

Jude 1:24-25 (LD 52, Q/A 129) “Now and Forever, Amen”

For the Children: What do you do when you really agree strongly with someone else who is speaking? Do you nod your head? Or say, “Yes! I agree!” or “Uh-huh!” The Lord teaches us to show our agreement with His speaking by saying, “Amen!” “Amen” means that God is speaking the truth, that He will surely keep His Word and that we trust what He says. **Questions:** What do you usually think when you hear “Amen” in a prayer or sermon? How can we be so sure that God will keep His Word? Why is it important for prayer that we believe that God will surely do what He has said He will do?

Introduction:

First Point: The Meaning of “Amen”

- 1) Faithfulness and Truth: “Amen” is derived from a Hebrew word meaning firmness, certainty, faithfulness and truth. It was therefore used to express agreement, affirmation and trust in God’s Word - or sometimes the words of men
- 2) Assurance about God’s Character & Works: The “Amen” is part of God’s Word, hence it is His assurance that His Word may be trusted when it speaks of His character or works. His Word is firm because of His power, faithfulness and unchangeable nature. Since that is also the basis for believing in prayer, “Amen” is a proper conclusion to prayer. Hence also Q. 129 sees the “Amen” at the end of the Lord’s Prayer as indicating that God really listens to our godly prayers and will surely answer them favourably. Our confidence lies in Him, not our own faith in what we pray – since our prayers have much sin mixed in with them
- 3) Glory, Majesty, Dominion and Honour: The “Amens” of the Bible are frequently associated with the confession of God’s glory, majesty, dominion and authority – as in Jude 1:25, the Lord’s Prayer, Ps. 72:19; 1 Tim. 1:17, 6:16; 1 Pet. 4:11; Rev. 5:13-14, 7:12 etc. The point is that the Lord’s glory and power are so great and so certain, that we should have confidence He can do anything He desires and answer any prayer as He wills
- 4) Our Response: When we say “Amen” we are also expressing our own faith that God will keep His Word, and that we will obey Him – also that He deserves to be praised by us accordingly

Second Point: Jude’s Use of “Amen”

- 1) Affirming God’s Character: Jude especially singles out God’s “glory” (the radiance of His being that evokes such reverence); His “majesty” (inherent greatness and dignity); “dominion” (manifested power and might); His “authority” (His right to exercise power freely); His eternity (“before all time, now and forever”) and that He is our only Saviour. These attributes create the certainty that “Amen” expresses
- 2) Affirming God’s Works: Jude’s “Amen” also affirms God’s actions – of preserving the believer, guarding you from stumbling, from a fatal spiritual fall; and of finally presenting you before Himself as an unblemished offering, acceptable to God in Christ the Perfect Sacrifice
- 3) Why This Is Needed: These reassurances of God’s character and works were needed, because Jude warns of wicked men infiltrating the Church and seeking to lead God’s people astray. He also commands us to seek to snatch some from the fire. Such difficult and dangerous activities need God’s “sure to be” Person and works to support them
- 4) To Him Be the Glory: Jude does not forget that such glorious attributes and works demand our response of praise, as well as our trust. The heart of His exhortation is “To God be the glory...Amen” The “Amen” asserts that God certainly deserves such praise for His Person and works

Conclusion: