

When We Awake in Glory

by John Newton

The sermon encourages listeners to trust in the Lord and find peace in their souls, even in the midst of a dark and desolate world.

Scripture: Psalm 55:22, Psalm 91:4, Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 3:5, Isaiah 35:8

Topics: "Trusting God", "Spiritual Freedom"

Description

John Newton preaches about the deceptive nature of the world without the light of the Gospel, likening it to a wilderness that promises much but ultimately disappoints. He emphasizes the importance of being undeceived in time and finding comfort in knowing there is a way through the wilderness with a powerful guard and infallible Guide to lead the way. Newton encourages trusting in the Lord completely, casting all burdens upon Him to experience lightness of spirit and freedom from needless anxieties. He acknowledges that while trusting the Lord consistently may be challenging, it is a gradual process that leads to living peacefully under the shadow of God's wing.

Transcript

Dear Madam,

What a poor, uncertain, dying world is this! What a wilderness in itself! How dark, how desolate, without the light of the Gospel and the knowledge of Jesus! It does not appear so to us in a state of nature, because we are then in a state of enchantment, the magical lantern blinding us with a splendid delusion.

Thus in the desert's dreary waste,

By magic power produced in haste,

As old romances say,

Castles and groves, and music sweet,

The senses of the traveler cheat,

And stop him in his way.

But while he gazes with surprise,

The charm dissolves, the vision dies;

'Twas but enchanted ground

Thus, if the Lord our spirit touch,

The world, which promised us so much,

A wilderness is found.

It is a great mercy to be undeceived in time; and though our gay dreams are at an end, and we awake to everything that is disgustful and dismaying, yet we see a highway through the wilderness; a powerful guard, an infallible Guide at hand to conduct us through; and we can discern, beyond the limits of the wilderness, a better land, where we shall be at rest and at home. What will the difficulties we meet by the way then signify? The remembrance of them will only remain to heighten our sense of the love, care, and power of our Saviour and Leader. O how shall we then admire, adore, and praise Him, when He shall condescend to unfold to us the beauty, propriety, and harmony of the whole train of His dispensations towards us, and give us a clear retrospect of all the way, and all the turns of our pilgrimage !

In the mean while, the best method of adorning our profession, and of enjoying peace in our souls, is simply to trust Him, and absolutely to commit ourselves and our all to His management. By casting our burdens upon Him, our spirits become light and cheerful; we are freed from a thousand anxieties and inquietudes, which are wearisome to our minds, and which, with respect to events, are needless for us, yea useless.

But though it may be easy to speak of this trust, and it appears to our judgment perfectly right and reasonable, the actual attainment is a great thing; and especially so, to trust the Lord, not by fits and starts, surrendering one day and retracting the next, but to abide by our surrender, and go habitually trusting through all the changes we meet, knowing that His love, purpose, and promise are unchangeable. Some little faintings, perhaps, none are freed from; but I believe a power of trusting the Lord in good measure at all times, and living quietly under the shadow of His wing, is what the promise warrants us to expect, if we seek it by diligent prayer; if not all at once, yet by a gradual increase. May it be your experience and mine!

I am, &c.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-newton/when-we-awake-in-glory/>

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