

Saturday, March 21, 2020

## Now I See

by Scott Stoner

*I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

—John Newton

When John Newton, author of the beloved hymn, *Amazing Grace*, wrote the words, “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see,” he was writing about his own powerful change of direction. Like the Samaritan woman at the well, Newton’s change of direction, from being the captain of a slave ship to becoming an Anglican clergy person, was in response to a direct encounter with God.

The Bible is full of stories of people who have been changed in and through their encounters with God, Jesus, and/or the Holy Spirit. As people of faith, we need not ever be afraid of change. In fact, as people of faith we expect that our ongoing walk with God will undoubtedly lead to ongoing change and growth in our lives. And, as people of faith, we believe that God—named or not named—is the author of all change and growth.

“I once was lost, but now am found” reminds us that change in our lives often comes, not as the result of our own initiative, but as the result of God’s initiative. As we have already considered, we still have the free will to respond to God’s invitation to change, and therefore have an essential role in the change process. As we conclude our week of reflecting on having the courage to change direction, it is good to remember that the initial invitation to change is often an invitation from God.

As you reflect back on what you have experienced this week, and as you think about significant changes you have made, or are making, be sure to take time to reflect on where you find God in the midst of these changes.

**Making It Personal:** Have you ever changed direction in your life in response to a clear sign or calling from God? Was that call clear at the time or did it become clear later, after you were making the change? Are you aware of a change right now that God is inviting you to make?