

SONGS THAT ECHO HEAVEN.  
WORDS THAT CHANGE HEARTS.

# HYMNS



A NEW SERIES EXPLORING  
BELOVED HYMNS.

## THE INSTRUCTION of TRANSFORMATIONAL HYMNS

For centuries, Christian hymns have served as more than songs sung in worship. They are theological treasures that teach biblical truth, inspire faith, and shape the hearts of believers. Long before many Christians owned personal copies of Scripture, hymns became a powerful means of communicating the doctrines of the faith and helping worshipers remember God's promises.

The theology found in Christian hymns is often profound and deeply rooted in Scripture. Hymns such as *Holy, Holy, Holy, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* proclaim the holiness of God, the sufficiency of Christ, and the hope of redemption. Through carefully crafted lyrics, hymn writers have condensed complex biblical truths into memorable verses that can be sung, learned, and treasured throughout life.

Beyond theology, hymns provide inspiration for daily Christian living. Their words often arise from personal experiences of suffering, joy, doubt, perseverance, and divine grace. Many beloved hymns were written during seasons of hardship, reminding believers that God remains faithful in every circumstance. As worshipers sing these testimonies of faith, they are encouraged to trust God more deeply and to persevere through their own challenges.

Perhaps the greatest gift of Christian hymns is their ability to transform hearts. Music has a unique way of carrying truth beyond the mind and into the soul. When biblical doctrine is joined with melody, it often reaches places that spoken words alone cannot. Hymns comfort the grieving, strengthen the weary, convict the wandering, and draw believers into a deeper awareness of God's presence. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, these sacred songs become instruments of spiritual formation, helping Christians grow in faith, hope, love, and worship.

Christian hymns continue to endure because they faithfully unite truth, beauty, and devotion. They teach the mind, inspire the spirit, and transform the heart, leading generations of believers to know God more fully and worship Him more passionately.

# SERMON NOTES

## EXPLORING HYMNS WHICH INSTRUCT & TRANSFORM

Marc Millan

06/07/26

**PULLING INTO CCO's BUSY** parking lot is always a joy. The happy faces and greetings of the *dream team* always include: ***You're gonna love this church! You are special to us! Welcome and we do mean WELCOME in the name of Jesus!*** Now you can't top that, right? Greeters at the doors continue the welcome, ushering all into a busy foyer, filled with sisters and brothers excited to greet every arrival. I often whisper to myself: *Now this is how Church should be.* Such joy, standing front and center, even before worship has begun. Transformational. Joyous. Holy.

*Good morning! Good morning! Good morning!* shouted Pastor Brooks. He was already on fire for Jesus and as he jumped for joy, he invited all of us to climb on board!

Let's clap, one, two, hey  
Oh, yea  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
(Let everything) Let everything (Hey) that has  
breath  
(Hey)

Verse 1:  
I'll praise when outnumbered,  
praise when surrounded  
'Cause praise is the waters my enemies drown  
in

Verse 2:  
I'll praise when I feel it, and I'll praise when I  
don't (Yeah)  
I'll praise 'cause I know You're still in control  
'Cause my praise is a weapon,  
it's more than a sound  
(More than a sound)  
Oh, my praise is the shout  
that brings Jericho down (Yeah)  
As long as I'm breathing  
I've got a reason to  
Praise the Lord (C'mon), oh my soul  
Praise the Lord, oh my soul

I won't be quiet, my God is alive  
So how could I keep it inside? (I gotta)  
Praise the Lord, oh my soul  
(Yeah, praise the Lord)

Interlude:  
C'mon, let me see that dance, put a dance on  
it tonight (Yeah)  
If you're grateful, c'mon  
Hey, hey, yeah

Bridge:  
I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign,  
praise 'cause You reign  
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave  
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful,  
praise 'cause You're true  
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You  
*I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign,  
praise 'cause You reign (You reign)  
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave  
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful,  
praise 'cause You're true  
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You*

Chorus:(C'mon, c'mon, c'mon, c'mon)

Praise the Lord, oh my soul  
Praise the Lord, oh my soul  
I won't be quiet, my God is alive  
How could I keep it inside? (How could I)  
I won't be quiet, my God is alive  
How could I keep it inside? (I gotta)  
Praise the Lord, oh my soul  
Outro:  
Jump, jump, jump, jump  
Let everything that has breath (Hey, hey)  
Praise the Lord (Hey, hey), praise the Lord

