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### Beginning The Christian Life

*T'was grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.*

John Newton: "Amazing Grace", stanza 2

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### John Newton's Conversion Story

*How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.*

What circumstances did God use to bring  
Newton to the "first hour" of his belief?

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### "The Hour I First Believed"

John Newton knew when he had crossed the line into saving faith:

*"That tenth of March is a day much remembered to me; and I have never (allowed) it to pass unnoticed since the year 1748. The Lord came from on high and delivered me out of deep waters."*

2 Corinthians 6:1-2, NIV  
We urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."

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### What's Your Spiritual Birthday?

Not every true follower of Jesus can pinpoint the exact date and hour they first believed!

Romans 1:17 & Colossians 1:23, NLT  
This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith...you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it.

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### Christian Slave Trader! A Work In Progress

Newton converted during the storm—but admitted later:

*"I cannot consider myself to have been a believer in the full sense of the word."*

Acts 13:43, MSG  
Paul and Barnabas...urged them to stick with what they'd started, this living in and by God's grace.

2 Peter 3:18, NIV  
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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**Grace: A Precious Teacher!**

*T'was grace that taught my heart to fear...*

Luke 23:40, NLT

But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?"

Hebrews 10:31, 27 & 1 John 4:18, ESV

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God...a fearful expectation of judgment...for fear has to do with punishment.

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**Grace: A Precious Liberator!**

*...And grace my fears relieved.*

Psalms 34:4, NIV

I sought the Lord and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

Romans 8:15 & 1 John 4:18, NLT

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you have received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children...Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.

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