



## What's So Amazing About Grace?

**Ephesians 2:8:** (NASB) *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;*

Grace...even speaking the word seems to give a sense of calm. It is almost as though the word itself emits a fresh and breathable air that clears away the stuffiness of a confused life. Grace can have lots of different meanings, from something that comes with elegance, to a powerful heavenly gift. So, what is grace and more specifically, what is God's grace? How does it work? Who gets it bestowed upon them? Can grace change your life? What is so amazing about grace?

### What is grace?

**Grace:** Strongs #5485 cariv charis khar'-ece

Some scriptural examples of the varied uses of *grace* in the New Testament:

(Source: Greek Lexicon)

1a) that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech

**Luke 4:22:** (NASB) *And all were speaking well of him, and wondering at the **gracious** <5485> words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, Is this not Joseph's son?*

The words that Jesus spoke as a young man brought happiness and delight to those around him.

**Colossians 4:6:** (NASB) *Let your speech always be with **grace** <5485>, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

If you are a Christian, people should want to listen to you talk.

2) good will, loving-kindness, favor

**Luke 2:52:** (NASB) *And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in **favor** <5485> with God and men.*

Jesus deserved favor from God. He was accepted by so many when he was growing up because there was something different about him.

3) what is due to grace

3a) the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace

**Romans 6:17:** (NASB) *But **thanks** <5485> be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed...*

4) thanks (for benefits, services, favors), recompense, reward

**Luke 17:9:** (NASB) *He does not **thank** <5485> the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?*

Knowing all of this, let's focus on the grace of God and what it encompasses. The grace of God is unmerited favor.

To illustrate the amazing grace of God, we are looking at several scriptural examples of God's grace and also the life of John Newton. John Newton was a



slave ship captain turned devout Christian. He began working on slave ships at the age of seventeen and became a slave ship captain.

Newton wrote the hymn, *Amazing Grace*, probably one of the best known, most respected, most sung and recognized Christian hymns in the entire world. He was a vile man early in his life and called himself a “wretch” and “The Great Blasphemer.” He began the conversion process of his life from wretch to lover of God, to servant of God, to dedicated force for God. His story is one of amazing grace.



This next audio clip is a recreation of John Newton speaking to his congregation (he became a pastor) on January 1, 1773, based on the following text:

1 Chronicles 17:16: (NASB) *Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?*

John Newton took this Scripture and basically applied it to himself. “Who am I and why have you brought me this far?”

 I was a wretch, *The Story Behind the Song, Asbury University*

- *And he said to his congregation on that Friday morning, first of January, 1773, “The Lord gives us many blessings, but unless we are grateful for these, we lose much of the comfort from them.” So he said, “Well never mind, David, now what about you and me? When you look back, where were you when the Lord found you?” And for himself, he says, “I was a wretch.”*

He quoted the first line of his hymn, “amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me...” He wrote that from personal experience and spent his life preaching that as well. He stated that unless we are grateful for our blessings, we lose much comfort from them. It is wonderful to have blessings but unless we are grateful continually, the comfort from those blessings becomes idle and useless.

Let’s look deeper into the context of our theme text...

### GOD’S GRACE AND THE SINNER WHO SEEKS REDEMPTION:

Ephesians 2:1-3: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup>Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

 The great blasphemer, *The Story Behind the Song, Asbury University*

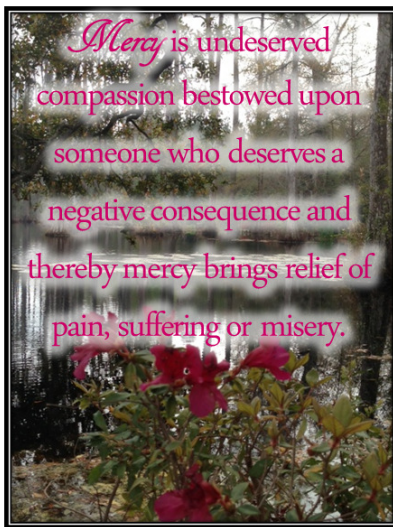
- *He loved to learn from his mother, and he could recite passages of Scripture and all of Isaac Watts’ hymns, but when his mother died, his father was away at sea for a year. When he came back, he married quite quickly to a young Italian lady and they went to live in Essex. They had a child and Newton really got pushed aside.*
- *As a crew member on several slave ships, he helped scour the African coast in search of human cargo. Even the young Newton was thrown into chains once,*



