

## An Evening Devotional *Amazing Grace*

Since John Newton wrote his hymn “**Amazing Grace**” for New Year’s Day 1773, it has become the most loved hymn of all time.

Let us consider the Biblical background behind Newton’s great hymn. God saved Newton both physically and more importantly spiritually in the midst of deadly storm that by all rights should have sunk the ship he was on, the **Greyhound**, in 1748. As John Newton thought on his conversion and all his sinful past, he cried out:

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!*

If God could and would save someone like John Newton, He can save someone like you and me. John Newton and you and I are most unworthy of any deliverance. Yet, the Lord saved us.

*I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

This is the essence of what the Lord did. These phrases echo the prodigal son in **Luke 15** and the man born blind in **John 9**.

**Verse two** describe the process of God’s work in John Newton.

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!*

This repeats **Romans 8:15**.

*“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”*

**Verse Three** demonstrates God’s grace does not just save us, it enables us to live out our lives.

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

**Verse four** tells of the assurance we can have because of God’s grace given to us. Newton wanted to remind us it was God’s Word which comforts us and tells us always about God’s grace.

*The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.*

Sounds a little like **Romans 8:28**.

***“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”***

Verse five is not one we commonly sing. It speaks of the confidence grace gives us concerning our future.

*Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.*

I hear **John 11:25-26** in this verse.

***“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.’”***

**The last verse** Newton wrote took its cue from **2 Peter 3:10**.

***“The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”***

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.*

***Amazing Grace!*** | Rev. John Newton | 1773

Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

Through many dangers, toils, & snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

\* When we've been there ten thousand  
years  
Bright Shining as the Sun  
We've no less days to sing God's Praise  
Than when we first begun.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

\* Last verse added later by anonymous