# Hymns...HELP, HOPE AND HEALING

### **Amazing Grace**

Words by John Newton and John P. Rees Music by William W. Walker and Edwin Othello Excell





July 5, 2020 Pastor Scott George

Amazing Grace 2 Peter 3:18

## READ BETWEEN THE LINES

**Amazing Grace** 

[Story Behind The Hymn]

Written in 1772, the words for the beloved song were borne from the heart, mind and experiences of the Englishman John Newton. Knowing the story of John Newton's life as a slave trader and the journey he went through before writing the hymn will help to understand the depth of his words and his gratefulness for God's truly amaz-

ing grace.

Having lived through a rather unfortunate and troubled childhood, Newton spent years fighting against authority, going so far as trying to desert the Royal Navy in his twenties. Later, abandoned by his crew in West Africa, he was forced to be a servant to a slave trader but was eventually rescued. On the return voyage to England, a violent storm hit and almost sank the ship, prompting Newton to begin his spiritual conversion as he cried out to God to save them from the storm.

Upon his return, however, Newton became a slave ship master, a profession in which he served for several years. Bringing slaves from Africa to England over multiple trips, he admitted to sometimes treating the slaves abhorrently. In 1754, after becoming violently ill on a sea voyage, Newton abandoned his life as a slave trader, the slave trade, and seafaring, altogether, wholeheartedly devoting his life to God's service.

He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1764 and became quite popular as a preacher and hymn writer, penning some 280 hymns, among them the great "Amazing Grace".

In later years, Newton fought alongside William Wilberforce, leader of the parliamentary campaign to abolish the African slave trade. He described the horrors of the slave trade in a tract he wrote supporting the campaign and lived to see the British passage of the Slave Trade Act 1807.

Source: Excerpts taken from ocp.org, January 10, 2018

https://www.ocp.org/en-us/blog/entry/amazing-grace

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# The longer you know Christ the more you should grow in grace.

#### **GROW IN GRACE**

**2 Peter 3:18,** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Grow = to expand, increase, enlarge

**2 Samuel 4:4,** Jonathan, son of Saul, had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.

Mephibosheth = shame

- 1. Grace isn't amazing if you don't understand it
- 2. Grace isn't amazing if you don't share it
- 3. Grace isn't amazing if you don't accept it

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### [ Weekly Devotion Questions ]

### HMMM...

Look at these three statements from Pastor Scott's message, and add your thoughts and observations from the story of King David and Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 4:4 and 2 Samuel 9:1-13.

- 1. Grace isn't amazing if you don't understand it.
- 2. Grace isn't amazing if you don't accept it.
- 3. Grace isn't amazing if you don't give it.