*forced to work as a slave himself on a small island off the coast of Sierra Leone. Eventually released from his captivity after about a year, the great blasphemer, as he called himself, went to a life so depraved that even his rough shipmates found it shocking.*

When talking about the subject of amazing grace, you can't help but talk about the life of John Newton and the amazing life he led before his conversion to Christ. Newton was a young Christian boy growing up. By the time he was seventeen he worked on slave ships and then became a slave himself. He called himself "The Great Blasphemer." He lived such a horrific life that even his shipmates were shocked at the degradation with which this man would live his life. How does God's amazing grace work in his life and how does it work in ours?

Is it just grace from God that changes us or is there more?



Ephesians 2:4-10: (NASB) <sup>4</sup>But God, *being rich in mercy*, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup>not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

God's grace is shown here as a result of God being rich in mercy. He is rich in mercy because of His love. Grace can't happen without mercy, which can't happen without love.

Please refer to our June 2, 2013 Christian Questions program, "What Does it Mean to be Merciful?"

Grace is undeserved favor. It is a gift. You cannot earn God's grace and without Jesus it would not happen. He had to pay the price. Grace is a part of mercy and God's love. Our work doesn't earn grace for us, but God counts our efforts.

The works of John Newton's early life ranged from dark and evil to a feeble reaching toward God.

 Seeking - sort of, *The Story Behind the Song, Asbury University*

- *From time-to-time Newton would make some attempts to get back to the faith that his mother had brought him up in. He would have times of prayer. He would even have times of fasting. But it was like a yo-yo really, he was up and down all the time. He had no companion to help him. And he certainly didn't seek out any.*

### GOD'S GRACE AND THE JEWISH NATION:

Romans 11:1-6: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? <sup>3</sup>Lord, they have killed Your



prophets, they have torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life. <sup>4</sup>But what is the divine response to him? I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal. <sup>5</sup>In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice. <sup>6</sup>But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Is God’s grace limited to those of Israel who accept Jesus now in this life? No! God’s grace is BIGGER than that!

 **The storm and the great turning, *The Story Behind the Song, Asbury University***

- *Finally on March 21st, 1748, Newton experienced what he would call his “Great Turning Day.” In the middle of the night, the 22 year-old was awakened by a violent storm. Cries from his crewmates on deck sounded the alarm. Their ship, The Greyhound, was about to sink. As Newton scrambled up the ladder to the deck, the man directly above him was hit by a wave, swept overboard, and never seen again. Finally making it to the wheel, The Great Blasphemer raised his voice, not to curse God, but to pray. In words he had not used for many years, John Newton pleaded: Lord have mercy on us. Hour after hour, sustained only by his call upon God’s mercy, Newton attempted to steer the battered ship through the violent seas, as down below the crew sought desperately to stop the holes with bedding and strips of clothing.*

Newton was crying out to God to have mercy on him. Israel too will have a great turning day!

**The nation of Israel will be a recipient of God’s grace at a future time:**

**Romans 11:11-16:** (NASB) <sup>11</sup>I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. <sup>12</sup>Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! <sup>13</sup>But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, <sup>14</sup>if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup>If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

God’s mercy and grace - both based on a plan founded upon justice and unbreakable promises! When God makes a promise, He doesn’t break it!

17      **Amazing Grace**

Romans 8:1-2      Words and Music by John Newton



verse 1. A - - mac - ing grace! how sweet the sound! That  
 told a - lone! 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And  
 told a - lone! 3. That man - y dan - gers, wils, and fears, I

saved a wretch like me! I once was  
 grace my fears re - lieved. (O re - lieved) How pre - cious  
 have al - ready come, (al - ready come) 'Tis grace has



**“Amazing Grace,” (Verse 1) Leann Rimes**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I’m found  
I was blind, but now I see.





## How far can grace go in changing our lives?

### Answered Prayer, *The Story Behind the Song*, Asbury University



- *For 11 hours as the storm raged, Newton remained at the ship's wheel, not knowing if he would live or die. Gradually the winds lessened and the storm began to calm. Newton's desperate prayer for God's mercy had been answered. For the rest of his life, Newton would mark each March 21st with the day of humiliation, prayer and praise for his great deliverance from the sea and of the life of sin he had been living. Newton's dramatic conversion set him on a long winding path that would take him towards a new life. Not in one great leap, but step by step.*

Newton found God in this night of terror. It was a step-by-step process.

This seems to be the method of God's grace: Step by step...this is how God's grace works in our lives. There is not this big miraculous conversion and everything is great. God's grace enters into your life and now instead of having hope in God, you can begin to have faith in God.

### GOD'S GRACE (THROUGH JESUS) TO THE APOSTLE PAUL:

1 Corinthians 15:3-11: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; <sup>7</sup>then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

Paul is here humbly showing the progression of God's grace. Notice the similarity to John Newton, who was a slave driver, and the Apostle Paul who was a persecutor of Christians.

<sup>8</sup>and last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared to me also. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

So, Paul established his most humble and out of step beginnings as a reminder that while where we were does have some importance, it can never overshadow where the grace of God has brought us or is bringing us. It is a step-by-step process.



A caller suggests: Isaiah 25:9: *In that day they will say, surely this is our God; we trusted in Him and He saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Eventually man will praise God for His grace and His favor.*  
Psalms 150:6: *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.*

### Small steps, *The Story Behind the Song*, Asbury University

- *It was through this experience at sea and his prayer crying for mercy that Newton's life began to be completely transformed. It wasn't a sudden overnight change, although some things happened immediately. He stopped blaspheming, he didn't swear again, and he began to read the Bible. But looking back later in life on this experience, he said, "Surely, if I had any light then, it was as the first faint streak of dawn."*



What a telling statement from a mature Christian later in life looking back on his earlier life! If you look at the great dramatic conversion, you say, “that’s the moment,” but John Newton himself says it was the first of *many* moments of God’s grace growing in his life.

Let us remember that the great service of the Apostle Paul was not achieved at his conversion. Several years passed before he even went out to preach. His great service was as a result of consistently living a grace-filled life!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>*Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!* <sup>8</sup>*Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.*

Paul was already strong in the Lord yet undergoing hardship so he prayed, but Jesus said NO!

<sup>9</sup>*And he has said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.*

Was Paul crushed? No, rather he was made stronger because he understood the transforming power of grace in our everyday existence.

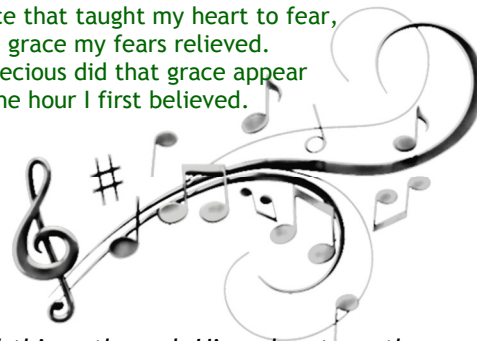
*Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak (physically), then I am strong. (spiritually)*

Note the parallel between the life of John Newton and the Apostle Paul. Both understood that they had to grow up in Christ. They needed to grow in living a life of grace. Grace is that unmerited favor. John Newton knew he could not earn the opportunity of God’s favor, but it was given to him despite the wretchedness of his life. Newton is best known for his hymn “Amazing Grace,” but his life was much bigger than writing the hymn.



### “Amazing Grace,” (Verse 2) Michael Crawford

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



Philippians 4:13: (NASB) *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

God’s grace is transformative!

