



April 1, 2017

The Lord's Prayer, The Conclusion

"For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen."

[Read 2 Corinthians 1:18-22](#)

"'Amen, amen' means 'Yes, yes,' it is going to come about just like this." Luther, *Small Catechism*.

We Protestants end our Lord's Prayer in worship with a section called the Doxology. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!" Often that part of the prayer comes out as a rising crescendo in the congregation, getting louder and louder with each triumphant phrase.

So it is interesting to note that for centuries in the Church, the Lord's Prayer did not contain that appendix. In fact, Luther continued the Roman Catholic practice of praying the Lord's Prayer without the Doxology. His focus in this part of the Catechisms is on the simple word, "Amen."

"Amen" is how the Holy Spirit responds in us to the First Commandment. Do you fear, love and trust God above all things? Yes, we pray. YES! It's going to come about just like this. The Holy Spirit creates in me the gift of faith. In that faith I cling to the cross of Jesus Christ in life and in death. Called by that gospel of life and hope, I live out my Amens in faith toward God and love toward my neighbor.

This is precisely how Martin Luther puts it in his Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. He wrote that introduction for his translation of Romans from Latin in to German. Luther says,

Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace.

That is the meaning of "Amen" at the end of the Lord's Prayer and every prayer. That Amen carries with it a particular commitment to living out our faith. If we pray for God to be our God and to help us in every time of need, then it is our responsibility and privilege to already live as if God has answered our prayer.

Too many times I find that people pray one way and live another. So my challenge to you is to live as if all your prayers are answered by God. Then let me know if that makes a difference in your life.

Let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into my heart today to create the gift of faith. Let my every breath be a "yes, yes!" to Your grace, mercy and love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Do something: Keep track of your prayers today. And check to see how often you live as if your prayers are being answered by God.

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