

Amazing Grace

A Hymn by John Newton, 1779

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 ap-
pear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and
snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath 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.

Yea, when this flesh and heart
shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

**“Unless there is
within us that which
is above us, we
shall soon yield to
that which is about
us.” — Upper Room**

The earth shall soon dissolve like
snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here be-
low,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thou-
sand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's
praise
Than when we'd first begun.

**Let no corrupt communication pro-
ceed out of your mouth, but that
which is good to the use of edifying,
that it may minister grace unto the
hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy
Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed
unto the day of redemption.”**
Ephesians 4:29-30

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Why Don't They Understand?

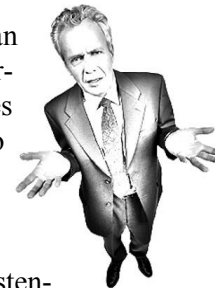
Bill Brinkworth

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

II Cor 4:4

After soul-winning for more than 36 years, I still wish there was something I could say or do that would instantly get someone saved and on the way to Heaven. Unfortunately, there is no such way!

One can give the clearest Bible verses one knows to show another the way to Heaven, but the unsaved listener often politely stares back at the soul-winner and does not appear to be stirred. The best stories of how the Lord



has changed the soul-winner's life also often result with empty stares. Even sharing the Bible's scariest verses about the eternal home for the lost in a tormenting Hell often does not even raise an eyebrow. Scripture about standing before the final judgment for the lost at the Great White Throne Judgment does not even seem to concern them. They just do not seem to understand.

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Too Late

R. A. Torrey

One evening when Mr. Alexander and I were in Brighton, England, one of the workers went out from the afternoon meeting to a restaurant for his evening meal. His attention was drawn toward the man who waited upon him, and there came to his heart a strong impression that he should speak to the waiter about his soul, but that seemed to him such an

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Why Don't They ...

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The soul winners may have to deal with hardened hearts, “not ready yet” souls, and those ignorant of God’s truths. Many times, without knowing the reason, it seems the Holy Spirit is not involved, and He is the only One that wins a soul to Christ.

There is another very serious obstacle that keeps many from being saved. That reason may be the root cause of previously mentioned excuses for one’s not getting saved. It is that they are spiritually blinded. Often the blindness is caused by Satanic intervention. All other excuses may just have been the device that Satan used to keep a soul from being born-again.

Spiritual blindness has always been a stumbling block for one to get saved, and it is especially a barrier in these days. Perhaps a person has heard so much negativity about being saved, that they have not sought it out honestly for themselves. They heard that “salvation is forced down one’s throat” without experiencing someone ag-

gressively showing them the way to Heaven. Others are turned off to being born-again as they fear they will not have a mind or will of their own and will have to do things they do not like or believe in. Some fear their freedoms will be stripped from them. Many have been so entrenched and addicted to sin that they have no interest or concern for anything that would change their lifestyle.

Talking to so many spiritually blinded people can be frustrating to a soul-winner. We and the Holy Spirit seem to do everything we can to alter their eternal destination from Hell with seemingly no results. Then, when we least expect it, we have the honor to lead one “easily” to salvation. What is the difference?

When somebody readily accepts Christ as Saviour, we do not know all the work, trials, and tribulations the Holy Spirit had done previously in their lives. It is His work that prepares them for when a soul-winner can talk to them. When their heart is ready, it is only the Holy Spirit that can remove their spiritual

blindness.

With this in mind, we should see the importance of “sowing the seeds” of the Gospel. One day those thoughts, verses, and biblical principles Christians planted may grow. On that day, the Holy Spirit may open the eyes of the sinner, and he will no longer be blind to the things of God. It may be the day he gets saved. It may be the beginning when He understands more of the things of God. That is why we must keep on sowing God’s truth, because one day the “seeds” may sprout.

“Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”

John 12:39 Also: Isa. 6:10.

Too Late

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unusual thing to do that he kept putting it off.

When the meal was ended and the bill paid, he stepped out of the restaurant, but had such a feeling that he should speak



to that waiter, that he decided to wait outside until the waiter came out.

In a little while the proprietor came out and asked him why he was waiting. He replied that he was waiting to speak with the man who had waited on him at the table.

The proprietor replied, “You will never speak to that man again. After waiting on you, he went to his room and shot himself.”

Oh, men and women, there are opportunities open to us that will be gone, and gone forever. When the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart, do as he urges you; as there may never be another opportunity. His timing is always perfect!

The Power of the Holy Spirit

John Bate, 1871

The same wind that tosses the Atlantic into restless mountains of water can gently fan it into a tranquil calm. Similarly does the Holy Spirit. His influence agitates and tosses the conscience of the guilty sinner into a thousand fears and concerns. He also can soothe one into a blessed peace.

“When men surrender themselves to the Spirit of God, they will learn more concerning God and Christ and the atonement and immortality in a week, than they would learn in a lifetime, apart from the Spirit.” — Brown