

Day Fourteen

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' -Matthew 6:9-13

Amen.

All of us, I dare say, have used the word "Amen". It is one of those words we all know, yet to be honest, if we were pressed on the issue, we wouldn't quite know how exactly to define it. We may only know that when we hear it, we can say the prayer is officially over and we can lift our heads and open our eyes.

But, there is much, much more to this word than meets the eye. Here's what Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionary says:

Amen: ἀμήν amēn (*am-ane*)' Of Hebrew origin; properly *firm*, that is, (figuratively) *trustworthy*; adverbially *surely* (often as interjection *so be it*): - amen, verily.

It is how Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ended their Gospel accounts in the King James Version. Paul ended Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, and Galatians, Peter ended his second letter with amen. Jude ends his short letter with amen. And John signs off the Book of Revelation with Amen. Depending on the version of the Bible you read, nearly every book in the New Testament ends with amen. It seems a fitting way to complete and inspired work.

Some of the Psalms (41, 72, and 89) end with "Amen and Amen". Deuteronomy 27 contains a list of curses (11 total) to which the people say, "Amen". Jesus is called our Amen. *"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: -Revelation 3:14.* {Paul tells us Christ is faithful and true to our promised hope. *For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is*

our Amen to the glory of God through us. -2 Corinthians 1:20

But, what does it mean? What does it imply? Paul tells us that to say 'amen' one must understand that which is spoken. *Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? -1 Corinthians 14:16.*

Jewish scholars tell us that the word "Amen" is the acronym of 'El melekh ne'eman, "(God, trustworthy King). Isaiah calls God the "God of Truth", *"Because he who is blessed in the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight! -Isaiah 65:16.* The word for truth is the Hebrew word 'amen'.

All of this is so technical. Does a child need this knowledge to say 'amen' at the close of their nightly prayers? We need not know all of the theological jargon, we need only know that what we send to God is of faith and that God in His providence and mercy hears us. Yet, in this one word we find our prayers wrapped and bound for their heaven sent journey. It is to say that we put our full trust and faith in Him who is faithful to answer and know what is best for us. He is faithful and true always.

In the apostle John's Gospel Jesus uses the term 'verily, verily' or as some versions say, 'truly, truly'. Again, the word is 'amen' in the Greek. (John 5:24, 8:51). Our sentiment should be this whenever we utter the word amen. If we are affirming what someone says with an amen, we believe it to be trustworthy. If our prayers ascend to God as incense, we believe He is trustworthy and true to do all things according to His divine will.

To say amen is to affirm that what we have said goes up to a loving and merciful God.

Prayerful Thoughts: Our Father, hear our prayers that go up to Thee and we give to Thee our amen, even as it comes through the Great Amen, Thy Son, who is faithful and true.