

AMEN!: For Yours Is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever!
OK Prayer: Session 8

QUESTION: What is your favorite bird?

AMEN!

- GREEK: *doxology* (n) from: *doxa*: “glory, splendor, honor” + *-logia*: words or speech; short, spontaneous ascriptions of praise (glory, honor, power) to God. [NT usage]
 - Glory is “that which makes something *impressive, weighty, or radiant with splendor*.”¹OT example: Mt. Sinai (Ex 24:15-17); Isaiah’s vision (Isa 6:3); Ps 115:1
NT: Bethlehem shepherds (Lk 2:9-14); Jesus’s instruction (Mt 5:16)
- HEBREW: *Hallelujah* from *hālal* (v) “to praise” + *Jah* from *Yahweh* [J = Y] (Ps 150)
“All prayer pursued far enough, becomes praise.” “Any prayer, no matter how desperate its origin, no matter how angry and fearful the experiences it traverses, ends up in praise. It does not always get there quickly or easily—the trip can take a lifetime—but the end is always praise.”² Eugene Peterson

Sermon on the Mount as Wisdom Teaching: Matthew 7:7-11

- “Ask, seek, knock” (Mt 7:7 & 1 Chr 28:9, Jer 29:13)

“There is no recipe for prayer that can work like a handyman’s do-it-yourself manual or a cookbook, where the claim is that if you follow the instructions you can’t go wrong. Praying is not like carpentry or cookery; it is the active exercise of a personal relationship, a kind of friendship, with the living God and His Son Jesus Christ ...”³ J. I. Packer

“We are so egoistically engrossed about God’s giving of the answer that we forget His gift of the prayer itself.”⁴ P. T. Forsyth

Refresher Course on Prayer for the Disciples: Luke 11:1, 11-13

James’ Teaching on Prayer: Relationship and Wisdom

Relationship:

- Avoid surface-level praying to pursue a relationship with God: James 4:1-8, 5:13-16

“Prayer is a commitment to the will of God, and all true prayer exercises its truest faith in patiently waiting to see what He has determined to do.”⁵ J. Alec Motyer

¹ Anthony C. Thiselton, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000), 793-794.

² Eugene H. Peterson, *Answering God* (New York, NY: HarperOne, 1989), 121, 122.

³ J. I. Packer, as quoted in D. A. Carson, *Praying with Paul* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2014), 19.

⁴ Peter Taylor Forsyth, *The Soul of Prayer*, American ed. reprint (originally 1916). At: <https://ccel.org/ccel/forsyth/prayer>.

⁵ J. A. Motyer, *The Message of James: The Tests of Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 199.

“God is God. If He is God, He is worthy of my worship and my service. I will find rest nowhere but in His will, and that will is infinitely, immeasurably, unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what He is up to.” “God is God. I dethrone Him in my heart if I demand that He act in ways that satisfy my ideas[s]...”⁶
Elisabeth Elliot

AMEN!

- HEBREW/GREEK: *amen* from HEBREW *emunah* (n) “trustworthiness” & *emeth* (n) “truth”; meaning “truly, surely, may it be so”.

“The effect of saying, ‘amen,’ assuming it is said with heart no less than voice, is to associate oneself with both promises and prayers in a way that makes them one’s own.”⁷ J. I. Packer

Wisdom:

- Avoid surface-level interpretation of Scripture to pursue wisdom & right understanding of difficult passages: James 1:5-8 (Mt 17:20, 21:21-22)
- Godly wisdom is different from worldly wisdom: 1 Corinthians 1:25-29 (Rev 3:14, 2 Cor 1:20)

“No matter how much we suffer, no matter our doubts, no matter how angry we get, no matter how many times we have asked in desperation...‘How long’. . . All prayer pursued far enough, becomes praise.”⁸ Eugene Peterson

Heaven: The Beginning and End of Prayer (Mt 6:9 & Jn 14:2-3)

“Any final glory of human success or destiny rises from man being God’s continual creation, and destined by Him for Him. *So we pray because we were made for prayer, and God draws us out by breathing Himself in.*”⁹ P. T. Forsyth

⁶ Elisabeth Elliot, *Through Gates of Splendor* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2005), 267-268.

⁷ J. I. Packer, *Praying the Lord’s Prayer* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007), 118.

⁸ Peterson, *Answering*, 127.

⁹ Forsyth, *Soul*. Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT / GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Of all the stories and people we have considered in these past weeks, which Bible person do you relate to most in your prayer journey? Why?
 - The crowd gathered on the hillside of the Sea of Galilee
 - The Samaritan woman at Jacob's well
 - Jeremiah the prophet
 - The author of Psalm 88 (Heman)
 - Isaiah the prophet before the Throne
 - John the Baptizer
 - Jacob the wrestler (aka "Israel")
 - Moses the exasperated leader
 - The giant-fearing Israelites
 - The father of the demonized boy
 - Elijah the prayer hero
 - Peter the disciple
 - James the brother of our Lord
2. What is one thing you have learned or changed your mind about as you have studied the Lord's Prayer?
3. Of the different clauses of our Lord's Prayer, which has become the most meaningful to your life right now?
4. Of the different quotes on your note sheet, which resonates with you most? Why?
5. What practical suggestions would you give to someone who wants to experience a deeper level of communion with God in prayer?

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!