

Amen

Jason A. Graham: The Disciples' Prayer Series

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹ In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This prayer, taught to the Disciples by Jesus, can lead us into revelation about God and about ourselves.

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What Does Amen Mean?

It means “the end” when we finish praying doesn't it? No. Well, it must mean “that's good preaching, brother!” Right? Nope. Amen is one of the most common words used in the Christian world, and many people have no clue what it means.

Believe it or not, the Greek word that is transliterated into the English word “amen” is the word “amen.” That’s right, it’s spelled the same. The meaning of the word, simply put, is “so be it” or “may it be fulfilled”.

The Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible has this to say about the word Amen:

It was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or discoursed, had offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded Amen, and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.

Therefore, when we pray a prayer and end it with “amen” we are stating, in the authority which God has given us, that what we have just prayed is to be so or to be fulfilled. When we respond to something that someone else says with “amen”, then we are agreeing with them and claiming ownership in our own hearts to what they have declared.

Notice I said that we say amen in authority given to us from God. This is the crux of what we need to understand about what Jesus was displaying in using this word.

WE SAY AMEN BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN US AUTHORITY.

A Partnership of Authority

You see, with the word “amen” we are no longer asking anything from God. It doesn’t mean “please”. It means “so be it”. Therefore, when we are through praying we proclaim in authority that what we have just prayed will be fulfilled. This understanding should make us think much differently about what we say before amen. We don’t just merely ask things of God—we speak things into existence according to His Word.

Isn’t that arrogant? No, it is faith. Why would we bother asking God, if we didn’t believe His word that whatever we ask in His name we will have? What is incredible about Jesus modeling the use of this word is that it shows us the partnership that God desires to have with us. It is as if the Father is saying, “Okay, you’ve asked me about it, talked to me about, cried to me about it, agonized with me about it...Now I want you to declare it to be so in My name.”

The Nature of God

I believe using Amen is a way that God shows us that we can be like Him.

Romans 4:17 (NIV) As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

In this way God is inviting us to establish His word through prayer. Therefore, we speak what God’s Word says there should be rather than what actually is. We speak Health and Life where there is sickness and death. We speak Freedom and Liberty where there is bondage and oppression. We speak Salvation where there is damnation, and we speak Light where there is darkness.

Once again, this understanding should naturally cause us to take into greater consideration what we actually pray before we say Amen. Are we in the habit of merely complaining to God, and never proclaiming faith, truth, and resolve through His Word? It is perfectly acceptable to complain to God; however, in saying Amen we should proclaim, according to God's Word, what we would like to come to pass (or rather—what He would like to come to pass). Consider the following scriptures that indicate that we work in partnership with God.

Job 22:28 (NKJV) You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.

Mark 16:20 (NIV) Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

More evidence is found for this idea in the section to follow.

The History of Authority

Consider the following ideas about authority from the scriptures in light of the fact that Jesus told us to say "Amen" or "So be it" at the end of our prayers. We will discuss six key types of Authority from scripture:

1. Original Authority
2. Stolen Authority
3. Restored Authority
4. Delegated Authority
5. Exploited Authority
6. Exerted Authority

Original Authority

What was authority like on earth in the beginning?

Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV) ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule [or have dominion] over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Here God makes it clear that he has given authority or dominion over the earth to man—to flesh and blood.

Stolen Authority

What happened to man's authority?

Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV) ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Satan took what Man gave Him when man submitted to him rather than to God. Man submitted to Satan in this way, and become a slave—**forfeiting authority.**

Romans 6:16 (NIV) Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

But did Satan Really Get Authority?

Jesus did not refute Satan's claim to have authority over the nations when Satan was tempting Him. He just refused to worship the devil.

Luke 4:5-8 (NIV) ⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ So if you worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Did Satan have authority? YES!

Although there are those that disagree, I believe that Satan was accurate in saying that he had the authority to give the Kingdoms of the earth to Jesus. Not that he would have actually given them up—that was a lie, but I believe that he did have that authority.

Why? Because God had given authority to man, and man forfeited it over to Satan, as stated earlier.

God had a plan to take back the Authority, and it **WOULD NOT** be through this man, Jesus—the Last Adam—submitting to the devil as the First Adam had done. It would be through the Last Adam submitting to God.

Restored Authority

If Man had been given Authority (with no strings attached), then man had to take it back.

God granted man Authority by His Word, and by His Word he would regain it lawfully.

God must stick to His word. He can't lie:

Numbers 23:19 (NIV) God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

So, what did God do? He sent His Word in flesh.

The Word Became Flesh

Look at what John 1 says about Jesus.

John 1:1-5 (NIV) ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 1:14 (NIV) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Father sent His Word. His word became Flesh. This is where it is important to understand the type of Authority that Jesus operated in.

Didn't Jesus take Authority back because He is God?

He acted as a Man on earth—not as God—although He was and is God. He gave us the example of a man in submission to God.

Let's look at evidence from the Gospel of Matthew about Jesus as the Son of God and the Son of Man.

