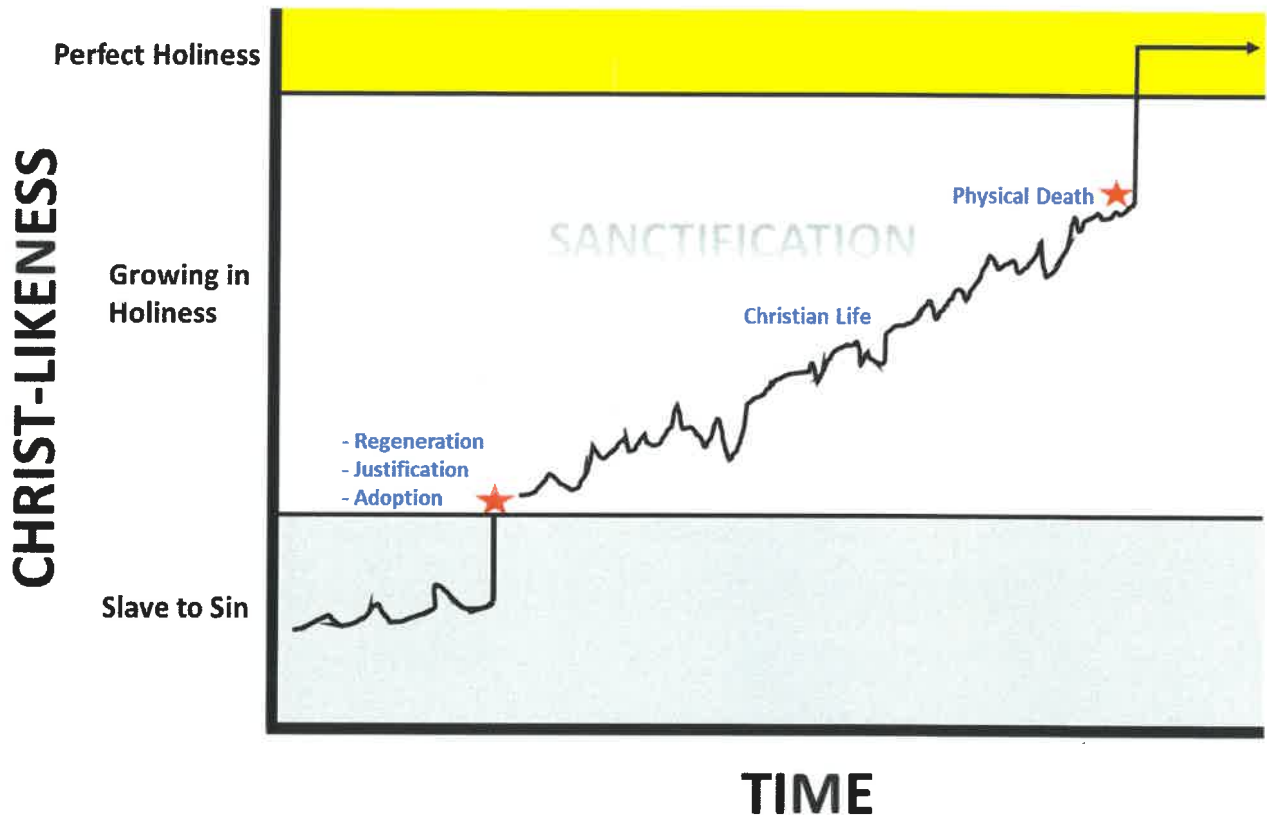


Jonah 2 How God Changed Jonah (and us)



Jesus sends the Holy Spirit:

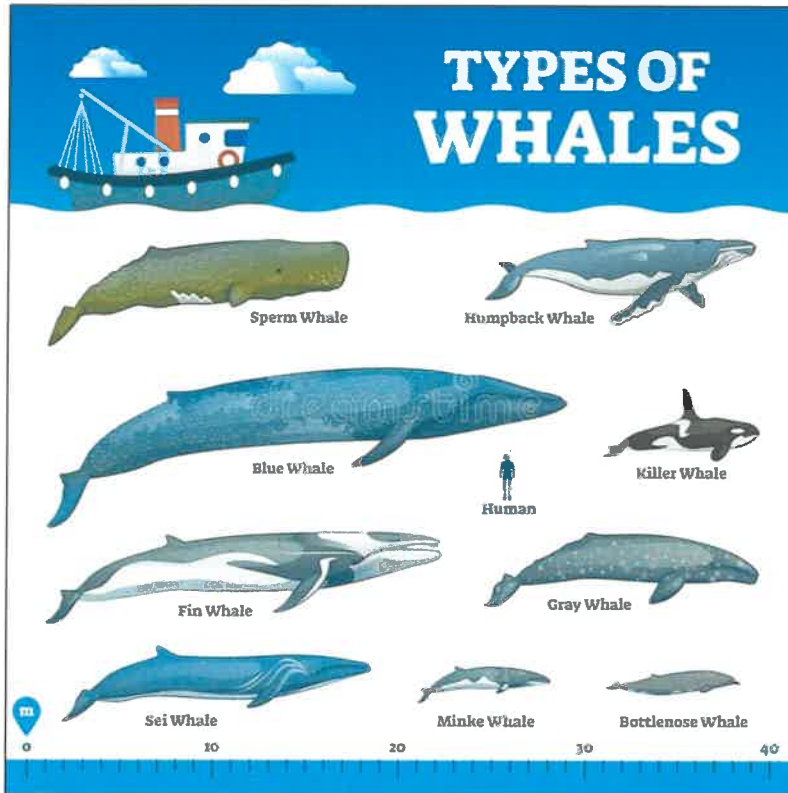
- One Indwelling (born again) [Monergism; God works alone; 1-way street]
- Many Fillings (sanctification) [Synergism; we cooperate; ongoing, progressive; 2- way street]

