

# William Cowper

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## William Cowper

Later he was offered a government position for which he would have to be examined. If God is good, why does tragedy happen? Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. He knew no-one there, but it was close to Cambridge where his brother John was a Fellow at the University.

## Suicide and Grace: The Life of William Cowper

Hoping to lift his spirits by keeping him busy, Newton suggested that he and Cowper co-author a book of hymns. Cowper thought it was impossible for him to be saved.

## William Cowper, Depressed Hymn Writer

Cowper realizes that ultimately we cannot know why or how until that day when God makes it plain. In a moment I believed and received the gospel. Through the encouragement of his friend and abolitionist, John Newton, Cowper became involved in their work, writing four poems in support of their cause.

## William Cowper Biography

The combination of losing his mother, virtually losing his father, and nearly all of his siblings dying as infants, was a powerful cocktail of sadness that William had to drink at a young age.

## Suicide and Grace: The Life of William Cowper

It is impossible for the effect to differ more from the intention quoted in Davies, *ibid*, p99.

## Suicide and Grace: The Life of William Cowper

On the eve of a public examination he would have to undergo to accept a position as a Clerk in the House of Lords, Cowper wrought with feelings

of deep shame and self-doubt, decided that ending his miserable life was the only solution. He turned to the account of Lazarus being raised from the dead, which he said showed him the mercy of the Savior.

### **William Cowper, Depressed Hymn Writer**

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply, Redeeming love has been my theme, And shall be till I die.

### **William Cowper Biography**

The year before this publication, Cowper met a sophisticated and charming widow named Lady Austen who served as a new impetus to his poetry. He wrote sixty-eight hymns in a fairly short period of time. Cowper was then admitted into a mental asylum by his father, where the presiding doctor was a Christian, and presented the gospel to Cowper and often prayed with him.

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