

that he will provide our daily bread,  
that he will forgive us our sin, and  
that he will deliver us from evil.

We have a mighty God, glorious, powerful, overwhelmingly gracious and loving.

In the Lord Jesus Christ, God our father, provided for the forgiveness of our sin, through his death on the cross, and for a new life filled with his Holy Spirit. That new life is a life of repentance, faith and prayer, and this prayer is a very good place to start.

This brings our short reflection on the Lord's Prayer to an end.

Thank you for taking the time to listen, and I hope it has given you some fresh insight into the prayer, and encouragement to make fuller use of it.

“The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord turn his face toward you and be gracious to you, the Lord cause the light of his countenance to shine upon you and give you peace. Amen.”



TRINITY  
BIBLE CLASS

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## Reflections on The Lord's Prayer “Amen”

Last week we finished looking at the doxology, concluding with the recognition of God's eternal nature, and reiterating his supreme value.

The prayer has taken us through a journey, exposing not just a model for prayer but a way of understanding our whole lives as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We started with acknowledging God as our father, a father who is enthroned over all creation. We saw the need to hallow his name, to seek his kingdom and to be people who submit themselves to his will.

Knowing God in this way we set ourselves and our lives before him seeking his help in providing for our practical needs, and his mercy in forgiving our sin, and protecting us from evil in the future.

We ended with a moment of worship, the doxology, praising God, for his kingship, his power and his glory.

Having started the prayer with God and his glory as our heavenly father, we end with God in his ultimate majesty, as our eternal Lord and King.

Today we bring the prayer to an end in the manner of almost all our prayers. The final word which seals our intentions and submits us to playing our part in seeing our prayers bear fruit.

### “Amen”

The word 'Amen,' is used in both Hebrew and Greek as a way of affirming something, particularly a prayer. It means, in effect, “so be it.”

“Amen” is used by Jews and Christians across the world as a way of signifying assent and agreement to the content of a prayer, while at the

same time implying a commitment, as far as is possible on the part of the person praying, to see that prayer bear fruit in their lives.

The word "Amen" is very closely related to the word for truth, and in the New Testament, when Jesus says "Truly Truly" (John 6:47, and through John's gospel) he is really saying "Amen, Amen." It is a way of saying, in advance of what follows, that what I am about to say is important, true and reliable.

[John 6:47, 48]

Some think that when Jesus says "Amen, Amen" he is doing more than claim his words are true, but is making a reference to his divine nature.

In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, God is referred to as the "God of truth," that is the "God of Amen."

[Isaiah 65:16]

And we must not fail to remember Jesus' claim to be truth itself.

In Revelation, the message Jesus has for the church is described as "The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness..."

[John 14:6]

When we say "Amen" to end a prayer, then, it is not mere punctuation, indeed it is more than just an agreement with what has been said, it is a recognition of that truth of God, the truth of Jesus Christ, and of the reliability of God's word and promises, promises sealed in Jesus, which are in turn reflected in the prayers that we offer.

These prayers are more than lists of our needs and wants. They are a celebration of the truth of God, and his saving love in Jesus Christ. We have seen that particularly in this Lord's Prayer.

Jesus teaches, and the whole New Testament affirms, that we should offer our prayers with an attitude of faithful, humble expectation; that

we pray, not fearfully begging from a God who we treat as a reluctant benefactor; but confidently requesting from a God who we know as our loving and kind father.

When we pray "in Jesus' name" or "in the Spirit", we mean neither that our prayer has a magic formula, nor that we are in some heightened spiritual state, rather it refers to our prayers being in line with, thoroughly steeped in, if you like, the will and purposes of Jesus and his Holy Spirit.

In that case our "Amen" is a statement of confidence in God, that he will fulfil his promises and do all that he says he will, in and through Jesus Christ, by the grace and power present in the Holy Spirit.

"Amen" is not a surrender of all responsibility, however, but a submission to the higher purposes and power of God.

Knowing that God is faithful, and that he is true to his word, and reliable. Knowing God to be loving, kind and compassionate, our saying "Amen" releases us into God purposes, surrendering to him all our vain efforts and trusting ourselves to his loving care; at the same time, letting God be God, and trusting that as he answers our prayers God will equip us to play our part in those answers.

The saying of "Amen" is as much a commitment to action as it is an act of submission, and when we end this prayer with "Amen", we are committing:

to seeing God's name hallowed, and to hallowing it ourselves,

to seeing God's kingdom come, and to giving ourselves for the establishment and work of that kingdom, and

to seeing God's will be done, making it our great aim to doing it ourselves.

As we say "Amen" we are stating our faith in God: