

The Family that Prays... // The Conclusion // 09.25.16

Have you noticed? We say, "Amen!", a lot? At the end of prayers, we say, "Amen!" When we tire of hearing someone pray and they finally end, we silently say, "Amen!" In church, the pastor will say, "Can I hear an 'Amen!'" In other parts of the world, the pronunciation may be different but the word is the same, "Amen!". When people say out loud, "The Chicago Bears are terrible this year!" Others say, "Amen to that!" And, we should! Why? The word, "Amen", means "It shall be so!" It means "truth" or "true dat". To say it means "to confirm, support, or uphold" something. "Amen" is "an affirmation of agreement".

Today, we conclude our life lesson series, **"The Family that Prays Together..."** As you know, the conclusion is "Stays together!" In this series, we've talked about how prayer, speaking to God in words and thoughts, is key to family! We've talked about how families must pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17), pray and never lose heart (Lk. 18:1), be constant in prayer (Rom. 12:12b), and pray about everything (Phil. 4:6). And, we've worked our way through the prayer Jesus taught/gave to His disciples, the Lord's Prayer. Today, let's look at the Conclusion. And, let's look at WHY we should say, "Amen!", at the end!

First, we say, "Amen!", because we can say, "Our Father, who art in heaven." Second, we say, "Amen!", because we can say the THEE petitions of, "Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Third, we say, "Amen!" because we can say the WE petitions, "Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." As my family wrestles through these petitions every week, we have fully come to the realization that saying, "Amen!" is needed at the end of each part!

Today, in *The Conclusion* we say, "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen." What does this mean? *Blue card.* The Small Catechism says, "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.'" There are two incredible belief statements here for you/ your family! First, Our petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven. Second, Our Father in heaven has promised to hear our petitions.

Those are incredible truths! But, here's the biggest question: "How do I know God is able to answer the prayers of His people in Christ Jesus?" A. He alone is the King who has all good gifts in His control. B. He alone has the power to grant our petitions. C. He alone has all glory and is worthy of our praise. In Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV), Paul says, "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 glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen." And, all God's people said? "Amen!"

Let's pray. Lord, in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us how to praise God, pray for His work in the world, pray for our daily needs, and pray for help in our daily struggles. Lord, so often, we recite this prayer over and over in church and home and don't think about its' meaning. Lord, in our families, help us pray, "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen." Lord, the word, "Amen", means "so shall it be" and emphasizes that You, who have commanded us to pray, will hear our prayers and answer them as You have promised. Lord, today, in Your mercy, hear our prayers!

Amen!