Let everything, let everything that has breath  
(C'mon, c'mon, c'mon)  
Praise the Lord (C'mon, c'mon)  
Praise the Lord (C'mon, c'mon)  
(Let everything), Let everything that has breath  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the  
Lord  
(Let everything), Let everything that has breath  
(Praise the Lord)  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the  
Lord

## GOD INHABITS OUR PRAISES! HALLELUJAH!

As Pastor Paul took center stage he proclaimed in reply to the exuberant joy lifted in song this wonderful morning: ***When it comes to energy, the second service has nothin' on you!*** Well, when all is said and done, of course, it's all to the glory of God. Faces. Hearts. Lives were being lifted to the One Who treasures each of us. What pure joy spread throughout the sanctuary. Happy faces. All.

Angie joined Pastor Paul for announcements. Once again this *duo-dynamism* easily spread their contagious joy. *Let's hear it for the fathers today!* said Pastor Paul. Angie had something to say about mothers too but there already was so much laughter that her words were lost to this transcriber. Sorry. Still, a good measure of joy floated like a strong tide throughout the room. Yes, this is the day the Lord has made! And we will, gladly so, rejoice and be glad in it, right? Pastor Paul took over: *On June 21st, Father's Day, CCO will feature a **FAMILY AND FRIENDS COMMUNION**, giving opportunities to fathers and mentor fathers to come forward to one of four communion tables with friends and family, to speak blessing over loved ones. June 28th is **BAPTISM SUNDAY** (2nd service only) Those wanting to be baptized are encouraged to sign up online or access Q-code on the seat before you.* Pastor Paul, chuckling, said: *I've been baptized more than once. That's for sure! At every new church my family attended. Sprinkled. Immersed. Dunked. I even was hosed-down in a parking lot.* We laughed heartily, of course. Our good pastor has an outrageously humorous humor which easily gets our attention. His humor is memorable too! Important advice worked its way forward though. ***If you lost your first love (God), come to Him repeating, if possible your original loving works.***

More announcements included: **CREATIVE ARTS 26** on July 19th which showcases our youth, including teenage talents ranging from public speaking to dance to paints to photography, cooking and beyond! Next week **VBS** begins June 14-18, 6pm-8:30pm. There's still room for folks to sign up to volunteer, to serve the 70+ kids already registered and more! Pastor Tara, as is this very talented one, was excited about Kingdom Quest as she spread her joy of CCO's children's ministry. Pastor Brooks took over as Angie, joining Pastors Tara and Paul, left the stage. He had a question: *You all glad to be here today? This morning? You decided to be here in the House of God. That's good because you can find here a firm foundation! God will never leave us. This I know for certain. Now today we are going to submit to God's Plan for each of us, right? Lift your hands as a way of showing surrender to God Himself.* Every hand shot up! *Lord, we submit our plans to You! You are the One we cling to today. Our finances. Our lives. You are our hope! We rest our faith in You. With this, we began to sing once again.*

*Christ is my firm foundation  
The rock on which I stand  
When everything around me is shaken  
I've never been more glad  
That I put my faith in Jesus  
'Cause He's never let me down  
He's faithful through generations  
So why would He fail now?*

*Turnaround He won't, He won't*

*Chorus 2 I've still got joy in chaos  
I've got peace that makes no sense  
So I won't be going under  
I'm not held by my own strength  
'Cause I've built my life  
on Jesus  
He's never let me  
down  
He's faithful in every  
season  
So why would He fail  
now?*

*Turnaround (x2) He  
won't, He won't  
He won't fail, He won't  
fail*



*Rain came and wind blew  
But my house was built on You  
I'm safe with You  
I'm gonna make it through*

*Yeah, I'm gonna make it through  
'Cause I'm standing strong on You*

*Yeah, I'm gonna make it through  
'Cause my house is built on You*

*Christ is my firm foundation  
The rock on which I stand  
When everything around me is shaken  
I've never been more glad*

*That I put my faith in  
Jesus  
'Cause He's never let  
me down  
He's faithful through  
generations  
So why would He fail  
now?*

*Turnaround (x2) He  
won't, He won't  
He won't fail, He won't  
fail He won't*



## PARABLE OF THE HOUSE BUILT UPON THE ROCK

The rain came. Oh, yes! The wind blew. Real hard! And the house upon the rock stood firm. And here we look at the foundation, Jesus Himself, upon Whom we are called to build our faith! Christ is our firm foundation! That's for sure! So why would we fail now? He won't fail!

