

**Gritty Grace**  
**WWT Board of Directors Devotion**  
**Brandon K. Mann**  
**July 18, 2024**

You have probably heard of the hymn *Amazing Grace*? Some of you may be humming it already, but I will spare you my singing and simply read the opening lyrics.

Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)  
That sav'd a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

The hymn's author, John Newton, has an amazing backstory to say the least, from a being a profane sailor and slave trader, to becoming a pastor!

One of the unique elements of his preaching was his practical teaching approach to a life filled with temptation that leads to pain and emptiness. Unlike many religious leaders then and now, who seemed to be above the challenges of real life, Newton shared authentically from his less than desirable experiences. He truly saw God's grace active in the gritty aspects of life, including with those whom he had wronged, and those who had wronged him...not that ever happens to us today!?!

Grace from a Biblical standpoint is defined as unmerited or undeserved favor. Newton held himself as a prime example of a person who deserved no grace, and yet, in Jesus' life and example, he found true freedom in what he called Amazing Grace.

For us, perhaps, the question becomes how do we reflect this grace, not just as a platitude but in the gritty moments of real life, when we feel wronged, or we have wronged another?

Please join me in prayer:\*

Heavenly Father, thank you for the grace which frees us! Help us to remember that your undeserved favor should form how we live, especially during those gritty moments of life. May we treat others as a reflection of your amazing grace. I pray this with humble respect for all faiths and backgrounds, in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

\*Inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer