

# Weaving the Word

*Amen*

Part 44 – September 6, 2015

*Welcome to where we're turning to Jesus and learning to pray!*



**The Lord's Prayer is not a *prayer*.**

**It's a guide. A pattern. A template. A tool.**

Jesus wasn't praying it, **He was teaching it, to His young apprentices, as a way to pray *without* mechanical, religious, repetition.** (Mat 6:7)

As Jews, they recited the 10-minute, 18-part, Amidah,<sup>1</sup> three times a day, six days a week. And, it took 'em 2.5 years to break free.



And, when they finally do, **they don't say "teach us a prayer", but "teach us to pray";** (Luke 11:1) because, **it's a way to pray, not a prayer to recite.**

**That's why Jesus says it differently.** And, why He says to pray "*in this manner*", not "*with these words*". And why ***nowhere* in the New Testament does an author instruct the churches to recite it.**



**It's an index, to pray, pause, and personalize.**

**It's an *antidote* to perfunctory prayer; a remedy for monotony; and, a brilliantly abbreviated Amidah.**

Its simplicity is deceptive; **it's as comprehensive as it is concise.** It took us all summer to unpack it! And *if* we follow it, as Jesus taught it, we'll never pray the same. *Amen?*

We're *finishing* with the final word on *the final word on prayer*: Amen! (Mat 6:13) ***Amen* is often used incorrectly as a synonym for what?**

*"For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever ... the end."*

When my daughter was young and my dad was pastor, in the middle of a message, a couple men said, "Amen!" Shaz whispers, "Why'd they say that?" I said, "They're agreeing." She says, "Oh. I thought they wanted him to stop talking."

***Amen* is Hebrew, for *truly*, or *right on*, or *so be it*.**

<sup>1</sup> The Amidah is covered in the sermons: *Praying Like Children*, 5/31/15; and *The Lord's Pattern*, 6/7/15

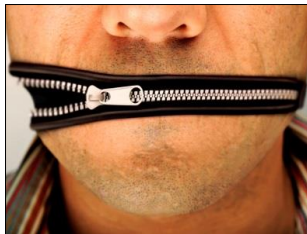
More than *fifty times in the New Testament*, when Jesus emphasizes something, **He BEGINS with: “AMEN, I say to you ...”** (Mat 26:21 NAB) It’s also translated as *verily; truly; or, assuredly.*



**Like the “I do” at a wedding;** whether it’s at the beginning, the middle, or the end, **it’s a vow to act on the truth you acknowledge.**

Amen? *Amen!* Let’s practice our Prayer Guides!

It begins with a good reminder: *“God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.”* (Eccl 5:2b NKJ)



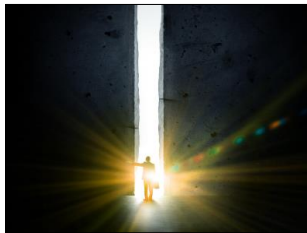
Who needs to be informed? *God?* **When I close my mouth, and open my ears, He speaks to my heart.**

**Pray: “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father” -- our Papa.**



**Pause and Personalize: God wants to be met with a greeting of childlike affection. Why? He wants a verbal hug.**

**How can I best express childlike affection to my devoted Dad?** I love you Papa. Mornin’ Abba. You’re my Dad. And I’m your child. Kid. Son. Daughter. Etc. What *feels most natural to you?*



**PRAY: “In heaven,” -- above all, and in full control.**

**Pause and Personalize: Jesus reminds us to balance God’s comforting intimacy with His commanding majesty.**



**How can I best express my respect for His absolute authority?** Almighty. All-knowing. King of Kings. I Submit. Surrender. Salute. Lean on. Bow to.

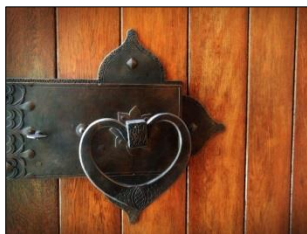
**Pray: “Hallowed be Your name,” -- You are the very definition of reality, righteousness, and redemption.**

**Pause and Personalize: The marvel of His nature must move us to praise.**



**How can I best express my gratitude for our Papa’s perfect goodness?** Holy. Radiant. Pure. Faithful. Savior. Redeemer. Healer.

**Pray: “Your kingdom come.” -- into the hearts of all who will receive You as their Savior and Lord.**



**Pause and Personalize: Ambassadors of reconciliation seek first to fill the kingdom. Whose salvation can I pray for, and watch for opportunity to encourage and inspire?**

Whose name first comes to mind? Then whose?



Pray: ***“Your will be done”*** -- in our own heart, as we mature in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. ***“On earth as it is in heaven.”*** -- Immediately, completely, and passionately.

Pause and Personalize: Jesus is the Vine. I’m the branch. God’s the Gardener. (John 15:1-5) And, He expects a crop. ‘Cause, if the fruit ain’t growin’, I’m dyin’.



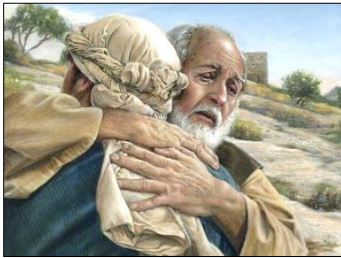
In what ways do I need to change and grow to become more like Jesus? Pick your *top two* underdeveloped fruit.

Pray: ***“Give us this day our daily bread.”*** -- No more, no less, except for that which we can share.



Pause and Personalize: We’re so blessed, we pray to resist the bread! But, like manna, (Ex 16:19-20) our blessings become infested if we hoard ‘em. This also covers our clothing, shelter, employment, and money.

How can I be more generous with my abundance, and more trusting with my lack? What should I share more? What should I trust more?



Pray: ***“And forgive us our debts,”*** -- anything we’ve done that violates our commitment to Christ.

Pause and Personalize: Our failures – as followers, not phonies – don’t make us unsaved, but, they *do* make us un-close, unclean, uncomfortable, and unhappy.



What do I need to confess, that’s hindering my closeness with Christ?

Pray: ***“As we forgive our debtors.”*** -- surrendering our desire to get even, and trusting in the Lord.

Pause and Personalize: We’re asked to offer the same grace we ask to receive; because, our forgiveness is an expression of our gratefulness.



Who can I forgive, in grateful response to God’s forgiveness to me? *Again*, the first couple names that come to mind.

Pray: ***“And do not lead us into temptation,”*** -- lead us away from, or lead us out of, the lure of sin.

Pause and Personalize: God won’t tempt us. Won’t allow tempting beyond our tolerance. But, God will drive us to the dance so we can mature. (Jam 1:13; 1 Cor 10:13; Mat 4:1)

Which temptations do I need strength to steer clear of, or to stand up under?



**Pray:** *“But deliver us from the evil one.” -- whenever the wickedness that is against us, overcomes us.*

**Pause and Personalize:** We must quickly recognize it, regret it, and repent from it. If you’re going under, reach out. Resist your enemy, *not your Only Hope.*

**Am I in need of rescue? Am I resisting the Life Guard?**



**Pray:** *“For Yours is the kingdom” -- and it has been firmly established through the sacrifice of Christ.*

**Pause and Personalize:** Salvation! Restoration! Rebirth! New life! How can I best express my ongoing commitment to the rule and reign of Jesus? Lord. Master. I follow You *today.* Lead. Speak. Teach. At work. School. Home.

**Where do I least like to be led?**



**PRAY:** *“And the power and the glory forever.” -- the supremacy and radiance of an eternal Savior.*



**Pause and Personalize:** How can I best praise the unending, unparalleled, strength and splendor of Jesus? I trust You. Love You. Adore You. I’m Yours. My life. My heart. My family.