*Come on, all across this room, He won't fail us. He won't.* shouted Pastor Brooks, beaming. *Does anyone have a testimony here? Many hands shot up! We thank You, Lord, for Who You are! Yes. You are worthy!*

With this, joy mounted on wings and we were ready for more, as we continued to sing.

**You give life, You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore every heart that is broken  
And great are You, Lord**

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise, we  
pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You  
only

You give life, You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore (You  
restore)  
Every heart that is broken  
And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise, we  
pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You  
only

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise, we  
pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You  
only

All the earth will shout Your  
praise  
Our hearts will cry, these bones  
will sing  
Great are You, Lord  
All the earth will shout Your  
praise  
Our hearts will cry, these bones  
will sing  
Great are You, Lord



Pastor Brooks had more to say as we finished singing: *We worship You, Lord. Our hearts will praise You forever! You are great! You are worthy of our praise! Lift up your hands! Isn't it great to see generations together worshipping the Lord?* With this Pastor Tara on video invited CCO's kids to Sunday School. Applause followed. Hearty applause.

Pastor Marc stepped to center stage, beaming. *How's everybody doing? Thank you to our staff and dream team. Applause. Thank you, Pastor Paul. I love it when you're happy!* Everybody laughed heartily. *We love you. You are doing an amazing job.*

Today we begin a new series, **HYMNS**. Hymns feature Scriptural truths and come to us with sound doctrine.

Colossians 3:16 NIV

***Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.***

*God desires that His Word take root deeply in your life! Into our DNA! Through the Word of God, it is anticipated that we grow fruit. Slowly though. Substantial fruit, which literally represents the Word of God coming out of us! Think about that for a moment!*

*Today we're going to talk about the GRACE OF GOD. But first, here's an INSIGHT to get ready to receive a firm foundational understanding of God's Grace.*

**INSIGHT:** God's grace is the unmerited, freely given favor of God. Rather than giving people the punishment they might deserve, it is the active bestowal of His love, forgiveness, and blessings. It is the ultimate gift of goodness, not something earned through personal effort.

### **Key Aspects of God's Grace**

Understanding grace generally involves looking at how it functions in daily life and spiritual growth:

- **Unearned Favor:** Grace is getting what you do *not* deserve (e.g., forgiveness, salvation), whereas **mercy** is God withholding the judgment you *do* deserve.

- **The Gift of Salvation:** In Christian theology, grace is the basis of salvation. It is viewed as a divine gift rather than the result of human achievements.
- **Enabling Power:** Grace is not just a free pass for past wrongs; it is an ongoing, strengthening presence that empowers individuals to overcome personal struggles, grow, and serve others.

Here's an important summary of GOD'S GRACE, with links, featured in a short article by Ligioner's Ministry:

#### Introduction

God's grace is the manifestation of His goodness toward His creation. In Scripture, God's gracious disposition to sinners is revealed immediately after the fall, wherein Adam failed to fulfill the [covenant of works](#). In the Old Testament, God exhibited His grace in the various historical administrations of the [covenant of grace](#). In the New Testament, the gospel further reveals that these types and shadows point to Christ through whom God extends His saving grace to His people.

Throughout church history there have been significant debates over the doctrine of grace. In the fifth century, a sharp dispute arose over the nature of God's grace. [Augustine](#) became the principal defender of God's sovereign grace in his debates with Pelagius. During the Reformation, a sharp debate emerged between Roman Catholic and Reformed theologians over the meaning of God's grace. Rome taught a meritorious or quasi-meritorious view of grace. The Reformers defended the biblical teaching of [the unmerited nature of grace](#) and also described the two classifications of God's grace—namely, [common grace](#) and special or [saving grace](#).

#### Explanation

Grace and mercy are distinct but inseparable manifestations of God's goodness. [Mercy](#) is the act of God withholding the judgment sinners deserve. Grace is the act of God showing undeserved and [unmerited favor](#) to His people. God's grace supplies sinners with an [unmerited forgiveness](#) and reconciliation.

