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PRAYER ANSWERED BY CROSSES | *By John Newton*

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1 I ask'd the Lord, that I might grow  
In faith, and love, and ev'ry grace,  
Might more of his salvation know,  
And seek more earnestly his face.

2 'Twas he who taught me thus to pray,  
And he, I trust has answer'd pray'r;  
But it has been in such a way,  
As almost drove me to despair.

3 I hop'd that in some favour'd hour,  
At once he'd answer my request:  
And by his love's constraining pow'r,  
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

4 Instead of this, he made me feel  
The hidden evils of my heart;  
And let the angry pow'rs of hell  
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.

5 Yea more, with his own hand he seem'd  
Intent to aggravate my woe;  
Cross'd all the fair designs I schem'd,  
Blasted my gourds,<sup>1</sup> and laid me low.

6 Lord, why is this, I trembling cry'd,  
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?  
"Tis in this way," the Lord reply'd,  
"I answer pray'r for grace and faith.

7 "These inward trials I employ,  
"From self and pride to set thee free;  
"And break thy schemes of earthly joy,  
"That thou mayst seek thy all in me."

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<sup>1</sup> Jonah 4:6-7, "6 And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. 7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered." Authorized Version