Living as one delivered:



**Growing in Christ, *The Story Behind the Song*, Asbury University**

- *Captain Newton came home from the sea to stay in 1754. He was 29, and it would be 18 years before he wrote his most famous of hymns. During this*



*time he grew in faith and knowledge as he learned both Hebrew and Greek. He also became friends with prominent preachers of the day, among them George Whitfield and John Wesley. Church leaders in the area gradually heard about Newton’s amazing story and invited him to speak. The idea that Newton might have a higher calling was why he decided to apply for formal ordination.*

He had that amazing conversion at age twenty-two, but he did not quit the slave ships. Record has it that his treatment of the slaves dramatically changed, but he was still running slaves. You see the small steps that happened in his life to transform him to what he was going to become. Just because he had his conversion and the grace of God beginning to work in him did not mean God was finished with him. He was only starting. We are an unfinished work. “Never judge an artist by his unfinished work.” This is a good reason why we should not judge others.

### GOD’S GRACE AND OUR PRAYERS:

**Hebrews 4:14-16:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus is our inspiration. He understands us. “The throne of grace” is the throne of unmerited favor! Prayer is grace because through justice being satisfied by the sacrifice of Jesus, we now have a method through which we may approach God! Why did God through Jesus satisfy justice? Because He loves us! Grace in the context of the rest of the character of God is an incomprehensible thing!

Is God’s grace so strong in our life that we are ever looking at how we can better serve Him?

### Early life published, *The Story Behind the Song*, Asbury University

- *His authentic narrative that lead us about his experience up until that point was published, and what is very interesting coming back to that this theme of slave trading is that this book was so popular. It went through many editions and it was translated into French, German and Dutch. So, it went around the world but nobody ever questioned the slave trading issue because at that stage nobody was questioning it anyway.*

There are two things that are amazing. First is that he writes down his experiences and they become popular in many countries. Second, he expresses all of this and nobody is questioning the slave trade. We can be blinded by our own existence, habits and norms.



How do we position ourselves to maximize the grace privilege of prayer?

**This is the last night before Jesus was crucified:**

**John 15:12-17:** (NASB) <sup>12</sup>*This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.* <sup>13</sup>*Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends.* <sup>14</sup>*You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

**First: Do what Jesus says by doing what he did! He never said anything that he did not do himself. This is an example of a true leader.**

<sup>15</sup>*No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

**Second: Live in an elevated state, for it is here that we can hear the will of God. We are no longer servants, but now we are friends.**

<sup>16</sup>*You did not choose me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name He may give to you.* <sup>17</sup>*This I command you, that you love one another.*

**Third: Live a transformed life in His service, and then when you ask, grace will abound! Here is where Paul mentions our prayer life. You don't find the expectations of grace fulfilled unless the life of grace is lived.**

**Now, live transformed in the face of the world, the flesh and the devil:**

**Romans 8:12-17:** (NASB) <sup>12</sup>*So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—*<sup>13</sup>*for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* <sup>14</sup>*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* <sup>15</sup>*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba! Father! (From slave to son)* <sup>16</sup>*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,* <sup>17</sup>*and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.*

**God's grace abounds when we put ourselves in the right place.**



**"Amazing Grace," (Verse 3) Celtic Woman**

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
We have already come;  
'Twas grace that brought us safe thus far  
And grace will lead us home,  
And grace will lead us home.

**This is a special verse in the hymn in terms of the intensity of the experience of God's grace.**

**Psalms 27:14:** (NRSV) *Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!*

**Sometimes God's grace doesn't come when we look for it or expect it. If we are in a position to want it by the way we're living, then we can see it. God's timing is always right.**





*John Newton Trivia:* There were actually thirteen verses written to “Amazing Grace.” They were not all written by John Newton, such as the famous verse “when we’ve been there ten thousand years...” That was not a John Newton original. The thought is that it came from America. In addition, the music that we know as “Amazing Grace” was not the original music to which Newton put the words. There is thought that the music came from American slaves.



What about God’s grace and the unbelieving world?

