

Grace Follows Amazing

DARREL HOFLAND

I think I may ramble on. I think I may be all over the show. But as I share these disconnected yet connected thoughts I hope you will agree with me: **“Grace Follows Amazing”**. I was given a list of suggested topics to write about and this one grabbed my attention the most. I guess the main reason being; is that it reminded me of a song by this band called The Almost; their song called: **“Amazing Because It Is.”** That got me thinking; try & follow my thoughts if you can: **“Awesome!”** Now that word is pretty cool to use but you’d have to agree with me that it has been overused. **“I had an awesome day!” “God is awesome” “Oh, that’s so awesome!”**

So, if I asked you why is God awesome and how is life with God awesome for you? It’d probably be one of those questions where you would give a quick un-thought about reply. BUT if I asked you, how is God amazing? How is your Christian (Christ following) life amazing? I would like you to actually think about that. How would you answer that? Because grace follows amazing:

If we know how to answer the amazing question then we can think of grace. There is something about God that

draws you to Him. That draws me to Him. It’s because He is amazing!

You’ve probably heard the classic hymn **“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me”** so many times that sadly it has lost some of its intended meaning. Yet for me over the last 3 years I have come across 2 songs that have a different take on that familiar song, which actually inspire me in a huge way. (I hope it does the same for you.)

The Almost-Amazing Because It Is

***I was so scared of everything you put in front of me /
I've been arching every part of me /
Just to see, See / Why you need me to be / The boy
you need me to be***

***Amazing grace / How sweet the sound / That saves a
wretch like me /
I once was lost / And now I'm found / Was blind but
now I see / I just wanna see***

***I'm the type of person who lets fear drive / I'm the type
of guy who lets it drive /
Cause I'm addicted, I'm needy, / I'm lost without you /
I need you / I need you”***



I think it is also the emotion of which Aaron Gillespie (frontman of The Almost) sings the song. Yet take a look at the words. You may find yourself in them: ***“I was so scared of everything you put in front of me”*** or ***“I’m addicted, I’m needy, I’m lost without you.”*** This song talks of being real with God. We come to Him afraid, not having it all together. We come to God Amazing seeking His grace. Grace that will teach us to see and grace that will save us.

Or consider the words of this song:

As Cities Burn - Thus From My Lips, By Yours, My Sin Is Purged

***Oh how sweet the sound / I know it saved but is it changing a wretch like me
oh my God how sweet is the sound / I once was blind but now I just look away***

And this song comes from the opposite direction. Amazing God has saved us, but how come we still look away from His grace? So back to the question: How is God amazing to you? What brings you to your knees in worship of God? And if God is so amazing in our lives; what then? And how do we live in the grace He gives us? Because remember Grace Follows Amazing.

What brings you to your knees in worship of God

So with all this back and forth between grace and amazing, you may ask what now? The question posing is ***“where are you”***? What place are you in with God? This is a time to take stock of your life, and I want to ask you: How are you and God? With this magazine in your hand; stop for a bit and think upon Him. You know He is amazing. You know of His grace. (You are forgiven and growing in freedom) But has this all been taken for granted. Today, I urge you... to sit right where you are with God. Listen, do you hear it: Grace Follows Amazing and you are invited to follow Him.