

**AMAZING GRACE
& BROKEN GLASS...**
MY STORY, a Poem
by Peggy Ella Knoth



**I crawled through broken glass
To overcome my crushing past.**

How did I go from dark to light?
May I share with you my plight?

I ran from life and how I felt.
I ran to drugs, to booze, to hell.
Self-destruction was my best friend.
Fear and shadows around each bend.

No sight to guide me to the light,
At least it seemed so in the night...
Of desperation, no peace in sight.
But God was there to shine his light.

I'd run from Him,
I'd run from life.
My life was hard...
So full of strife.

My emotions numb,
Thought I was empty.
But I was stunned...
With paper and pen
I wrote how "nothing" really felt.

It felt like knives slashing my heart.
The pain so real, afraid to start
Removing layers of feelings stuffed.
I'd hit the bottom... I'd had had enough.

Dark secrets afraid to share
From years and years, it was too much.
To look at issues at the core?
Was I really ready to explore...
Why I had crawled through broken glass
To overcome my crushing past?

To think that I could ever change...
Could there be hope?
These thoughts were strange.
In my home alone I stood
To look at feelings...
And if I should.

Would God hear me if I said
That I'd let fear hold me back?
That I had let it fill my head?
That broken glass had left its track?

What if my sanity eloped?
What if the tears would never stop?
Would my heart still beat?
Would I go into shock?

Would I lose my mind
if I faced the truth
About my broken past?
How I had crawled through broken glass?

Would people judge me?
Would they hate me?
If they knew the sinful deeds I'd done?
If they saw my heart?
My soul undone?

So I filled my life with drinks and drugs,
Bad relationships, hoods and thugs.
Thought I was worthless...
All I'd ever be.
Please don't leave me...
Don't abandon me!

I don't deserve better,
Please don't flee!
Love my shattered heart,
My desperate plea.

Please don't leave me...
don't abandon me!
If you do, I'll surely die...
Because rejection, I won't survive.

Are you seeing the pattern?
Are you seeing the lies
The devil fed me
to self-despise?

All the years of guilt and shame.
Who else was there to blame?
Satan told me it was mine.
And after all, I was "fine."

I longed to change
But I couldn't do it.
"God, give me will-power"
And I'll pursue it.

But nothing came.
I was so weak.
Felt like a failure.
Could hardly stand...
Could barely speak.

But I was bold,
And I was brave,
I prayed for courage,
That truth be told.

I admitted I was afraid,
For as a child, I was abused.
So then I spoke up and I said
My innocence had been betrayed.

And when I did, the tears began.
God opened heaven and took my hand.
A ray of light split the sky.
And I began to understand.

In desperation I turned to Him,
In my own strength, I can't depend.
I'm such a sinner and I admit
I've wrecked my life and I repent.

*“Lord, I can’t change my life!
I’ve struggled and I’ve tried!
If I’m ever going to, it’s up to you.
My heart and soul and mind renew.”*

I understood, I saw at last
Why I *had* to crawl through broken glass.
To make me strong, to be complete...
To stop myself from self-defeat.

I learned that Satan is a *liar!*
I know that well!
He tried to lead me
Straight to hell.

He said my pain would never end,
To get through life I must pretend.
I had to wear an outer mask
To hide the secrets about my past.

Satan said, “If people knew...
They’d have no respect for you.
You can never, ever speak the truth
Cause you and me, we’re in cahoots
How I can break and shatter glass.
And now you have to wear a mask!”

But in that moment of desperation
God took my hand in preparation.
He lifted my feet to higher ground.
I new at last... I’d been lost and found.

My Lord, my God had reached down
And set my feet on solid ground.
No more guilt from sin and shame.
God forgave me because Jesus took the blame.

I knew at last when God looked down
He didn't see the sin I'd worn...
My shattered life, all ripped and torn.
Instead, he dressed me in a gown!

With mercy in his voice he said,
"Rise Up, my Child!" and on my head
He placed a crown upon my head,
And then He said,
*"You're a Daughter of the King,
I Love You More Than Anything!"*

He took took my life, every piece
All my pain... and I saw at last
Why I had crawled through broken glass
My shattered life, my shattered past.

I surrendered my life to God's will.
Then Christ redeemed me by His blood.
The peace and joy I'd never had,
I found forgiveness for this man.

We're all just sinners, as you said.
Forgive him, Jesus, for him you bled.
I pray salvation for that man,
For his name, too, is on your hand.

So listen up, my friend, you need to know
That Christ can make you
white as snow...
Forgive your sins and make you whole.
Give you purpose and all new goals.

He forgets your sins from east to west.
The Bible says He wants your best.
He'll take your sins and all your mess,
Create in you a heart that's blessed.

He sent Christ to die in your place
So repent of your rebellious ways.
Confess that Jesus is your Lord.
And I promise this, you will be saved.

Because of Christ, I have no fear.
So listen close to what you hear.
You just might learn that from the start,
Satan lives to destroy your heart.

He'll attack your life in every way...
Do anything to lead you astray.
He lied to me... He'll lie to you!
He'll hit every area of your life...
Not just a few!

Unless you're grounded in God's word,
You might believe the lies you've heard.
If you come to God on bended knee,
You'll know Christ came to set you free.

Though your heart was slashed
With shards of glass,
God's love for you
is deep and vast.
His grace and mercy's unsurpassed!

He restored my soul... now I'm redeemed.
A stain-glassed window's what I see.
It looks familiar... Could it be?
That same broken glass inside of me?

Let me ask you, if I may...
Can you be straight with me today?
Could you sacrifice **your** only son?
For sins, **not** he, but **YOU** had done?
Do you know Jesus as your Lord?
Are you and He in one accord?

He's God's one and only son!
He died for sins that **we** have done.
Get on your knees... call on His Name.
This is **truth**... You'll never be the same.

We're free! We're free! We're free at last!
From abuse and oppression of the past!
Rejoice, my soul, at God's command!
He inscribed my name upon his hand!

So this, my friend, is what I learned...

In Christ I have the ¹VICTORY!

And Satan's lies are contradictory!

²***MORE THAN A CONQUEROR***, God says I am!

And on this truth, I take a stand!

Jesus died to take my place

To bring me to a higher place.

I didn't need a mount of faith

Because it came straight from His...

AMAZING GRACE.

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¹ "Victory in Christ" 1 Corinthians 15:57

² "We are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37