

amazing grace

"for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." eph 2:8

and now, the story of john newton; not the Author of grace but a benefactor of it.

amazing grace is one of the most beloved Christian hymns in history. its powerful lyrics and melody have resonated with countless generations, touching the hearts of those who hear it. this timeless hymn is more than just a song; it tells the remarkable story of john newton, a man who experienced the transforming power of God's grace firsthand.

the lyrics of this hymn are a testament to the incredible change that can occur in someone's life when they truly experience God's love and mercy.

john newton was born in london in 1725. his mother was a devout christian who taught him about the bible and the christian faith from a young age. however, she passed away when he was only seven years old. newton's father, a sea captain, remarried and sent young newton away to boarding school.

newton's life took a darker turn as he became involved in the slave trade. he worked on slave ships, eventually becoming a captain himself. his behavior during this time was described as profane, coarse, and debauched. he engaged in heavy drinking, and his foul language shocked even the most hardened sailors. he was often known as the as "the great blasphemer." it

was during this dark period of his life that the dramatic event occurred that would lead to his spiritual awakening.

john newton found himself in a life-threatening situation while aboard the battered ship, the greyhound, during a violent storm in the north atlantic. the storm raged for over a week, causing extensive damage to the ship and leaving the crew in despair. it was during this moment of desperation that newton began to reflect on his life and his need for salvation.

he remembered a scripture from proverbs, and in the midst of that storm, those verses seemed to confirm to newton in his despair. "when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. 'then they will call on me, but I will not answer.'" prov 1:27-28

he cried out to God for mercy, in hopes that He would still hear, and as he read the new testament, again a scripture spoke to him. "if ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him." luke 1:13 this was the turning point in newton's life, and he would later write about that day as the moment God's amazing grace reached him.

years later, after leaving the slave trade and becoming a minister, newton penned the lyrics to "amazing grace" as a testament to his newfound faith and the transformative power of God's grace. the hymn's lyrics speak to the redemption, forgiveness, and

transformation that can be found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

the lines "t'was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace, my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear, the hour i first believed" emphasize newton's spiritual journey from fear and guilt to peace and assurance of God's love and forgiveness. God's grace is still working today. grace to teach you fear and grace to relieve that fear.

the story and message of "amazing grace" continue to inspire and uplift people worldwide. the hymn has been translated into numerous languages and has been recorded by countless artists across various musical genres. its profound message of redemption and transformation transcends cultural and denominational boundaries, resonating with people from all walks of life.

john newton's life serves as a powerful testimony to the transformative power of God's grace. his journey from a slave trader to an abolitionist and a minister highlights the capacity of God's love to change even the hardest of hearts. the hymn "amazing grace" stands as a timeless reminder that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy and that through faith in Jesus Christ, anyone can experience the life-changing power of His grace.

it remains a powerful anthem of hope, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal. its simple yet profound message has brought comfort and inspiration to countless individuals throughout the centuries. iIt serves as a

reminder that no matter how far one may stray or how deep one may sink into the depths of sin, God's amazing grace is always available to save, redeem, and transform.

"and He shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of 'grace, grace to it!'" zech 4:7