

Amazing *Grace*



From the 1770's by John Newton

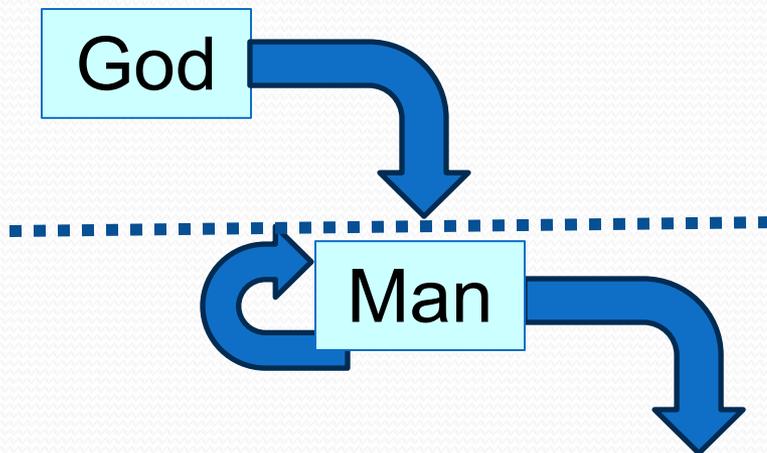
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

“Grace”

- 159 verses KJV (37 OT, 122 NT)
 - Gr. “charis” (root of “charity”, “charitable”)
- (a) that which occasions pleasure, delight, or causes favorable regard; e.g., gracefulness of person, Luke 2:40; act, 2 Cor. 8:6 , or speech, Luke 4:22
- (b 1) on the part of the bestower, the **friendly disposition** from which the kindly act proceeds, graciousness, loving-kindness, goodwill generally, e.g., Acts 7:10; especially Divine favor e.g., Acts 14:26
- (b 2) on the part of the receiver, a sense of the favor bestowed, a **feeling of gratitude**, e.g., Romans 6:17 (“thanks”); in this respect it sometimes signifies “to be thankful,”

“Grace”

- (c) the **effect** of "grace," the spiritual state of those who have experienced its exercise, whether (1) a state of "grace," e.g., Romans 5:2 (“*grace in which we stand*”); 2 Peter 3:18 (“*grow in grace and knowledge*”), or (2) a proof thereof in practical effects, deeds of "grace," e.g., 1 Cor. 16:3 (taking their “liberality”, “bounty”, “gift”, “favor” to Jerusalem)



How Does God Show His Gracious Nature?

- Via Creation



- Via Salvation



- Via Revelation



- Via Patience



Via Creation...

- Acts 14:15-17 Paul & Barnabas with Lystra's idolaters
 - *“15... We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, 16 who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”*



Via Creation...

- Acts 17:24-28 Paul with Athenian philosophers
 - *“24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ... He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being”*
- James 1:17
 - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights,*

Via Creation

- Beauty of the natural world
- Rain, fruitful seasons, food → climate, agriculture
- Life → DNA, digestion, immune system, reproduction
- Our being → senses, intelligence, emotions, free will
- Chemistry, biology, ecology, physics, engineering
- Ability to work, earn a living, raise a family

- *“Every good/perfect gift...”*



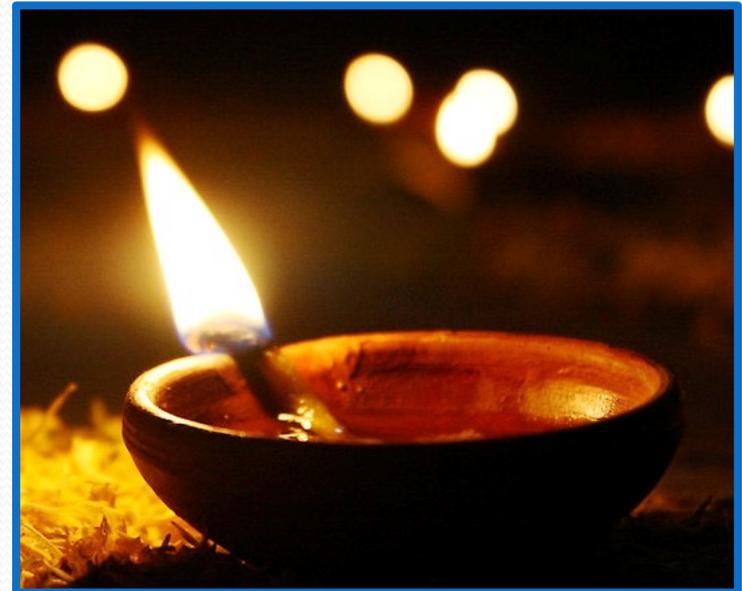
Via Revelation...

- Revealing His gracious nature
 - Ex. 34:5-7
 - *5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and ... proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, ...*
 - Psa. 86:15
 - *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*
 - Jonah 4:2
 - *for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.*



Via Revelation

- Giving us insight/guidance
 - Psa. 119:105
 - *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*
 - Prov. 6:23
 - *For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,*
 - Job 29:3
 - *When His lamp shone upon my head, And when by His light I walked through darkness;*



Via Salvation

- Jesus' sacrifice
 - Rom. 3:21-24
 - *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, ... to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,*
 - Rom. 5:21
 - *so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - Rom 6:14
 - *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*



Via Patience...

- Noah

- Gen. 6:5-8

- *5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

- 1 Pet. 3:20

- *when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*



Via Patience

- David
 - 2 Sam.12:13
 - *And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.*
- Us
 - Rom. 2:4
 - *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*



And Via Christians

- To the world
 - Matt. 5:13-16
 - 13 *“You are the salt of the earth; ... 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*
- To each other
 - 1 Cor. 13:4
 - *Love suffers long and is kind...*
 - Gal. 6:2
 - *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*



How Does Man Show His Gratitude?

- Ignoring it
 - Taking gifts of creation for granted
- Rejecting it
 - Creation → Evolutionists
 - Salvation → Atheists, agnostics, non-Christian religions
- Exaggerate it
 - Unitarian Universalists



How Does Man Show His Gratitude?

- Accepting it as a license to sin
 - Rom. 6:1-4
 - *1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
 - Jude 4
 - *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - “Once saved, always saved”

How Does Man Show His Gratitude?

- Expressing thanks
 - Psa. 69:30
 - *I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.*
 - Psa. 100:4
 - *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*
 - 1 Thes. 5:18
 - *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
 - Eph. 5:20
 - *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

**What are YOU
Thankful For?**



How Does Man Show His Gratitude?

- Obeying it
 - Acts 20:32
 - *32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*
 - Eph. 2:4-10
 - *4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ... 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

How Does Man Show His Gratitude?

- Obeying it

- Titus 2:11-14

- *11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

- Rom. 5:19-21

- *19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

How Does Man Show His Gratitude?

- Obeying it
 - Rejoice in trials and be willing to suffer (1 Pet. 1:6-7)
 - Live holy (1 Pet. 1:13-16)
 - Offer spiritual sacrifices as priests (1 Pet. 2:4-5)
 - Abstain from fleshly lusts (1 Pet. 2:11-12)
 - Submit to civil government (1 Pet. 2:13-17)
 - Exercise marital responsibilities (1 Pet. 3:1-7)
 - Practice brotherly love (1 Pet. 3:8)
 - Put away fornication, social drinking, drunkenness, riotous conduct, 1 Pet. 4:1-3)
 - Abstain from idolatry (1 Pet. 4:3)
 - Show hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9)
 - Resist the devil (1 Pet. 5:5-9)

Conclusion

- Admonitions to always have a thankful, grateful attitude
 - Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.
- Need to stay focused to have the right attitude
 - Abundance of God's blessings we have
 - "This world is not my home – I'm just passing thru"
 - "Problems" or "opportunities"
 - Trust that God is ultimately in charge and is a righteous Judge



