

Prayer

I. Definition: Prayer is communication with God

II. Types of prayers: (Matthew 6:9-13)

- A. Adoration
- B. Confession
- C. Thanksgiving
- D. Supplication

III. Biblical Instructions concerning prayer

A. Good and acceptable prayer

1. Matthew 6:5-6 - Sincerity (see also Isaiah 29:13)
2. Matthew 6:7-8 - Thoughtfulness
3. Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8 - Persistency (see also I Thess 5:17)
4. Luke 18:10-14 - Humility (see also James 4:6)
5. Luke 21:36; Colossians 4:2; I Peter 4:7 - Alertness
6. John 15:7; I John 3:21-22 - A holy life (see also Prov. 15:29)
7. I Corinthians 7:5 - Self Denial? (see Acts 13:3; 14:23; Lk 2:37; Mt 6:16)
8. I John 5:14 - According to His will (see Matt 6:10) Submit to His will
9. In Jesus name -
 - a. Colossians 3:17 - Do all in the name of Christ (see Phil. 2:9)
 - b. Ephesians 2:18; I Timothy 2:5 - Christ our mediator (I Jn 2:1)
 - c. John 14:6; 13-16; 23-24 - Ask in the Name of Jesus

“When I go in the name of another I deny myself, I take not only his name, but himself, and what he is, instead of myself, and what I am.” - *Andrew Murray*

10. James 1:5-7; Matthew 17:14-20 - In faith (see also I Jn 5:4)

1. Meaning of “Amen”

a. “*amen* (αμην, 281) is transliterated from Hebrew into both Greek and English. “Its meanings may be seen in such passages as Deut. 7:9, ‘the faithful (the Amen) God;,’ Isa. 49:7, ‘Jehovah that is faithful.’ 65:16, ‘the God of truth,’ marg., ‘the God of Amen.’ And if God is faithful His testimonies are precepts are “sure (*amen*),” Ps. 19:7; 111:7, as are also His warnings, Hos. 5:9, and promises, Isa. 33:16; 55:3. ‘Amen’ is used of men also, e.g., Prov. 25:13.

There are cases where the people used it to express their assent to a law and their willingness to submit to the penalty attached to the breach of it.....Once in the NT ‘Amen’ is a title of Christ, Rev. 3:14,.....The individual also dai ‘Amen’ to express his ‘let it be so’ in response to the Divine ‘thus it shall be,’ Rev. 22:20.....The Lord Jesus often used ‘Amen,’ translated ‘verily,’ to introduce new revelations of the mind of God.....” - *Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, 1985, p. 25

b. “*Amen* is one of the few words in our religious vocabulary that remains in Hebrew, like *alleluia* and *hosanna*. It is virtually impossible to translate. Various attempts have been made: “so be it,” “may it be so,” “truly,” or, more archaic still, “verily.” Biblical scholars in this century have studied closely the ancient roots of many Hebrews words, and they suggest that if translated literally, *amen* would actually mean something like, “I will drive my tent peg into that.” No wonder we are content to keep the Hebrew word.

To grasp the force of such an expression, consider the ancient nomadic desert culture in which the Hebrew language developed. A desert can be a ravishingly beautiful but very treacherous place: brutally hot by day, viciously cold at night. The place chosen to anchor one’s tent determines whether this shelter will withstand the desert winds that can come so suddenly. It is a matter of life and death. Do the pegs of the tent grasp shifting sand or stable, solid soil?

Seen in this light, *amen* is much more than a mere nod of agreement. *Amen* is a cry of complete reliance, of heartfelt abandonment to some truth or someone who is true and trustworthy....” - *Schellman, James And All God’s People Said...:Why AMEN is one word worth repeating. Christian Reader, Jan/Feb, 1997, p.10-12*

C. Hindrances to Prayer

1. I Peter 3:12 - Sinful lifestyle (see also Prov. 28:9; Isaiah 59:1-2)

2. James 4:3 - With the wrong motive
3. I Peter 3:7 - Marital Strife
4. Matthew 5:20-24 - Problems with the brethren that are not dealt with
5. Matthew 6:14-15 - Unforgiveness (see also James 2:13; Titus 3:5-6)