**Which few words speak your heart?**

**PRAY:** *“Amen.”*

**Pause and Personalize:** With all of my heart, I pledge to carry out what I have prayed.

Because, *that’s what amen means.*

So, be careful with that little word.

Remember, **when you say “Amen,” you’ve said “I do” to God!**

**And, you’ve made a vow to act on the truth you acknowledge.**

“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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.” (Mat 6:9-13 NKJ)

## The Amidah a.k.a. Shemoneh Esreh

**Opening:** Adonai (LORD), open my lips that my mouth may declare your praise.

**Blessing of the Fathers:** Blessed are You, Yahweh my Elohim (GOD), and Elohim of my forefathers, Elohim of Avraham, Elohim of Yitzchak, Elohim of Ya’acov. The great and mighty, awesome Elohim, the supreme, Elohim, who bestows beneficial kindness and creates everything, Who recalls the kindness of the Patriarchs and has brought a Redeemer to their children’s children, for His name’s sake, with love. O King, Helper, Savior, and Shield. Blessed are You, Yahweh, the shield of Avraham.

**Blessing of Yahweh’s Might:** You are eternally mighty my adon, the resurrector of the dead; you are abundantly able to save. You sustain the living with kindness, resurrect the dead with abundant mercy, support the fallen, heal the sick, release the confined, and maintain the faith of those who sleep in the dust. Who is like You O master of mighty deeds, who is comparable to You O king, Who caused death and restores life and makes salvation sprout. And you are faithful to resurrect the dead. Blessed are You, Yahweh who resurrects the dead.

**Blessing of Kedushah:** We shall sanctify Your name in this world, just as they sanctify it in Heaven above. As it is written by your holy prophet, “And one angel shall call another and say: Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh T’zvaot, the whole world is filled with His glory.” Those facing them say, “Blessed, blessed is the glory of Yahweh from this place.” And in Your holy writings the following is written, “Yahweh shall reign forever, your Elohim O T’zion from generation to generation. HalleluYah!” And from generation to generation we shall relate your greatness and for infinite eternities we shall proclaim Your holiness. Your praise O Yahweh shall not leave our mouth forever and ever. For You, O Elohim, are a great and Holy King. You are holy and Your name is holy, and everyday holy ones will praise you forever. Blessed are You, Yahweh, the holy Elohim.

**Blessing for Insight:** You graciously endow man with wisdom and teach insight to frail mortal. So endow us graciously from Yourself with wisdom, insight, and discernment. Blessed are You, Yahweh, gracious giver of wisdom.

**Blessing of Repentance:** Bring us back, our Father, to Your torah, and draw us near our King to your service, and influence us to return in perfect repentance before You. Blessed are You, Yahweh, who desires repentance.

**Blessing of Forgiveness:** Forgive us, our Father, for we have sinned; pardon us our, our King, for we have willfully sinned; for You pardon and forgive. Blessed are You, Yahweh, the gracious one who pardons abundantly.

**Blessing of Redemption:** Behold our affliction, take up our grievance and redeem us speedily for Your name’s sake with love. For You are a powerful Redeemer. Blessed are You, Yahweh, the Redeemer of Isra’el.

**Blessing of Health and Healing:** Heal us, Yahweh, and we will be healed, save us and we will be saved, for you are our praise. Bring complete recovery for all our ailments, and may it be Your will, Yahweh, my Elohim, and Elohim of my forefathers, that You quickly send a complete recovery from heaven above, spiritual and physical healing to the patients (name the sick) for they are among the patients of Isra’el. For You are Elohim, the faithful and compassionate Healer. Blessed are You, Yahweh, who heals the sick of His people Isra’el.

**Blessing for a Year of Prosperity:** Bless on our behalf, O Yahweh our Elohim, this year and all its kinds of crops for the best, and give dew and rain for a blessing on the face of the earth. Satisfy us from Your bounty and bless our year like the best of years. Blessed are You, Yahweh, who blesses the years.

