

The Lord's Prayer: The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.* Amen.

What does this mean? That I should be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and heard; for He Himself has commanded us so to pray, and has promised that He will hear us. Amen, Amen; that is, Yea, yea, it shall be so.

** These words were not in Luther's Small Catechism.*

1. The Lord's Prayer begins with our Lord's invitation to pray, with Him, to "our Father" in heaven. After including all our needs it concludes with the "Amen." What confidence does our Lord encourage us to have in our prayers? (Matthew 21:20–22; Mark 11:23–25) Why? (John 11:17–27; 14:13–14; 16:22–24)
2. Prayer rests on faith in our justification in Christ. (James 5:13–20) If our prayers don't seem "to be working," to where is God meaning to turn us?

From Luther's *Large Catechism* (III: Lord's Prayer)

¹¹⁹ Thus God has briefly placed before us all the distress which may ever come upon us, so that we might have no excuse whatever for not praying. But all depends upon this, that we learn also to say Amen, that is, that we do not doubt that our prayer is surely heard, and [what we pray] shall be done. For this is nothing else than the word of undoubting faith, which does not pray at a venture, but knows that God does not lie to him, since He has promised to grant it. ¹²⁰ Therefore, where there is no such faith, there cannot be true prayer either.

¹²¹ It is, therefore, a pernicious delusion of those who pray in such a manner that they dare not from the heart say yea and positively conclude that God hears them, but remain in doubt and say, How should I be so bold as to boast that God hears my prayer? For I am but a poor sinner, etc.

¹²² The reason for this is, they regard not the promise of God, but their own work and worthiness, whereby they despise God and reproach Him with lying, and therefore they receive nothing.

¹²³ As St. James 1:6 says: But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.

¹²⁴ Behold, such importance God attaches to the fact that we are sure we do not pray in vain, and that we do not in any way despise our prayer.