

## “Amazing Grace” (Sermon & Song)

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### Introduction: Do We Understand Just How Amazing God’s Grace Is?

- A. Amazing Grace was written by John Newton (1725-1807) (published in 1779).
  - 1. Newton had previously worked on slave ships before his “conversion.”
  - 2. One indication of Newton’s repentance of his past was his influence as a minister on government leaders to abolish the slave trade.
  - 3. “Amazing grace” describes the personal struggles that he faced (that we all face) and how by God’s amazing grace, we can overcome!
- B. “By the grace of God I am what I am.”
  - 1. Newton identified with the words of the apostle Paul (**1 Cor. 15:10**).
  - 2. Can you? Do you understand just how amazing God’s grace is?

### I. Our Need for God’s Grace: Verse One

- A. *“Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me”*
  - 1. God’s grace can save *even* a wretch like me! (e.g., **1 Tim. 1:14-15; Acts 2:36-38; 1 Cor. 6:9-11**).
  - 2. Everyone in the world is *wretched* (i.e., troubled, afflicted, miserable) due to their sins (**Rom. 3:23**) and desperately needs deliverance!
  - 3. In Romans 7 (**7:14-25**), Paul describes the struggle the “wretched man” has against sin and the challenge to keep the law of God.
  - 4. Jesus is the *only* one who can free us from “the body of this death” – or the slavery of sin (**Rom. 7:25b; John 8:31-36**).
  - 5. To receive God’s grace, a person needs to first acknowledge that they are “wretched” (in sin) and need to be forgiven (**Rev. 3:17**).
- B. *“I once was lost but now am found”*
  - 1. The Lord desires to seek and save the lost (**Ezek. 34:16a; Luke 19:10**).
  - 2. Once found, the sinner who was dead in sin “*has come to life again*”! (**Luke 15:24**).
  - 3. Each person must *choose* to return to the Lord (**1 Pet. 2:25**).
  - 4. The gospel of the grace of God calls us back to God! (**2 Cor. 5:20**).
- C. *“Was blind, but now, I see.”*
  - 1. Everyone is spiritually blind from the influence of Satan (**2 Cor. 4:3-4**).
  - 2. Only until a person humbles himself to admit their blindness and need for spiritual guidance, will he then begin to see (**Jn 9:39-41; Lk 1:78-79**).

### II. Our Introduction to God’s Grace: Verse Two

- A. *“T’was grace that taught my heart to fear”*
  - 1. Grace is not a license to sin (**Jude 4**), but a powerful reason not to!
  - 2. *“The gospel of the grace of God”* (**Acts 20:24**) not only saves, but it also teaches us to fear and obey the will of the Lord (**Titus 2:11-12**).
- B. *“And grace, my fears relieved.”*
  - 1. By the grace of God, Jesus “tasted death” so we wouldn’t have to! (**v. 9**)
  - 2. Relieves fear of death and condemnation (**Heb 2:14-15; 1 Jn 4:16-18**).
- C. *“How precious did that grace appear”*
  - 1. The grace of God is indeed *precious*, “held as of great price” (Thayer); Made possible by the great expense of the blood of Jesus (**1 Pet. 1:18-19**).

2. Only the precious blood of Jesus can redeem us from sin (**Eph. 1:5-7**).
- D. *“The hour I first believed.”*
1. “The hour” or critical time we come to first believe in Jesus, grace begins to appear or make its introduction.
  2. Faith in Christ comes by hearing God’s word (**Rom. 10:17**) and genuine belief in Christ is shown by obedience to the gospel (**Rom. 6:17-18**).
  3. “Grace appears” the *very* hour a person responds in obedient faith to the gospel for salvation (**Tit. 2:11; e.g., Acts 16:29-34**).

### III. God’s Grace Protects and Leads Us Home: Verse Three

- A. *“Through many dangers, toils and snares we have already come.”*
1. Like the apostles who faced “many dangers” (**2 Cor. 4:7-10; 6:4-10**), Christians will be tested (**1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:12-16; Ac. 14:33; 2 Tim. 3:12**).
  2. Through “toils” or exhausting labors, there is a temptation to grow weary of doing good (**Gal 6:9-10; 2 Thes 3:13; Heb 12:3; 1 Cor 15:58**).
  3. There are many “snares”, traps, or entanglements of sin we must free ourselves from in life (**Luke 8:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 2:20**).
  4. By God’s amazing grace, we can overcome it all! (**2 Cor. 12:9-10**).
- B. *“T’was grace that brought us safe thus far”*
1. Strength to live the Christian life comes from God’s grace (**2 Tim 2:1**).
  2. His grace will keep us safe from the evil one through life (**2 Thes. 3:3**).
- C. *“And grace will lead us home.”*
1. Christians are “heirs of the grace of life” (**1 Pet. 3:7; Titus 3:7**).
  2. By His grace, God delivers us from evil and brings us safely to Heaven (**2 Tim. 4:18; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Thes. 2:16-17**).

### IV. The Promises of Grace: Verse Four

- A. *“The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures.”*
1. The Lord is faithful to His promise to do good to His children (**e.g., Ps. 84:11; Mat. 7:11b; Rom. 8:28**).
  2. God “*who cannot lie*” secures our hope by His reliable, trustworthy words found in Scripture (**Titus 1:1-3; cf. Heb. 6:18**).
- B. *“He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.”*
1. The Lord’s promise continues throughout our entire lives by His grace.
  2. God is a “shield” for those who walk with the Lord (**Ps. 84:11**).
  3. God is our “portion” – a great spiritual blessing to the heart! (**Ps 73:26**).

### V. Our Existence in Eternity by His Grace: Verse Five

- A. *“When we’ve been here ten thousand years bright shining as the sun.”*
1. Those that enter Heaven by God’s grace will be with the Lord *forever* (**1 Thes. 4:17**), for “thousands” or countless years.
  2. In Heaven, God will be “bright shining as the sun” (**Rev. 21:23**).
- B. *“We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.”*
1. Like God, our existence in Eternity will last forever and ever (**Ps. 90:1-2**), our “years will not come to an end” (**Ps. 102:27**) in Heaven.
  2. Time will be insignificant in Eternity (**Ps. 90:4; cf. 2 Pet. 3:8**).
  3. Whether ten thousand years or ten zillion years pass by there will be “*no less days to sing God’s praise*” in Heaven! (**Rev. 7:9-12**).

**Conclusion: Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound Indeed!**