

A fallen kite can be set to fly again. A broken kite can be mended. And a messed up life can be changed. Read these words of Jesus; they could give you a fresh start that lasts forever:

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

He also said:

"If the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed."

Freedom does not come in doing our own thing, but in finding forgiveness and the desire and power to do the right thing.

God, who knows what we are like, came to save us from ourselves. If He had come for good people He would never have found any. But He came for sinners, and we all qualify!

Jesus lived a spotless life, but when He was lifted up to die on a cross, the rebellion and wrong of the world was laid on Him. He took our punishment, and the punishment took Him as He paid for our sin. He died that we might be forgiven, but three days later He defeated death by rising again.

Today, if we ask Him for forgiveness, the living Jesus will give us His eternal life. He makes all things new, and not just for time here on earth, but for all eternity. It is not easy to follow Jesus, but as we do, He helps us to soar even in the storms of life. And He ties us into a relationship with God that lasts through time, through time and into eternity.



Please email or write, and let me send you a free copy of John's Gospel so you can discover Jesus for yourself.

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Have you seen there is some great stuff on our website?
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- A booklet explaining how to become a real Christian
- A copy of John's Gospel, (part of the Bible)

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Kites

by Roger Carswell

Everyone loves a kite. To see one puts a smile on your face, and their dancing colours cheer the moments. It's almost as though we are the ones flying like the birds free from our daily cares. Their stunts and cutting loops, and their agility, like stars, cause us to look up and gaze admiringly.

Dick Van Dyke captured millions of hearts when he sang in the film *Mary Poppins*,

*'Let's go fly a kite
Up to the highest height!
Let's go fly a kite and send it soaring
Up through the atmosphere
Up where the air is clear
Oh, let's go fly a kite.'*

John Newton was the author of the hymn 'Amazing grace' and a poem about a kite! The son of a merchant sea captain he was forced to join the Royal Navy. Eventually he became a slave trader, but in 1747 a violent storm in the North Atlantic nearly sank his ship. It

was the beginning of his turning to God. He believed that Jesus died to take away his sin, and trusted Him as Lord and Saviour. He became an Anglican Clergyman. As well as writing many hymns he wrote this poem.

*Once on a time a paper kite
Was mounted to a wondrous height,
Where, giddy with its elevation,
It thus expressed self-admiration:*

*"See how yon crowds of gazing people
Admire my flight above the steeple;
How would they wonder if they knew
All that a kite like me can do!
Were I but free, I'd take a flight,
And pierce the clouds beyond their sight,
But, ah! like a poor prisoner bound,
My string confines me near the ground;*

*I'd brave the eagle's towering wing,
Might I but fly without a string."
It tugged and pulled, while thus it spoke,
To break the string - at last it broke.*



*Deprived at once of all its stay,
In vain it tried to soar away;
Unable its own weight to bear,
It fluttered downward through the air;*

*Unable its own course to guide,
The winds soon plunged it in the tide.
Ah, foolish kite, you had no wing,
How could you fly without a string!*

*My heart replied, "O Lord, I see
How much this kite resembles me!
Forgetful that by You I stand,
Impatient of Your ruling hand;*

*How oft I've wished to break the lines
Your wisdom for my lot assigns?
How oft indulged a vain desire
For something more, or something higher?*

*And, but for grace and love divine,
A fall thus dreadful had been mine."*

So John Newton, who lived 200 years ago knew the same wishes as we do today. How we want to be free, to do our own thing, and not bound by constraints set by others. We want to live and let live.



Yet we see how not being tethered has brought us crashing down. Too much in society seems broken. We know our lives, and wish we could soar, but never make it.