 Thoughts on the slave trade, *The Story Behind the Song*, Asbury University

- *And the years after writing Amazing Grace, Newton moved to a larger, more influential post as pastor in a church in London’s financial district. The former slave ship captain went on to not only renounce slavery but worked actively to abolish it. Nineteen years before his death, the aging Newton would publish his thoughts from the African slave trade. His harrowing eyewitness account of the appalling conditions on slave ships and the brutal atrocities practiced on slaves provided abolitionists like his young parliamentary friend William Wilberforce with powerful evidence they needed to educate a misinformed public.*



Up to this point, no one had challenged the slave trade. Newton now begins to understand that the slave trade behavior is not an acceptable practice and starts to write about his experiences. *We recommend that you see the movie “Amazing Grace” to see God’s grace growing in him.*

#### GOD’S GRACE AND THE UNBELIEVING WORLD OF MANKIND:

What if the call of the true church was there, in a worldwide sense, to help abolish slavery from sin and death just as John Newton did? The Apostle Paul said the world is waiting eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. Mankind wants to be released from that slavery and misery of sin and death so they can have a piece of God’s grace. The world of mankind is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God, and the world will have their turn at experiencing the magnanimous grace of God.



*A caller suggests: Jesus died in apparent disgrace but was in fact the embodiment of God’s grace. Through Jesus’ sacrifice and example, the gift of grace brings victory to our life. 2 Corinthians 6:1: And working together with him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain.*

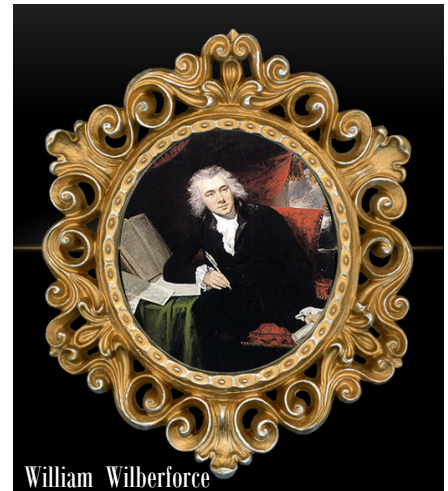
It was by assuming the disgrace of the cross that Jesus assumed the sin of mankind and brought the grace of God to the forefront for all the world of mankind.

Romans 8:18-22: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.



**Influencing Wilberforce, *The Story Behind the Song*, Asbury University**

- *Wilberforce would take up the fight to abolish the slave trade. But it gets even better than that. When we were working on the film, Amazing Grace, the thing that was so remarkable is that we know that Newton was with Wilberforce on that Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1787, when he wrote in his diary: “God has placed before me two great objects, the suppression of the slave trade and the reformation of my country’s manners - that is the work of cultural renewal and reform.” Newton was with him on that Sunday and so for Wilberforce to sit down, take quill pen in hand, dip it in the ink well, and write that diary entry, we can lay a lot of the inspiration for Wilberforce finally settling on upon that resolve at Newton’s door.*



Newton was behind Wilberforce saying, “You need to do this and this is your calling.” John Newton’s transformation kept continuing. He went from hoping for God to having faith in God, to living faith in God, to now becoming a force for the grace of God to those around him. He became a transformational source.

**This IS a grand piece of the grand plan of the grace of God!**

Romans 5:12-14: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned <sup>13</sup>for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

**Adam was entirely responsible for inherited human sin. Death reigned even before the Law was given - therefore the penalty was clearly upon all humanity:**

Romans 5:15-17: (NASB) <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, (the many **MUST** mean all humanity according to the above context) much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (This **MUST** mean the same “many”) <sup>16</sup>The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. <sup>17</sup>For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, (Again, who did death reign over? Everyone!) much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Aha! There IS a qualifier here applying to the called out ones! Shows a reign for them - an authority that they are given.)

Romans 5:18-21: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Okay - no qualifier - all humanity **MUST** be included) <sup>19</sup>For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. (Again, this is about **ALL** humanity) <sup>20</sup>The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the



more, <sup>21</sup>so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Grace replaces sin on a wholesale scale!)

That is underserved favor! This favor goes to everyone. Why? Jesus cancelled the sin of Adam. Adam plunges the world into sin and death and Jesus lifts the world out of it. Justice is a major part of the grace of God. You have to have justice in order to have true grace. Justice now gives opportunity for mercy to work. Mercy works because love is there. Love is there and opens the door for grace. They all work together.



