

**AMAZING GRACE**  
[jkroberts\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:jkroberts_us@yahoo.com)  
[www.pacolethillsbaptist.org](http://www.pacolethillsbaptist.org)  
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Romans 5:15-17

1. The hymn, “Amazing Grace,” is familiar to many people, even people who do not know the story behind the hymn or understand the truth contained in the hymn.
2. This hymn was written by John Newton, who lived from 1725-1807.
3. The words of the hymn constitute John Newton’s testimony related to the abundance of grace that God manifested towards him and made available to him.
4. By the grace of God Newton’s life was preserved on many occasions, and his life is a testimony to the truth of Peter’s words in 2 Peter 3:8-9.

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

5. As a sailor, and later the captain of a ship involved in the slave trade he was exposed to many dangers, toils, and snares.
6. By the grace of God he came to see himself as a wretch of a man who was both lost and blind.
7. It was also the grace of God that taught his heart to fear God, it was the grace of God that caused him to come to the place of repentance, it was the grace of God that led him to embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and it was the grace of God that sustained him in life and prepared him for death.
8. It is not God’s intention for us to live as victims; rather it is His will that we live as victors. Consequently He has made available to us an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness so that we can reign (as kings) in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
9. We have a similar thought in Titus 2:11-14.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men (for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation of all men AMP), 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

10. There are two words that we need to understand before we continue, and they are mercy and grace.
  - a. Mercy has to do with our not receiving what we deserve.
  - b. Grace has to do with our receiving what we do not deserve but need.
11. With these thoughts in mind let’s look briefly at the various aspects of God’s grace.

## **I. Saving grace.**

### **A. Sacrificial grace.**

1. Jesus stated, “Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:27-28
  2. Isaiah wrote, “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way: but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.” Isaiah 53:6
- NOTE: We need to make these two statement personal.

## B. Seeking grace. Luke 19:1-10

1. Jesus was passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem where the Cross awaited Him.
2. A Jewish man named Zaccheus wanted to see him so badly that he climbed a tree due to his short stature that prevented him from doing so because of the crowd.
3. Zaccheus was despised by his fellow Jews because he was a chief tax collector who worked for the Roman government, and who became rich at his neighbors' expense.
4. When Jesus approached Zaccheus He informed him that he needed to stay at his house.
5. Overjoyed, Zaccheus received Jesus gladly.
6. The people grumbled because Jesus invited Himself to be the guest of a man who was a sinner.
7. Zaccheus immediately expressed repentance by his words and actions by saying to Jesus, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."
8. Zaccheus the outsider became Zaccheus the insider and heard Jesus say, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**"

## II. Sanctifying grace.

A. The Apostle Paul was an amazing and greatly used man of God who declared in 1 Corinthians 15:9-10, "For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10 But by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

B. Note also Peter's words in 2 Peter 3:17-18.

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, **18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

C. Sanctification is simply growth in Christlikeness. Rom 8:28-30

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; **30** and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

## III. Serving grace.

A. Paul wrote about serving grace (grace gifts) in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. **6** There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. **7** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

B. Peter made a similar statement in 1 Peter 4:7-11.

The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. **8** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Be hospitable to one another without complaint. **10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** **11** Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which

God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

#### **IV. Sustaining grace.**

- A. Paul had a debilitating physical problem that he saw as a limitation. 2 Cor 12:7-10  
Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**" Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
- B. While in prison Paul wrote the following to the church at Philippi.
1. Phil 4:10-14  
But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**
  2. Phil 4:19-20  
And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

#### **APPLICATION**

1. Everything changed for Zaccheus when he repented of the sinful life he was living and embraced Jesus Christ as Lord.
2. Paul wrote the following in Romans 10:9-12.  
"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**"
3. Once we have responded to God's saving grace we will become the recipients of His sanctifying, serving, and sustaining grace.
4. Our lives will no longer be our own because God's plans and purposes for us will become the defining priority in our lives.
5. Sadly that is not what most people want.