After the fall, God made His saving grace known to the elect in [the line of Seth](#). After the flood, God made His grace known to [the patriarchs](#) Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In His covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, God manifested His grace through the promises, types, shadows, and sacraments revealed in His saving acts throughout redemptive history. God set apart Israel to be His special covenant people to whom He manifested His grace. In addition to the covenant, God gave Israel His oracles, worship, law, and gospel. All these were means by which Israel might receive God's saving grace.

Jesus is the embodiment of the grace of God. God's Word teaches that Christ is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Jesus is the gracious gift of God for the salvation of all who put their faith in Him alone. By His death and resurrection, Jesus graciously secured salvation for His people. The New Testament makes clear that through Christ, God expanded His covenantal dealings of grace to both Jews and gentiles as He had promised Abraham (Gen. 17:4–6; Gal. 3:16, 28–29). In Christ, [by faith, all believers are Abraham's descendants](#).

[Battles over the nature of God's grace](#) have been fought throughout church history. At the beginning of the fifth century, Augustine was engaged in a significant theological debate with [Pelagius](#), a British monk who denied any need for divine grace. Pelagius insisted that sin has not fundamentally twisted man's nature or made him opposed to the things of God. He saw no place for sovereign grace rooted in the predestinating love of God. According to Pelagius, people can sustain a morally upright condition by the mere exercise of their [free will](#) apart from any assistance from divine grace. Augustine countered this by insisting that Scripture teaches that fallen man is pervasively depraved. After the fall, all mankind is bound in sin and unrighteousness. Accordingly, salvation can only be on the grounds of [God's sovereign, unmerited, and predestinating grace](#).

In the medieval church, [John Cassian](#) taught a modified version of [Pelagianism](#) that theologians have commonly referred to as semi-Pelagianism. Whereas Pelagius denied the fall and the sinful depravity of the nature of man, semi-Pelagians acknowledge the fall while downplaying its severity. During the Protestant Reformation, the Reformers engaged in sharp polemics with Roman Catholic theologians over [the nature of saving grace](#). The Reformers defended the biblical teaching that grace is entirely unmerited and based exclusively on the sinless life and atoning death of Christ. Over the past two centuries, views of grace and salvation influenced by semi-Pelagianism have been widespread within dispensational and evangelical circles under the name [Arminianism](#).

Theologians in the Reformed tradition have commonly accepted the distinction between [common grace](#) and [special grace](#). Common grace is the expression of the general goodness that God wishes to show the totality of His creation. Common grace is distinguished from saving grace inasmuch as it does not lead men to salvation in Christ. Rather, it merely reveals the general goodness of God toward His creation and is manifested by such things as His sending rain on both the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). Saving grace, on the other hand, is the special manifestation of God's goodness in the salvation that He freely provides in Christ. Modern Reformed theologians have also highlighted the [doctrines of grace](#) in defense of biblical soteriology.

#### Quotes

*"What is grace? The catechisms many of us learned as children give us the answer: 'Grace is the unmerited favor of God.' The first thing that we understand about grace is what it's not—it's not something we merit. In fact, if that is all we ever understand about grace, I'm sure God will rejoice that we know His grace is unmerited. So, here's our working definition of grace—it is unmerited."*

*"Divine grace changes the human heart, resurrecting the sinner from spiritual death to spiritual life. In this act of God, the sinner is made willing to believe and to choose Christ. The previous state of moral inability is overcome by the power of regenerating grace. The operative word in Augustine's view is that regenerating grace is monergistic. It is the work of God alone."*

**BACK TO OUR PROGRAM**, after station identification! We are at CCO enjoying a sermon by Pastor Marc. We're exploring God's Amazing Grace and we all have much to learn. So let's continue.

#### **CONSIDER THIS:**

- God's Amazing Grace enables us to absorb His Word.
- Hymns are written in holy patterns with stirring cadences.
- As we look at AMAZING GRACE, the hymn, we find the Spirit of Grace.

- In fact, the Holy Spirit is the SPIRIT of GRACE. Think about that!
- God's Grace is God's unmerited, unearned gift to us.
- Grace is NOT religion and is NOT based on what you do! P.T.L.

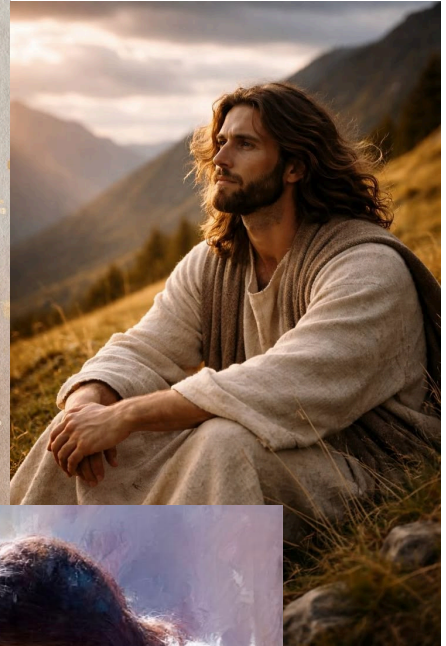


**EXAMPLE:** *Some years ago. I'll put it this way. Anybody remember BabyFace the singer? Several hands shot up! Well then. I had a friend Richie who was a drummer in his band. BabyFace had performed with many famous singers all over the world: Michael Jackson, among others! Anyway, Richie had two tickets for me. Mind you, I really LOVED BabyFace. Two tickets. Wow! Two passes actually. San Diego. Full House. Passes to back stage after the concert. Bam. We were there. My wife and I, smiling till our*

*faces almost fell off. Suddenly, there BabyFace was, standing in some outrageous orange costume, right in front of us. I wondered: **How on earth can I possibly slip in a picture of this amazing moment?** There he was. I was frozen, yet managed a kinda weird sideways pic. Later, I found out that the two passes we had gave us access to BabyFace, to talk to him and get a bunch of selfies if we so desired. This was unfortunately an **after the fact understanding** of what permissions our passes actually included!*



God's  
Riches  
At  
Christ's  
Expense



## HOW GOD IMPACTS US THROUGH HIS GRACE

### 1. **GOD'S GRACE SAVES US.**

- God's grace is a gift.
- Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV
- *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.*

- We don't have to perform good works or behaviors to earn His grace!
- Again, grace is a gift from God Himself!
- We are saved by grace through faith!
- Salvation is NOT a payment for our good deeds! Think about that!
- Titus 3:4-8 NIV
- ***But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, [5] he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. [8] This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.***

**INSIGHT:** Titus 3:4-8 summarizes the core Christian message of salvation by grace. It emphasizes that humans are saved entirely by God's mercy and the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, rather than by their own good deeds. Because of this unearned grace, believers are called to devote themselves to doing good works.

The passage can be broken down into three main themes:

### **1. The Source of Salvation (Verses 4–5a)**

- **God's Kindness:** Our salvation is a direct result of God's love and mercy toward humanity.
- **Not by Merit:** We are not saved by our own "righteous deeds" or attempts to be good enough. It is a free gift.

### **2. The Mechanics of Transformation (Verses 5b–7)**

- **The Holy Spirit:** God "washed" us clean, giving us a spiritual rebirth and renewing us through the Holy Spirit.
- **Justified by Grace:** Through Jesus Christ, we are declared righteous.
- **The Result:** We become "heirs" with the assurance of eternal life.

### **3. The Response of the Believer (Verse 8)**

- **Devotion to Good Works:** Because this message is trustworthy, Paul tells Titus to insist on it. The goal is that those who believe in God should make it their priority to engage in good deeds, which are profitable and excellent for everyone.
- God's GRACE makes us **RIGHT** in His sight!
- God's grace **SAVES** us from the penalty of sin through Jesus' victory on the cross.
- The **PROCESS** of salvation takes time.
- **JUSTIFICATION** is to be declared right before God Himself.
- Justified before God, we cannot be tried for the same sin again! Whew!
- **SANCTIFICATION** is working out my salvation!

## 2. **GOD'S GRACE FREES US.**

God's grace is the unearned, unmerited favor of God that rescues and transforms individuals. It sets believers free by removing the guilt and penalty of past sins, breaking the controlling power of bad habits, and giving the daily strength to live a meaningful, joyful life without the heavy burden of perfectionism. *The concept that God's grace sets us free encompasses several core elements:*

- **Freedom from Guilt and Condemnation:** Grace provides complete forgiveness. The past is erased, meaning individuals do not have to live bound by regret, shame, or the fear of judgment.
- **Freedom from the Law:** Believers are no longer required to earn God's love through a rigid checklist of religious rules or ethical perfection. Obedience becomes a joyful response to love, rather than a forced obligation.
- **Defeat of Sin's Power:** Grace does not give "permission" to sin, but rather destroys its grip on a person's life. It empowers individuals to choose righteousness and overcome destructive desires.
- **Freedom from Self-Reliance and Anxiety:** It removes the exhausting, overpowering need to be in control, to constantly prove one's worth, or to rely entirely on personal willpower.

