

# “I Was Blind but Now I See”

John 9

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## The Gift of Sight

“Amazing Grace” is the most famous Christian song of all time. It was written by John Newton as a testimony to his own experience of conversion to faith in Christ. To explain the overwhelming power of this experience he chose these words: “I once was lost but now I’m found; was blind but now I see!”

John Newton understood that conversion to Christ is the most radical transformation that can ever take place in a person’s life. Think of a man born blind, stumbling through life, shrouded in darkness and alienated from the rest of society (which is what happened to blind people in the ancient world). Then one day this man is given the gift of sight...just try to imagine the life changing power of this experience.

John 9 tells the story of a man born blind who was given the gift of sight by Christ. This story is a powerful image of the gift of salvation that Christ brings to our lives. All of the deep, amazing theological truths of the Gospel of John are now played out in the real life experience of one individual who encounters Christ. But this story is for us. This story is our model of what it means to truly encounter the life altering salvation of Jesus Christ.

## The Work of God

Jesus said, “As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me” (John 9:4). Jesus tells the disciples that He is on a mission. The time has not come to kick back and coast—there is work to do! He also wants to draw His disciples into this work with Him, for He says “we” must do the work of His who sent me! Then, He touches and heals this blind man. The work of God is about touching real lives. Jesus wants to give sight to the blind. But as we learn in John 9, the healing of the blind man is about far more than a physical healing. This story is actually a giant illustration of what it means to come to saving faith in Christ. This is a picture of what it means to be spiritually blind, not just physically blind. It reveals the miracle of having the eyes your heart opened to the reality of Jesus Christ and the gift of spiritual life that comes with it. As you read the story, pay close attention to how the blind man grows in his understanding of Christ and faith in Christ as the story unfolds.

## The Testimony of a Changed Life

The blind man was asked many questions...he didn’t know all the answers. One thing he did know. As he said, “I was blind, but now I see!” Everyone could see that this man was radically changed. His transformed life was the ultimate testimony to Christ. How much more powerful our words about Christ become when they are accompanied by a changed life!

## Those who Believe, Openly Confess, and Worship Jesus

The pinnacle of the story comes in John 9:35-38. This man looks at Jesus and begins to understand who He really is. Then the man replied, “Lord I believe,” and he worshipped Him (John 9:38). This is where the story is leading us. As we see Jesus for who He truly is...as we are given the miraculous “gift of sight” and the salvation life that comes with it, what will our response be? Here is the answer—believe in your heart and openly confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Do not be a secret believer. Say it – openly. And then, worship. Worship Jesus. Sing. Kneel. Lift your hands, your voice and your life to Jesus. Don’t hold back. Don’t worry about the reaction of other people. Celebrate with reverence and joy. “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind but now I see!” May the testimony of our transformed lives become the confirmation for our words of open confession and bold worship! And then, by God’s grace, may the world see the

beauty and saving power of Jesus and respond to the amazing truth of the Gospel, one life at a time.

**For Further Reflection**

This Week, read John 9 every day. As you pray, reflect, and journal, ask the Lord to move in your life.