Son of God

In the Gospel of Matthew:

- Jesus was called the son of God 7 times by non-disciples.
 - He confirmed it once.
- He was called it 2 times by His disciples.
 - He confirmed it once.
- He was tempted by the Devil to act as the Son of God.
 - If you are the Son of God then...
 - Turn stones to Bread (Matt 4:3)
 - Cast yourself down from the temple (Matt 4:6)
 - Get yourself off of the cross (Matt 27:40)
 - What does this mean?
 - That Jesus wasn't acting as God although He was God.
 - He came to act as the Son of Man not the Son of God.
 - This is why temptation from Satan would have been to get Jesus to act as the Son of God rather than the Son of Man.

Son of Man

In the Gospel of Matthew:

- He called Himself this 32 times.
- This also was a claim to be the Messiah from the book of Daniel.
- In other words he was saying, "I am acting as the Son of MAN not the Son of God [but I am the Son of God]."
- **Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)** ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped [*or something to hold onto*], ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!
 - This is known as the Kenosis.
 - "made himself nothing" (vs 7)—Voluntary Emptying (Greek: kenoo)
 - Not needing to grasp on to being God (vs 6)
 - Willing to be a servant (vs 7)—the Greatest Authority in the Kingdom.
 - Jesus said the greatest in the Kingdom would be servant to all.
 - So, Jesus acted as a Man.
 - He lawfully took authority back, as a man when he was obedient even to the point of death (vs 8).

So what did the Son of Man accomplish?

Among other things that are not within the scope of this teaching: He stripped Satan of his authority, and took it back for himself. After His death and resurrection, Jesus explained this:

Matthew 28:18 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Now, what has Jesus done with that authority?

Delegated Authority

Satan maintains his Power now—NOT his Authority. Jesus has delegated His authority back to us.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Even before his death, Jesus walked in authority, and began delegating it to His disciples.

Luke 10:19 (NIV) I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

- Exousia = Authority
- Dunamis = Power (where we get our word dynamite—this is spiritual force, not authority)
- "I have given you all Authority over the Power (spiritual force) of the enemy."
 - Like a traffic guard.

- A person with a whistle and a badge does not have the power to stop a line of vehicles—they can't physically stop them from moving.
- They do have the Authority behind their whistle and their badge to hold their arm up in the air, palm out toward the longest line of traffic, and every vehicle will stop.
- That's Authority!
- That's what we have in Christ.
- We can do the same and even Greater works than Him:
[John 14:12 \(NIV\)](#) I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Exploited Authority

Now that Jesus has restored authority to man, and delegated authority to us, we are responsible for not letting our authority be exploited.

- Jesus came and gave US the advantage over the evil one.
- Now if Satan seems to have authority, it is because men are submitting to him—He Exploits our Authority.
 - [Romans 6:16 \(NIV\)](#) Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?
 - This is why we see areas all over the world where evil dictators rule, warlords conquer, human trafficking thrives, the death industry makes billions, and attempts at genocide still take place.
- We, under the authority that is now in Christ, can resist the devil and he will not be able to exploit the authority we have been given.
 - [James 4:7 \(NIV\)](#) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - [Ephesians 6:11 \(NIV\)](#) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
 - [2 Corinthians 2:10-11 \(NIV\)](#) ¹⁰ If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven--if there was anything to forgive--I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.
 - [1 Peter 5:8-9 \(NIV\)](#) ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.
- We must use our Words and Actions to establish Christ's Authority here on earth now and in our own lives.

Exerted Authority

Now we are to exert our delegated authority in Prayer, Proclamation and Prophecy.

I don't intend to necessarily break these three things down individually. I want to establish the basic principle of HOW we stand in the Authority of Jesus now.

- God has chosen to require our words to be used properly.
 - **2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (NIV)** ¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.
 - God wanted to heal the Land—He required man to establish it through prayer.
 - **Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV)** "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.
 - Once again, God did not want to pour out His wrath, but He had to find a man to establish it through intercession or He would have to—in order to be a just God.
 - **Matthew 16:19 (NIV)** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
 - We have the Keys to release and bind what God establishes in heaven
 - How does He use our words? Through our prayers, proclamation, and prophecy.
 - **Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)** ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
 - God's word will always accomplish what He sends it to accomplish.
 - Now through our prayers and proclamations He establishes things on earth by making our Words His own.
 - **Isaiah 44:24-26 (NIV)** ²⁴"This is what the Lord says-- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, ²⁵who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, ²⁶who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be built,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'
 - This shows that God establishes and confirms the words of his servants.
 - **Revelation 8:3-5 (NIV)** ³Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. ⁴The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. ⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

- This shows us how God literally uses our prayers to be thrown back into the earth to establish what He wants done.
- He makes our words His own, and His words do not return to Him void.
- Just as Faith allows us to stand on God's Word—our prayers allow God to stand on our Words.
- He is waiting on you to Decree something that He can establish (Job 22: 28)
- This is how we exert the authority that Christ has delegated to us.

So, when you use the word "Amen," think about the words you have given God to accomplish.