**Blessing of the Ingathering of Exiles:** Sound the shofar for our freedom, raise the banner to gather our exiles and gather us together from the four corners of the earth. Blessed are You, Yahweh, who gathers in the dispersed of His people of Isra'el.

**Blessing of the Restoration of Justice:** Restore our judges as in earliest times and our counselors as at first, and remove from us sorrow and groan. Reign over us, You, Yahweh alone with kindness and compassion. Justify us through judgment. Blessed are You, Yahweh, the King who loves righteousness and judgment.

**Blessing of Spiritual Warfare:** And for slanderers let there be no hope and may all wickedness perish in an instant. And may all Your enemies be speedily cut down. May You speedily uproot, smash, cast down, and humble the sinners speedily in our days. Blessed are You, Yahweh, who breaks enemies and humbles sinners.

**Blessing on the Righteous:** On the righteous and on the devout, on the elders of Your people the Family of Isra'el, on the remnant of their scholars, on the righteous converts and on ourselves, may Your compassion be aroused, Yahweh our Elohim, and give goodly reward to all who sincerely believe in Your Name. Put our lot with them forever, and we will not feel ashamed, for we trust in You. Blessed are You, Yahweh, mainstay and assurance of the righteous.

**Blessing of the Rebuilding of Yerushaliym:** And to Yerushaliym, Your city, may You return in compassion, and may You rest within it, as You have spoken. May You rebuild it soon in our days as an eternal structure, and may You speedily establish the throne of Dawid within it. Blessed are You, Yahweh, the builder of Yerushaliym.

**Blessing of the Dawidic Reign:** And the offspring of Your servant Dawid, may You speedily cause to flourish, and enhance His pride through Your salvation. For we hop in Your salvation all day long. Blessed are You, Yahweh, Who causes the pride of salvation to flourish.

**Blessing of the Acceptance of Prayer:** Hear our voice, Yahweh our Elohim, pity and be compassionate to us. And accept with compassion and favor our prayer. For Elohim, who hears prayers and supplications are You. From before Yourself, our King, turn us not away empty-handed, for You hear the prayer of Your people Isra'el with compassion. Blessed are You, Yahweh, who hears prayer.

**Blessing of Temple Service:** Be favorable, Yahweh our Elohim, toward Your people Isra'el and their prayer and restore the service to the Holy of Holies of Your Temple. The fire offerings of Isra'el and their prayers accept with love and favor, and may the service of Your people Isra'el always be favorable to You. May our eyes behold Your return to T'zion on compassion. Blessed are You Yahweh, Who restores His presence to T'zion.

**Blessing of Modim:** We gratefully thank You, for it is You Who are Yahweh, our Elohim and the Elohim of our forefathers for all eternity. You are the Rock of our lives, the shield of our salvation are You from generation to generation. We shall thank You and relate Your praise – for our lives, which are committed to Your power and for our souls that are entrusted to You. For Your miracles that are with us every day and for Your wonders and favors in every season – evening, morning, and afternoon. The Blessed One, for Your compassions never ceases and Your kindness never ends. Always will we put our trust in You. For all these, may Your Name be blessed and exalted, our King continually forever and ever. Everything alive will gratefully acknowledge You, Selah! And everyone will praise Your Name sincerely, O Elohim of our salvation and help, Selah! Blessed are You, Yahweh, Your name is the Beneficent One and to You it is fitting to give praise.

**Blessing for Shalom:** Establish shalom, goodness, blessing, graciousness, kindness, and compassion upon us and upon all of Your people Isra'el. Bless us, our Father, all of us as one, with the light of Your countenance, for with the light of Your Torah of life and a love of kindness, righteousness, blessing, compassion, life and peace. And may it be good in Your eyes to bless Your people Isra'el, in every season and in every hour with Your shalom. Blessed are You, Yahweh, who blesses His people with shalom.