

Opening verse

'But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me'.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Hymn

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.

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

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.

John Newton 1725-1807

Reflection

John Newton wrote this hymn from personal experience. He grew up with very few religious convictions and joined the Navy as a young man. He eventually became involved in the slave trade. Once, during a particularly fierce storm at sea, he cried out to God for mercy. His life was saved and this marked his religious conversion. He understood that he had been saved and forgiven because of the grace and mercy of God. He went on to become an abolitionist and eventually an Anglican Priest.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I ask that your grace and mercy would continue to follow me all the days of my life as you have promised in your word. Teach me to understand your ways and grant me wisdom to live my life in a way that is pleasing and honouring to you.

Thank you that you are my shepherd and I praise you for your day to day provision and for the comfort and joy that you have brought into my life. Thank you for always being there for me, to lead and to guide, to protect and to comfort, even when I falter and fail.

Thank you for your rod of discipline and your staff of comfort, which have proved to be such a solace in time of need. Please grant me your mercy and grace to live my life to the full, and to carry out the work and witness you have prepared for me to do. Refresh my soul and revive my spirit with streams in the desert, and continue to pour out your bountiful grace and never failing mercy, which is new every morning, so great is your faithfulness. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Reflection

G - God's
R - riches
A - at
C - Christ's
E - expense

God's grace is his unmerited favour. It's a gift from God that we don't deserve. His grace is what saved us from our sin and is open to us when we place our trust in Jesus and what he did for us on the cross.

Bible verses about grace

'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast'.

Ephesians 2:8-9

'And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work'.

2 Corinthians 9:8

'He has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time'.

2 Timothy 1:9

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting love'. John 3:16

Prayer

Father you are kind and good. It is impossible for anyone to deserve what Jesus has done. Your grace is free, undeserved and unconditional. There is nothing I can ever do to repay you for all you have done and all you continue to do in my life. I am saved by your grace alone and in humble response I thank you and offer myself to you. With your Spirit's help may I live this day for your glory. Amen

A final thought

God does not give us the gift of grace because we deserve it, he gives us grace because that's how much he loves us!

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all and all those whom we love, now and forevermore. Amen.



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GIFT OF GRACE