

AMEN!

Matthew 6:5-15 Galatians 3:6-14 Genesis 18:1-6

ALL SAINTS DAY

November 5, 2023

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THE LORD'S PRAYER ends as it began ... *with praise to God.* The Lord's Prayer **BEGINS** with a focus on **Our Father in Heaven; His Name, His Kingdom, and His Will**, asking that these things be done on earth as they are in heaven. The Lord's Prayer **CONCLUDES** with a doxology that re-focuses our attention on **our Heavenly Father, and His Kingdom, His Power and His Glory¹.**

What is the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer?

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means, "yes, yes it shall be so."

After praying for God's Name, Kingdom and Will; and after we pray for daily bread, forgiveness, help in temptation, and deliverance from evil, we then boldly say "**AMEN!**"

AMEN! is a Hebrew verb used in the OT; it is a word of affirmation; it is an action word. Here is the first time the word "**Amen**" is used in the Bible:

¹ Note that the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, "For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen" is not in the biblical text with the Lord's Prayer. It is certainly biblical -- see similar phrases in Revelation 7, 19; Daniel 7; 1 Chronicles 29:11 just to name a few -- this phrase just isn't originally part of the Lord's Prayer. The Christian Church appears to have added it as a proper conclusion to such an important prayer. The Conclusion is found in Church writings as early as 100AD. It is ultimately a doxology to God -- 'doxology' means 'words of glory'. One scholar writes: "The conclusion to the Lord's Prayer continues in the Christian church as a fitting statement of faith and praise, to which we can fully say, "*Amen*." It is a rich and biblical part of our liturgical heritage, embedded into our prayer and worship life that ascribes to God His greatness, His goodness, and His saving kingdom that we pray would come among us also. To God be the glory!"

<https://www.oursaviorlansing.org/our-savior-blog/page/2/>

Abram believed the LORD,
and He credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 18:6

The Hebrew word for “believe” is the word we know as “**Amen**” today. It’s first use in the Bible is when Abraham “*amen-ed*” the Lord when he was told he would have a son, and descendants as numerous as the *stars in the sky*. God’s promise to Abraham included one special descendent, the Messiah, who would bless the entire world. The “*stars in the sky*” that God showed Abraham would indicate the great number of believers --- the Holy Christian Church -- including you and me today.

When Abraham heard the great promises of a son, countless descendants, and the Messiah, Abraham “*amen-ed*” the Lord. “**Amen**” means to *stand firm, to trust, to believe*; the word picture is to *lean on something*. Abraham “leaned on” God’s Promise about the Messiah who would give him more descendants than the stars in the sky. We too “lean on” God’s promises of a Savior; we say “**Amen**” as a response of faith when God speaks words of hope and life to us!

- † At the end of the *Invocation*, when we hear the great Name of the God of our Baptism, we say **AMEN!**
- † When we hear the promise of *Absolution*, and that God alone forgives our sins, we say **AMEN!**
- † When we hear God's *Benediction*, and He writes His Name on us, we say **AMEN!**
- † At the end of our own *prayers* to our Father in Heaven, when we have approached God in faith, we say **AMEN!**

We too “lean on” God’s promises of a Savior; we say “**AMEN!**” as a response of faith when God speaks words of hope and life to us!

By God’s grace, you are a descendent of Abraham --- not by bloodline, but by faith. God in His grace has worked in your life to bring you to know and trust in Jesus as your Savior. Through Jesus’ *teaching, miracles, and suffering*, He showed that He was the Messiah. His *death and resurrection* was for all people: Jews and Gentiles. Trust in Jesus, ‘faith’, makes you a descendent of Abraham, one of the “stars in the sky” that the Lord showed Abraham way back in Genesis 18.

No matter how many
promises God has made,
they are "Yes" in Christ.
And so through Him,
the "Amen" is spoken by us,
to the glory of God
2 Corinthians 1:20

Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:7-9

By God's grace, you are a descendent of Abraham -- not by bloodline, but by faith.

