

# The Ogre of Selfishness

Greg V Hurd

**“This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5 KJV**

Many of us are familiar with the Marvel comic book character “The Incredible Hulk”. If you do not, then you are letting the finer things of culture and posterity pass you by and as the Bible declares, “let the ignorant be ignorant still.”

Anywho, the story states that Dr. David Banner, who has been exposed to gamma radiation, when angered becomes a larger than life green ogre that solves his problems at the most primal and visceral level.

Having a problem with those pesky outer space robots? Hulk smash!

Having a problem with evil dictators poised to take over the world? Hulk smash!

Having trouble with your spouse and the decisions they are making? Hulk smash!

It seemed that every solution involved the destruction of a motor vehicle or a building, but that’s how the Hulk solved his problems. Hulk smash!

In a lot of ways this scenario is closer to home than we realize. You might be saying, “Greg, do you mean that super powered green ogres really exist?”

My answer to that question would be unequivocally, “Yes!”

But not like you think.

You see brothers and sisters there is a monster fiercer than Frankenstein’s monster, more horrible than the Creature from the Black Lagoon, more frightening than the Blob, and yes more powerful than The Incredible Hulk!

This monster causes wars and rumors of wars, annihilates marriages, orphans children, separates ethnic groups, causes depression, is the root cause of unhappiness, fosters drug and alcohol dependency, promotes gossip, slander, malice and murder, causes greed, envy and covetousness, shatters self worth and self image, distorts life to unrecognizable proportions and hinders the potential of every living human being on the face of the planet!

Do you want to know what this threat to personal security is?

### **The Ogre of Selfishness!**

Just like Dr. Banner, when the circumstances are unstable and the timing is right, the beast appears and wreaks havoc and chaos in homes and business around the world!

Where is this beast you might ask?

Well you need not look any further than the tip of your own nose, because deep in the recesses of your soul lays a beast so terrible that in order to deal with it the very Son of God, Jesus Christ had to die and rise from the dead!

However, the monster if not properly dealt with through appropriation of the covenant and mind renewal can and will rear it's ugly head in our lives at times most inconvenient! Like a dorsal fin of a menacing Great White Shark, selfishness can surface causing fatalities in our relationships, finances and professional life.

We must slay the **Ogre of Selfishness!**

If we are to be successful in our quest to rid our lives of the **Ogre of Selfishness**, we must have an accurate composite drawing of what it looks like. When a perpetrator violates someone and is not caught, law enforcement calls in a sketch artist to take information from the victim so that they can have a composition of the person they are looking for.

Selfishness has obvious and identifiable characteristics, but it also has obtuse and unrecognizable characteristics that make it hard to identify.

Selfishness can be both passive and aggressive. It can be confrontational and non-confrontational. Loud or quiet selfishness is always heard.

**“It is hard to fight an enemy with outposts in your head.”**

**Sally Kempton**

**“Why do you hasten to remove anything that hurts your eye, while if something affects your soul, you postpone the cure until next year?”**

**Horace**

However the Word of God has plenty to say about the **Ogre of Selfishness**, and by the revelation of scripture we can exercise by reason of use our senses in discerning what is good and evil.

**I can think of no more deadly a threat to the spiritual life of a believer than this.**

**Selfishness is the express lane to Sin.**

**Selfishness and Sin are on the same wave length.**

**Selfishness is the combustible material that ignites transgression.**

Let's look at the 7 Abominable Acts that the book of Proverbs outlines and see if we can find the Ogre. Do you remember a book called, "Where's Waldo?" it would have pages of panoramic views filled with all kinds of activities, within the activity of the picture was Waldo. Some pictures, Waldo was easy to spot and others he was more concealed.

Although Selfishness is not explicitly named in the scripture there are composite drawings where it can be seen as the common denominator.

Proverbs 6:16-19 is one of those passages.

**"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:**

**A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren."**

Listen to this passage in the Message Bible:

**"Here are six things God hates, and even one more that he loathes with a passion:**

**eyes that are arrogant,  
a tongue that lies,  
hands that murder the innocent,  
a heart that hatched evil plots,  
feet that race down a wicked track,  
a mouth that lies under oath,  
a troublemaker in the family."**

Can you see the **Ogre?**

Self-conceit  
Self-preservation  
Self-gratification  
Self-propagation  
Self-defense  
Self-promotion

Let's look at another scripture where can begin to see the work of selfishness.

Galatians 5:19-21

**“Now the works of the flesh are manifest , which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft (Drugs), hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”**

Selfishness is the life blood of the flesh and the fuel for the carnal mind.

**“For they that are after the flesh do mind (exercise, entertain, to have sentiment or opinion and are mentally disposed with) the things of the flesh: but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”**

**Romans 8:5,6 KJV**

Romans 1:18-32 gives another roll call of selfish acts and calls it the work of a reprobate mind that is even against nature.

Look again at our text, 2 Timothy 3:1, are these not the characteristics of egocentrism?

**self·ish** 

Pronunciation: 'sel-fish

Function: *adjective*

**1** : concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself : seeking or concentrating on one's own advantage, pleasure, or well-being without regard for others

**2** : arising from concern with one's own welfare or advantage in disregard of others <a *selfish* act>

These characteristics are blatant and easily identified, but there are other less conspicuous ways that the **Ogre** goes unrecognized.

For instance if you had a bad day, something happened at work that did not go your way or something has got your sensitivity meter teetering on the edge. These situations can bring about a self consciousness that is heightened to **Ogre sized proportions!**

**“If there was background laughter, it must have been directed toward you, and if your family is quarrelling, it was undoubtedly your fault. Though it seems righteous to feel guilty, this is actually selfish behavior—it involves caring about only what pertains to you regardless of others.”**  
**Drew Harbur**

Sounds like someone needs their inner child spanked!

Now are you tired of the **Ogre of Selfishness**? Do you really want it out of your life? Well get ready, because I am about to give you the answer to slaying this vicious monster.

Are you ready?

Go ahead and squint those eyes, because it is about to hit you smack in the middle of your face!

Are you ready?

Sure?

The death of the **Ogre of Selfishness** is contingent upon the death of **SELF!**

**“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”**  
**Revelation 12:11 KJV**

“The struggle of Christian growth is the transformation from self-possession to Divine-possession.”

**“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.  
For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.  
For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”**  
**Matthew 16:24-26 KJV**

The answer to Jesus question is simple, “What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

His life.

**“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”**  
**Galatians 2:20 KJV**

**“...when I am weak, then I am strong.”**  
**The Apostle Paul**

“We must allow the Divine nature to dispossess innate securities and self dependencies within the recesses of our soul, obliterating self-sufficiency and replacing it with Christ’s sufficiency.”

**“He must increase, but I must decrease.”**  
**John 3:30 KJV**

His ways must become my ways.  
His thoughts must become my thoughts.  
His word must become my word.

**“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”**

**John 6:38 KJV**

**“..My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.  
If any man will do his will, he shall know of his doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.  
He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.”**

**John 7:16-18 KJV**

**“...When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.**

**And he that hath sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”**

**John 8: 28,29 KJV**

**The Ogre of Selfishness is slain** only when we make the choice to die to our selfish desires and plans. I believe the ground will shake at your feet as ogres fall flat on their backs when Christians put off the stewardship and administration of their lives and yield their lives to the Creator.