## 3. **GOD'S GRACE EMPOWERS US.**

- Titus 2:11-14 NIV
- *For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. [12] It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly*

*passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, [13] while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

- We are called to live a life of godliness.
- Through God's grace He places power in us to fight against evil.
- 1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV
- ***But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.***
- God's power and grace are deposited in me!
- I am called to live differently from what the world insists I do!

#### **4. GOD'S GRACE SUSTAINS US.**

- 2 Timothy 2:1 NIV
- ***You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.***
- God promises that when we are weak, He will sustain us!
- Hebrews 4:16 NIV
- ***Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***
- I am called to live my life for God.
- God's Grace is truly AMAZING.

**INSIGHT:** Written in 1779 by English clergyman and former slave trader John Newton, "Amazing Grace" is a timeless Christian hymn exploring themes of forgiveness, redemption, and the soul's delivery from despair through God's unmerited mercy. It stands as one of the most recognized songs worldwide.

#### **History and Origin**

- **The Author:** John Newton spent his early adulthood engaging in a turbulent, rebellious lifestyle and even worked as a slave ship master.
- **The Turning Point:** His spiritual awakening was prompted in 1748 when his ship was caught in a violent, near-fatal storm at sea. He cried out to God for mercy, eventually abandoned the slave trade, and became an ordained minister and passionate abolitionist.
- **Creation:** Newton wrote the hymn in 1772 (published in 1779) to accompany a New Year's Day sermon.

- **The Melody:** The lyrics were not sung to their current melody until 1835, when American composer William Walker paired them with a traditional folk tune known as "New Britain".

### **Core Meaning of the Lyrics**

The power of the hymn lies in its deeply personal testimony.

- **"Saved a wretch like me":** Acknowledges human unworthiness and the profound depth of sin, paired with the awe that God's love is extended even to those who feel undeserving.
- **"Once was lost, but now am found / Was blind, but now I see":** Symbolizes spiritual conversion—moving from a state of ignorance and sin to one of spiritual clarity, salvation, and eternal life.
- **Assurance of Faith:** The later verses express confidence that God's grace—which has protected the singer through "many dangers, toils, and snares"—will ultimately lead the soul safely to its eternal home.

Just a little more about God's grace. We ask ***WHY WOULD GOD CHOOSE ME?*** Here's a little INSIGHT.

**INSIGHT:** God chose you simply because of His unfathomable love and grace. He did not choose you based on your performance, perfection, or merit. His grace is a free gift—given simply because He delights in you and wants you to experience His love and purpose. Throughout scripture, this concept is emphasized to show that His choice isn't about human qualification, but entirely about His character:

- **His Love:** In Deuteronomy 7:7-8 God tells Israel He chose them not because they were great, but simply because He loved them. The same is true for you.
- **His Purpose:** Ephesians 2:10 states that we are saved by grace so we can do the good works He prepared in advance for us to do. You were chosen to be an instrument of His love and grace to the people around you.
- **His Joy:** According to Ephesians 1:4-5, God chose us before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight, purely according to the "purpose of his will" and "good pleasure". It brings Him joy to extend His grace to you. Ultimately, you cannot fully earn or explain grace—you simply get to receive it, rejoice in it, and share it with others

Pastor Marc shouted: *God's grace is available to you today. Today there is opportunity for you to receive His grace. Is God calling you? Calling you by name? Say with me...* And, with this, a wondrous Salvation Prayer began... *so I can have eternal life. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so I can follow You all the days of my life. Amen.* Great applause followed as Pastor Paul stepped to center stage to lead us in **COMMUNION**. What a wondrous moment that was as sisters and brothers in Christ shared the Body and Blood of Christ. Hallelujah!

We concluded with **AMAZING GRACE**, as our hearts filled to overflowing with memories, God's Presence, the anointing of the Holy Spirit and a deeper appreciation of how God's Word literally comes to us in hymns, spiritual songs and melodies from Heaven itself. Hallelujah!

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.

'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;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease:  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
the sun forbear to shine;  
but God, who called me here below,  
will be forever mine.