Today we are celebrating **ALL SAINTS DAY**; it is a day to thank God for all the “*stars in the sky*²” who have believed in Jesus and are now with Him in Heaven. **Many of you have loved ones who have died in faith and live in the Kingdom of Heaven.** Today we thank God for those people and we rejoice in their salvation.

- † During their lifetime, the Lord worked through His Holy Word and Holy Baptism to create faith in their hearts, so that they themselves said “Amen!” to God's promises in Christ. God gave them faith to “*confess with their mouths that ‘Jesus is Lord’ and to believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead.*”
- † During their lifetime, Jesus taught them to *hallow God's Name, to Seek God's Kingdom, to obey God's will.*
- † During their lifetime, God fed them *spiritual food in Holy Communion*, as Christ's very Body and Blood in the bread and the wine strengthened and reassured them of God's love and presence as they journeyed through life to their eternal home in Heaven.
- † During their lifetime, the Lord provided their *daily bread, He forgave their sins, He led them not into temptation, and He delivered them from Evil.*
- † And when their last breath came, the Lord graciously took them from this *veil of tears to Himself in Heaven.*

Today we thank God for our loved ones who have gone before us. If you are grieving a loved one who died in faith, then think about the word “**AMEN!**” God made the promise of eternal life in His Son Jesus to Abraham a long, long time ago; and your loved one

² **Important note:** Remember, this is a metaphor, not a literal reference. This phrase “stars in the sky” does not mean that our loved ones have literally turned into a star or an angel or something else! There is widespread belief that reflects that kind of mystical and false thinking. God used the “star in the sky” image to show the vast number of those who would believe from the one man Abraham, and his descendent, who would be the Messiah (Jesus). God has something much, much better for you than simply turning you into a “star in the sky” or an “angel”: He promises you the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting in the Kingdom of Heaven!

believed that promise, along with Abraham, the Prophets, the Apostles, and all the company of Heaven, in saying “**Amen! Amen!** *Yes, Yes, it shall be so!*” That is confident faith in the crucified and Risen Savior Jesus Christ!

Today as we wrap up our series on the Lord’s Prayer, it’s good to remember that the Lord’s Prayer is more than a prayer – *it is also a confession of faith! It is a focus on God!*

- † We pray to **Our Father in Heaven**, because we have access to Him through His Son Jesus, and we know that He loves us and cares about us.
- † We **Hallow His Name** because God’s Name is His Presence and Power in our lives. We hold God and His Name sacred in our lives and with our words.
- † We pray for God’s **Kingdom to Come** in Word, Water, Bread and Wine as we look forward to an eternity in His Eternal Kingdom; we acknowledge that He is our sovereign King.
- † We pray **Thy Will Be Done** because we trust our Heavenly Father’s care for us as He leads us through life; we know His Will is superior to our will.
- † As we pray for **Daily Bread**, we acknowledge that everything we are and everything we have is a gift from His good hand. God is the supplier of our needs.
- † As we pray for **Forgiveness**, we confess that Jesus is the Savior Who has done 100% of the work for 100% of the people. Because of His forgiveness to us, we can forgive other people.
- † As we pray for help in **Temptation** we thank God that He strengthens us to face all trials, tests, and temptations.
- † As we pray for **Deliverance from Evil**, we confess that God has delivered us in the past, is now, and will continue to deliver us from evil.

And at the end of the Lord’s Prayer, after a **Biblical doxology**, we boldly say “**AMEN!** -- **Yea, Yea it shall be so!**”

To our Heavenly Father be
the Kingdom, the Glory and the Power,
forever and ever,
AMEN!

LORD GOD, we thank you that you are the Lord of Life

and we **celebrate the life** you have given us in Jesus Christ!

Send your Holy Spirit so that we may *believe in our heart* and *confess with our mouths* the promises of eternal life that we have in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead.

Give us a deep conviction and a bold confession of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

With hearts full of faith, empower us to respond with our own hearty AMEN!

Genesis 18:1-6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” 2 But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” 4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Galatians 3:6-14

Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 7 Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. 8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." 9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. 10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." 11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." 12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Matthew 6:5-15

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' 14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins