

HC 128-129 – How to End Your Prayer!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: When you end a job interview you argue that you are qualified for the job and able to do the job, and you contend that your boss will be pleased with your work and he will praise you for your work.

On the other hand, when you think of the job you have to do for the Lord, you don't end your prayer with how qualified and able you are. You go and say instead: "God, you are the one who makes me able and you are the one who deserves all praise for what I do." Let us look at this in more detail today.

Our headings are:

Lord, You are able to do what we ask

Lord, You are deserving of all praise and glory for helping us to do our work

Lord, You are going to do what we ask through Christ

Our goals are: That you will realize that prayer is not abstract or therapeutic speech, **that you will pray to your able Father to give you gifts so you can build his kingdom**, and **that you will praise him for helping you build his kingdom!**

128 Q. WHAT DOES YOUR CONCLUSION TO THIS PRAYER MEAN?

A. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever means, We have made all these requests of you because, as our all-powerful king, you not only want to, but are able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

Lord, You are able to do what we ask

1. You can make these 6 petitions of the Lord's Prayer to God because he is willing to give you them.

You are his precious possession by blood – the blood of Jesus, and by baptism - and God assures you he will do what you ask.

Romans 10: 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 13 For "whosoever calls on the name of the **LORD** shall be saved."

There are no "if's," "and's," or "but's." You call and God will save. He is willing because of Christ's work!

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

He is our Father...and he desire to give us what is good.

2. You can make these 6 petitions to God because he is able to do them.

It would make no sense calling on someone who might be willing but unable to do what you ask. God is your Father and he is also the King of the world and able to do anything you ask. He controls all things over all times. He is in heaven!

Ephesians 3: 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...

And God knows exactly what you need. God is never surprised by your needs.

If you are tempted, he knows how to bring you through. He can prevent you from being tempted! He can deliver you when you fall into sin!

2Peter 2: 9 then the **Lord knows how to deliver the godly** out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

For example: Daniel described God's ability to deliver the Jews in a temporary deliverance from Babylonian captivity and a permanent deliverance from spiritual captivity through Jesus.

Daniel 9: 4 And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 7 "O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face... 8 "O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. 9 "To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. 18 "O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations... 19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

Noticed the word "keeps" in Daniel 9:4. "Keeps" doesn't mean "keeps in his heart or in his pocket." "Keeps" means that God "fulfills with his hands what he promises."

3. God is willing, God is able, and God delights to do what is good for his bride.

A man might help you to move to your new home out of obligation, not because he wants to, but God has pleasure when he does good for you. Isaiah spoke of God's delight in his bride.

Isaiah 62:4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called **Hephzibah, and your land Beulah;** For the **LORD delights in you**, And your land shall be married.

Heph-zibah means “my delight is in her.” Beulah means “wife.” You are God’s closest relations. He does what is best for his close relations. Don’t you? He loves his bride and loves to fulfill her wishes. Which man doesn’t build shelves for the wife he loves? Some even build full pantries. And you do this even with your limited ability to love. The Lord, with his great love, delights to overrun the enemies of his Bride to keep her safe and happy. And he wants to be near his bride. He wants her to reproduce...to have children...and to bring them both joy!

Lord, You are deserving of all praise and glory for helping us to do our work

1. Because of who the Lord is (He is great!) and what he has done for you (God is good!), you praise and glorify his name.

You ascribe to the Lord “eternal sovereignty, omnipotency, and glorious excellency...” (WLC)

You say, “for yours in the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.”

1Chronicles 29: 10 Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. 13 "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name.

Satan is only a prince who has been stripped of his power. God is King with unlimited power and glory. **The Pharaoh's, the Caesar's, and the kings of England have all lost their power and glory.**

Isaiah said he was of unclean inglorious lips.

David cried about his sins because they made people run away from him. He became a stench.

Moses had to turn away his face from God otherwise the glory of God would have overwhelmed him because of his sin.

God is the only one who is truly praiseworthy! He is full of glory!

2. We call these praises of God “doxologies.”

Doxologies usually come at the end of worship or end of prayers. (Doksas=glory. Logos=words.) **You find doxologies in the Old and New Testaments.**

1Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

“Name” in Psalm 115:1 represents the person. God is a great person so his people glorify him.
God is a good person and he does good to his people and so his people glorify him.

3. Believing that God is great and God is good will strengthen you faith in Jesus.

(Faith in confident hope based on knowledge of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for you.) **With strong faith, you can confidently make these 6 petitions.**

Look at the example of Jehoshaphat's plea for help because of his faith!

2Chronicles 20: 6 and said (Jehoshaphat): "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? 11 "here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

Asa made a similar plea for help on account of his faith.

2Chronicles 14: 11 And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"

Lord, You are going to do what we ask through Christ - Amen

129 Q. WHAT DOES THAT LITTLE WORD “AMEN” EXPRESS? A. Amen means, This is sure to be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer, than that I really desire what I pray for.

1. Pentecostals and some Baptists brothers, use “amen” to either acknowledge a fact (People are living in sin! Amen!) Or they simply say “amen” to motivate the preacher to keep on going and speaking the truth. (The Devil is destroying the church. Amen.)

But those are inappropriate ways to use the word “amen.”

2. So what does “amen” mean?

a. “Amen” means you desire that God will fulfill what he has said.

(Do you see the silliness of those who say “amen” when the preacher say “the Devil is destroying the church?”)

b. “Amen” means you have an assurance and confidence that God would fulfill what he has said.

Since this is an assurance, only a Christian can properly say “Amen.” The non-Christian does not have this confidence. He has no basis for this confidence. Look at the wonderful confidence Christians have to say “Amen!” Before you ask, God answers.

Isaiah 65: 24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Even when you fall short of doing what is acceptable, God does not give up.

2Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

2Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen...

But don't forget that while God gives you what you need, your work is primarily to make God's name hallowed - revered.

3. But make sure you listen and agree first.

Look at how understanding is necessary for agreement!

1Corinthians 14:16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?

No one signs his name without agreement. So don't say “Amen” without understanding!

So listen to the prayer, and when the preacher says “in Jesus name we pray,” say a clear “amen.”

Conclusion:

In your closing argument you are confidently acknowledging that God is able to give the things you need to do the things he has called you to do, and you are acknowledging that God deserves all glory, honor, and praise for giving you what you need to do the job he has called you to do. And you say “amen” because you desire and have confidence that God will do what he has said he will do.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Believe that God is willing and able –and even delights- to meet your needs. He is willing because he is your Father through Jesus' death in your place. He will do what is good for you. As your Father in heaven, it shows he has power to do and give you everything you need. You have no ability to meet your needs!

2. Take the time to praise God for who he is (his ability) and what he has done and will do for you (his willingness). Take the time to pray. Pray specifically. Don't pray in generalities. Read the Psalms to see God's greatness. Detail his goodness in your life.

3. Then use the things God has provided through your prayer to do the work he has called you to do.

4. When you say “Amen” at the end of the prayer, let it not be a sigh of relief that the prayer is done, but that is it a strong spiritual desire that God would honor your requests.

5. If you are struggling with praying it is likely that you are struggling with faith or humility. So take time to learn how much you need God and how great is his love for a helpless sinner like you!

Finally, a word to non-Christians: While prayer is essential for your duties on earth, you can't pray to God unless your prayer comes through Jesus Christ. There is no prayer without his sacrifice. May you desire to accept Christ's sacrifice on the cross as your own so you can have access to the Father in heaven. May you do so today.