

New Life

Looking for a fresh start?

Most of us are. And the New Year gives us a great starting point with the changing of the calendar.

It is reported that roughly 60% of Americans make some sort of resolution.

- Healthier lifestyle,
- Wiser spending and saving money,
- Spending more time with others, or
- Stopping or starting new habits.

The report concludes that only about 8% of those who make resolutions actually find success.

Here's a simple resolution that would change everything for the better in anyone's life:

SURRENDER your life to Christ!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

We are living in the age of GRACE.

The Time before Christ was to demonstrate our works of praise and sacrifice within the burden of living up to the laws of Moses. Making sacrifices for our failures.

Now, through Christ we have been given a gift of unlimited, undeserved pardon from our sins' debt – death, through Christ Jesus!

Hear the words of Paul to Titus – a “true son in the faith.”

Titus 2:11-14 ESV

*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.***

A new Life is available RIGHT NOW!

1. Jesus made newness a reality!
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.
2. Say “No!” to **ungodliness** and **worldly passions**.
3. Say “Yes!” to **live obedient lives** through the Holy Spirit’s power:
 - a. **Self-controlled** (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - b. **Upright** and **godly** (a *genuinely* good person who uses Christ Jesus as an example for living).

How has your life's resolve worked for you in the past?

Are you longing for a true change – a fresh start?

John Newton, once an investor in the slave trade, found the grace of God who pardoned his sin and made the life of Christ personal to his own.

In return he wrote the words of the age-old hymn, *Amazing Grace* in 1772 and years later he renounced his former slaving profession by publishing a blazing pamphlet called "Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade."

The tract described the horrific conditions on the slave transport ships and Newton apologized for making a public statement so many years after participating in the trade: *"It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders."*

Newton's actual lyrics of *Amazing Grace*:

1. 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.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

5. 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.

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