Sanctification: a progressive work of God and man that makes us more & more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

Jonah Chapter 1 ends this way:

A Great Fish Swallows Jonah

¹⁷ And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.



One of the most striking instances comes from Francis Fox, *Sixty-three Years of Engineering* (London: J. Murray, 1924) pp. 298-300, who reports that this incident was carefully investigated by two scientists (one of whom was M. de Parville, the scientific editor of the *Journal des Debats* in Paris). In February, 1891, the whaling ship *Star of the East* was in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands, and the lookout sighted a large sperm whale three miles away. Two boats were lowered and in a short time one of the harpooners was enabled to spear the creature. The second boat also attacked the whale, but was then upset by a lash of its tail, so that its crew fell into the sea. One of them was drowned, but the other, James Bartley, simply disappeared without trace. After the whale was killed, the crew set to work with axes and spades, removing the blubber. "They worked all day and part of the night. The next day they attached some tackle to the stomach, which was hoisted on deck. The sailors were startled by something in it which gave spasmodic signs of life, and inside was found the missing sailor, doubled up and unconscious. He was laid on the deck and treated to a bath of sea water which soon revived him. At the end of the third week he had entirely recovered from the shock and resumed his duties. . . . His face, neck and hands were bleached to a deadly whiteness and took on the appearance of parchment. Bartley affirms that he would probably have lived inside his house of flesh until he starved, for he lost his senses through fright and not through lack of air."

Inside the Great Fish--3 Things Happen as Jonah Prays:

1. New Awareness of God & himself
2. Battles for his faith
3. Repents

Jonah's Prayer

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying,

"I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,

and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.

³ For you cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away
from your sight;
yet I shall again look
upon your holy temple.'

⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my
life;
the deep surrounded me;

weeds were wrapped about my head
⁶ at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD my God.

⁷ When my life was fainting away,
I remembered the LORD,
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

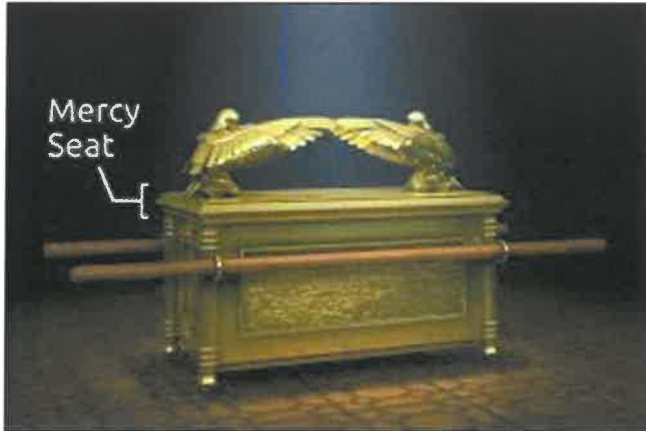
¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

1. New Awareness of God & himself

"...today as I look back, I am convinced that the whole ordeal of my paralysis was inspired by His love. I wasn't a rat in a maze. I wasn't the brunt of some cruel divine joke. God had reasons behind my suffering, and learning some of them has made all the difference in the world."

Joni Eareckson Tada, *A Step Further*

2. Jonah Battles for his Faith



WHEN BATTLING FOR OUR FAITH, IT CAN LOOK LIKE THIS:

- **Stop rehearsing the lies** that got me here
 - ✓ Recurring fears; God is not enough; God doesn't love me well; my future is up to me; my life is over, I don't matter, etc...
- **Start rehearsing the truth**
 - ✓ God thinks I'm valuable, here are the proof texts
 - ✓ God's attributes
 - ✓ Confess false gods
 - ✓ Following Christ will never ruin my life; but my false gods will
- **Stop fighting and start YIELDING**
 - ✓ like a YIELD sign on the road.....tap the brakes
 - ✓ Yield instead of fighting this circumstance itself (may not be the main issue)
 - ✓ Admit ignorance of what is ahead
 - ✓ Look for ways God is pouring His love into my heart; Look for His hand
 - ✓ Yielding is battling for my faith; active waiting

Inside the Great Fish--3 Things Happen as Jonah Prays:

1. **New Awareness of God & himself**
2. **Battles for his faith**
3. **Repents**

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

Jonah 2:8 ESV

Those who cling to worthless idols forsake the grace that could be theirs

Jonah 2:8 NIV

Psalm 119

⁷¹ It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

In Jonah's case (and often in our case) those "afflictions" are God's grace. God's grace changes us.