

CHURCH HYMNAL

Songs For The Church



(A MINISTRY OF KINGDOM AIMED FOREVER MEDIA 2021)

REVOLUTION TWELVE CHURCH

HYMN SING: 4

A Ministry of: KINGDOM AIMED
FOREVER MEDIA

By John Foster, Jr.

Hymn Sing

WEEK 1

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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A teaching supplement for singing sacred songs. To be utilized in the Church of Christ, in the Christian Home and in the solitude of godly worship and prayer.

John Foster, Jr.

7238 Glen Albin Rd.

La Plata, MD. 20646

www.revolution12church.org

Kingdom Aimed Forever Media

“A soul may be in as thriving a state when thirsting, seeking and mourning after the Lord as when actually rejoicing in Him; as much in earnest when fighting in the valley as when singing upon the mount.” - John Newton

Prologue

We sing because of the grace of the Divine. We sing, because as music lifts words so does the Word of God lift our soul. We sing because the Creator has regarded the creation, the King has regarded the peasant. Praise God, we sing, praise God!

“I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. 2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. 3 In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul. 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord, when they hear the words of thy mouth. 5 Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: for great is the glory of the Lord. 6 Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off. 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. 8 The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.”

- Psalm 138

Chapter 4

In 1 Chronicles 17:16-17 we are told,
“And David the king came and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, O Lord God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?17 And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O Lord God.”

Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual songs serve as a proper function of worship, spiritual health and a cultivating of healthy fellowship amongst the brethren. They also serve as a sort of family or lineage connection. In other words, our inward peace with God that develops a healthy outward fellowship with one another is a fruit or blessing which gives way unto yet another fruit/blessing. That blessing is a uniting together and being encouraged by those saints who have gone on before you. This is a multigenerational blessing!

An example of this multigenerational blessing amongst the saints of God is the testimony of John Newton and his writing the hymn, “Amazing Grace”. Newton was encouraged during his time by those such as George Whitefield and John Wesley. Newton was also greatly

influenced by a brother in the Lord who had run his race prior to Newton. His name was Isaac Watts.

These influence both prior to and present with Newton serve to encourage Newton in a devotion to the Word of God. Thus when Newton wrote Amazing Grace, it was in regard to **1 Chronicles 17:16-17** while preparing a sermon to preach to his congregation. Now to take this even further, we observe the far reaching effects of the song Amazing Grace or rather the fruit of the children of God simply obeying God by speaking to each other in Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs. The anchor and link by which generations of the beloved of Christ, both before, during and far after Newton are made known in their being bound together in love, devotion and affection is the Word of God!

Much has been made of the life of John Newton as to the story behind Amazing Grace, and it is indeed a powerful testimony. But the story behind “Amazing Grace” the hymn, should begin and end at the scripture and sermon preparation behind, “Amazing Grace”. This is where the power is. There is a key word in the text of scripture that inspired the hymn, “Amazing Grace” which we now must recognize if we are to sing “Amazing Grace” in its proper context. That word is “regard”.

To regard is to look toward, to consider with favor, love and care. It is a powerful thing to read of God’s regard for His people in the Word of God. It is an amazing statement of true grace that we read in **Psalms 102:17** that God regards the prayer of the destitute. Even more of a wonder to our hearts and minds is the day in which the flicker of God’s

light sparks within us, letting us know that He has regarded us personally. The word of God and His Spirit within us work as a match to a matchbook, awaking the light within us to the reality that God has dealt lovingly and kindly with us. Indeed, God has regarded us with great care, and that is amazing grace!

This was the revelation from scripture which inspired John Newton when He wrote the Hymn, "Amazing Grace". Newton was preparing to preach a New Years sermon. He was studying **1 Chronicles 17:16-17** in His Bible. As he studied, he took note that the Holy Spirit recorded Davids taking note of God's "regarding" of him. This scriptural revelation of how God regards His people led John Newton to take note of how kindly and graciously God had regarded him. With the aim of obedience to the scripture in the pastoral role of the exhorting of the brethren unto love and good works, Newton sought to encourage his congregation to observe this wonderful Bible revelation of how God regards His people.

In this Newton rightly avoids the common pitfall of emphasizing the specific of his own activities that made up his past state of depravity (of which there were many), but rather he turns His attention to where scripture turns our attention - to the regarding of God. You see my friend, when we realize that God has regarded us, and we in turn regard God then we do not refocus on the depravity of us, but rather, great becomes the grace of God and that becomes the focus of our regard. God's grace, His amazing grace, becomes the testimony of our past and the hope of our future.

In writing “Amazing Grace”, Newton’s aim was to exert his congregation to observe, “where were you when God found you?” The answer my friends is the same no matter who you are...if you are found then the answer is that you were lost. This leads us back to God and to His grace as the primary subject of our regards. If we sit together as the congregation of the found, then we all must have in common that we were lost, and as is the case of being lost and found - it highlights the manner by which we were found...grace. Now though you might have the specifics of your lost state in mind and this grows a sort of intimacy with you and God, we the church all have God’s grace in common. Thus the proper proclamation of the church is the glorious characteristic of God (grace) and thus the wonderful effects and hope that the testimony of the wonderful character of God has upon His children. Oh how sweet the sound!

In this we see a very important principle in our worship, our speech and our lives. The sweet sound of grace is not dependent upon, nor centered upon us, but it is found as the beloved ears are turned to God, for God alone is the source of all grace. The music of the church, if it is to be a true and powerful proclamation of the church body must not be an expression of self, but must be a proclamation of God and of His work and character. This is where the church most clearly sees her true self in all her beauty and joy. It is in looking unto Christ who is her head and her all in all.

Every passage of scripture that we read, ought to be read as a seeking or looking for and unto the revelation of God.

We then allow that revelation to fall upon our hearts and minds like water on a freshly planted seed. That water of the Word, while sitting before the throne in the presence of the Son breaks open the seed of a new song within you. Then we write it down as we take regard of God. We joyfully then labor over it and nurture it's growth and feel the new life. As the church does this, then song must break forth, for the joy is as uncontainable as the fruit coming forth from a well nurtured plant.

EXERSISING UNDERSTANDING UNTO WORSHIP:**I. UNDERSTANDING:**

1. How is the church of Christ blessed in a multigenerational way by a present day mindfulness and obedience unto Christ?

II. READING:

2. Read: 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Psalm 28, Psalm 102

3. Write down some observations from your reading. What is revealed in the text about God, His character and His regard for you?

HYMNOLOGY:

4. Sing, songs from the, "Week 4 Hymn Sing" and spend time praying over what you have read in scripture and sung in song.