**"Amazing Grace," (Verse 1 repeat) II Diva**



Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

Imagine that being applied to the whole world. That is grace!

Where does God's grace ultimately lead?



**Victory and death, *The story behind the song, Asbury University***

- *As Newton approached death, his eyesight and memory began failing. One by one, those who had loved him came to say their goodbyes. To one of his close friends, William Jay, Newton made his now famous declaration, "My memory is now nearly gone but I remember two things. That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior." He died in 1807 at the age of 82, nine months after witnessing the answer to many prayers - the successful passage of the Act for the abolition of the slave trade.*

What a great statement! "My memory is now nearly gone but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior."

**This is dedicated to all of those who lived their lives in accordance with Jesus:**

**Psalms 116:12-18:** (KJV) <sup>12</sup>What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? <sup>13</sup>I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. <sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. <sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. <sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. <sup>17</sup>I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. <sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,

John Newton fulfilled so much of these Scriptures. He paid his vows to the Lord in the presence of everyone. He confessed to those things which he had done, and he took a strong stand in abolishing things that he had done against political forces that were very great. He took the stand of God's grace in his life and dedicated his life to the service of God.

**GOD'S GRACE AS A LINK IN THE GREAT PLAN OF REDEMPTION AND LIFE!**

Grace then, is but one link in the glorious plan of God!

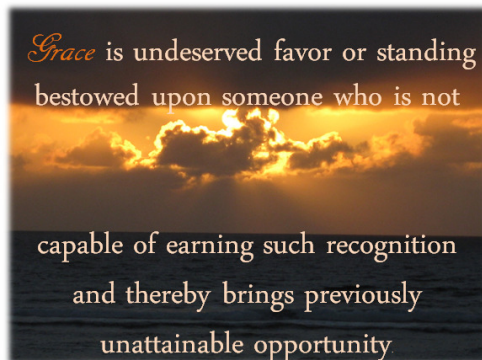


So, how do all the elements we have talked about fit together...Justice, Love, Mercy and Grace?



Love is the foundation of creation for it is the driving force that endows all that is created with an unmistakable harmony of purpose. Love gave birth to communication, adoration and the sacred music of discipleship. Love needs Justice to flourish... God is Love. Love has to have Justice in place to work.

Justice is driven by Love. It is the evenhanded consequence bestowed upon someone based upon righteous treatment in response to their actions, words and motivations and thereby brings equity and balance. Justice holds to Mercy to anchor its force... Justice is driven by love. Love is its basis.



Mercy would not exist but for Justice. Mercy is undeserved compassion bestowed upon someone who deserves a negative consequence and Mercy thereby brings relief of pain, suffering or misery. Mercy seeks Grace to multiply its reach...

Grace is born out of Mercy. Grace is undeserved favor or standing bestowed upon someone who is not capable of earning such recognition and thereby brings previously unattainable opportunity. Grace is defined by Love...





### A text with all four elements:

Ephesians 2:4-7: (NASB) <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, (MERCY) because of His great love with which He loved us, (LOVE) <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our transgressions, (JUSTICE) made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) (GRACE), <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

### The results of God's grace!

Isaiah 35:5-10: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. <sup>6</sup>Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy...<sup>8</sup>A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way...But the redeemed will walk there, <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



### "Amazing Grace," (Verse 4) Judy Collins

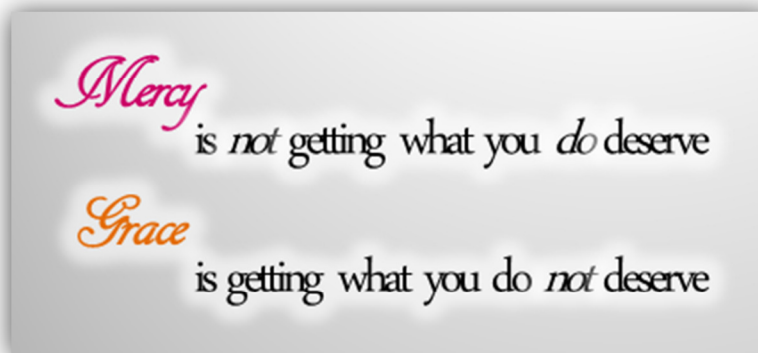
When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

God's grace opens the door to eternity. It is available for every man, woman and child who ever lived.

Revelation 21:3-4: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup>and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

Why will all these things pass away? Because of the amazing grace of God! God's great plan of redemption of life says that Adam sinned and Jesus died as a sacrifice for Adam's sin. Therefore, everyone subject to the sin of Adam is now subject to the grace of God through Jesus' sacrifice. We see grace as an unfolding force in our lives.

John Newton started hoping for God's grace. He began looking and praying for God's grace, which led him to the point of having faith. He went to the point of living a life of God's grace and being transformed. And then he went to the point of becoming a force for God's grace in others. That is the pathway of God's grace in our lives.





**So, what's so amazing about grace?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!**



**And now even more to think about...  
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind**

**Grace:** Strongs #5485 cariv charis khar'-ece

1) grace, 1a) that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech, 2) good will, loving-kindness, favor, 2a) of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues 3) what is due to grace, 3a) the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace, 3b) the token or proof of grace, benefit, 3b1) a gift of grace, 3b2) benefit, bounty, 4) thanks, (for benefits, services, favors), recompense, reward

**Romans 3:21-30:** (NASB) <sup>21</sup>But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup>even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>being justified as a gift by His **grace <5485>** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

**Sin happens but justification also happens - as a gift of God's grace!**

<sup>25</sup>whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in his blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**Grace and justification could not be, but for the fulfillment of justice.**

<sup>27</sup>Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. <sup>29</sup>Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup>since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

**So, the God of ALL is so loving and just that He provides a way!**

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**A bit more on John Newton from Wikipedia:**

John Henry Newton (24 July 1725/4 August - 21 December 1807) was an English sailor and Anglican cleric. Starting his career at sea at a young age, he became involved with the slave trade for a few years. After experiencing a Christian conversion, he became a cleric and hymn-writer and later a prominent supporter of the abolition of slavery. He was the author of many hymns, including "Amazing Grace" and "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"....

John Newton was born in Wapping, London, in 1725, the son of John Newton Sr., a shipmaster in the Mediterranean service, and Elizabeth. His mother was the only daughter of Simon Scatliff, an instrument maker from London, however the marriage register records her maiden name as Seatcliffe. Elizabeth was raised as a Nonconformist Christian. Elizabeth died of tuberculosis (then called consumption) in July 1732, about two weeks before John's seventh birthday. Two years later, he went to live in Aveley, the home of his father's new wife. Newton spent two years at boarding school. At age eleven he went to sea with his father. Newton sailed six voyages before his father retired in 1742. Newton's father made plans for him to work



at a sugar plantation in Jamaica. Instead, Newton signed on with a merchant ship sailing to the Mediterranean Sea.

In 1743, while on the way to visit some friends, Newton was captured and pressed into the naval service by the Royal Navy. He became a midshipman aboard HMS Harwich. At one point Newton attempted to desert and was punished in front of the crew of 350. Stripped to the waist and tied to the grating, he received a flogging of eight dozen lashes and was reduced to the rank of a common seaman.

Following that disgrace and humiliation, Newton initially contemplated murdering the captain and then committing suicide by throwing himself overboard. He recovered, both physically and mentally. Later, while Harwich was en route to India, he transferred to Pegasus, a slave ship bound for West Africa. The ship carried goods to Africa and traded them for slaves to be shipped to England and other countries.

Newton proved to be a continual problem for the crew of Pegasus. They left him in West Africa with Amos Clowe, a slave dealer. Clowe took Newton to the coast and gave him to his wife, Princess Peye, an African duchess. Newton was abused and mistreated along with her other slaves. It was this period that Newton later remembered as the time he was "once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in West Africa."

Early in 1748 he was rescued by a sea captain who had been asked by Newton's father to search for him, he made it to freedom.

In 1750 he married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Catlett, in St. Margaret's Church, Rochester.