

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, ^p being watchful and thankful.

Col 4:3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door ^q for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery ^r of Christ, for which I am in chains. ^s

Col 4:4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Col 4:5 Be wise ^t in the way you act toward outsiders; ^u make the most of every opportunity. ^v

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, ^w seasoned with salt, ^x so that you may know how to answer everyone.

How does Paul teach us we should pray?

Watchful -

Thankful -

Examples of Paul's prayers / greetings:

Ro 1:5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace ^l and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles ^m to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁿ

Ro 1:6 And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ^o

Ro 1:7 To all in Rome who are loved by God ^p and called to be saints: ^q

Ro 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches ^y of the wisdom and ⁷⁵ knowledge of God! ^z How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ^a

Ro 11:34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ^{76 b}

Ro 11:35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" ^{77 c}

Ro 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. ^d To him be the glory forever!

Amen. ^e

1Co 1:2 To the church of God ^d in Corinth, ^e to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called ^f to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name ^g of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

1Co 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ^h

1Co 1:4 I always thank God for you ⁱ because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

1Co 1:5 For in him you have been enriched ^j in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge ^k —

1Co 1:6 because our testimony ^l about Christ was confirmed in you.

1Co 1:7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift ^m as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁿ

1Co 1:8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless ^o on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ^p

1Co 1:9 God, who has called you ^q into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, ^r is faithful. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ^r

1Co 16:21 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. ^b

1Co 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord ^c —a curse ^d be on him. Come, O Lord ^{52 !e}

1Co 16:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ^f

1Co 16:24 My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. **Amen.** ⁵³

2Co 1:2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ^g

Gal 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ^h

Gal 1:4 who gave himself for our sins ⁱ to rescue us from the present evil age, ^j according to the will of our God and Father, ^k

Gal 1:5 to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.** ^l

Eph 1:15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus ⁱ and your love for all the saints, ^j

Eph 1:16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, ^k remembering you in my prayers. ^l

Eph 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, ^m may give you the Spirit ⁶ of wisdom ⁿ and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Eph 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened ^o in order that you may know the hope to which he has called ^p you, the riches ^q of his glorious inheritance ^r in the saints, ^s

Eph 1:19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power ^t is like the working of his mighty strength, ^u

Eph 1:20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead ^v and seated him at his right hand ^w in the heavenly realms, ^x

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, ^y and every title ^z that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ^a

Eph 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet ^b and appointed him to be head ^c over everything for the church,

Eph 1:23 which is his body, ^d the fullness of him ^e who fills everything in every way. ^f

Eph 3:14 For this reason I kneel ^d before the Father,

Eph 3:15 from whom his whole family ⁸ in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches ^e he may strengthen you with power ^f through his Spirit in your inner being, ^g

Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts ^h through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted ⁱ and established in love,

Eph 3:18 may have power, together with all the saints, ^j to grasp how wide and long and high and deep ^k is the love of Christ,

Eph 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge ^l —that you may be filled ^m to the measure of all the fullness of God. ⁿ

Eph 3:20 Now to him who is able ^o to do immeasurably more than all we ask ^p or imagine, according to his power ^q that is at work within us,

Eph 3:21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! **Amen.** ^r

Phil 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you. ^g

Phil 1:4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray ^h with joy

Phil 1:5 because of your partnership ⁱ in the gospel from the first day ^j until now,

Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion ^k until the day of Christ Jesus. ^l

Phil 1:7 It is right ^m for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; ⁿ for whether I am in chains ^o or defending ^p and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

Phil 1:8 God can testify ^q how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Phil 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love^r may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,^s

Phil 1:10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,^t

Phil 1:11 filled with the fruit of righteousness^u that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs^k according to his glorious riches^l in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:20 To our God and Father^m be glory for ever and ever. Amen.ⁿ

Col 1:2 To the holy and faithful¹ brothers in Christ at Colosse:

Grace^d and peace to you from God our Father.^{2e}

Col 1:3 We always thank God,^f the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

Col 1:4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love^g you have for all the saints^h —

Col 1:5 the faith and love that spring from the hopeⁱ that is stored up for you in heaven^j and that you have already heard about in the word of truth,^k the gospel

Col 1:6 that has come to you. All over the world^l this gospel is bearing fruit^m and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

To the church of the Thessalonians^c in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.^{2d}

1Th 1:2 We always thank God for all of you,^e mentioning you in our prayers.^f

1Th 1:3 We continually remember before our God and Father^g your work produced by faith,^h your labor prompted by love,ⁱ and your endurance inspired by hope^j in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Th 1:4 For we know, brothers loved by God,^k that he has chosen you,

1Th 1:5 because our gospel^l came to you not simply with words, but also with power,^m with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You knowⁿ how we lived among you for your sake.

1Th 1:6 You became imitators of us^o and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering,^p you welcomed the message with the joy^q given by the Holy Spirit.^r

1Th 1:7 And so you became a model^s to all the believers in Macedonia^t and Achaia.^u

1Th 1:8 The Lord's message^v rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.^w Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

1Th 1:9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned^x to God from idols^y to serve the living and true God,^z

1Th 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven,^a whom he raised from the dead^b —Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.^c

To the church of the Thessalonians^c in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2Th 1:2 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^d

2Th 1:3 We ought always to thank God for you,^e brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.^f

2Th 1:4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast^g about your perseverance and faith^h in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.ⁱ

2Th 1:5 All this is evidence^j that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy^k of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

2Th 1:6 God is just:^l He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you^m

2Th 1:7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heavenⁿ in blazing fire^o with his powerful angels.^p

2Th 1:8 He will punish^q those who do not know God^r and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.^s

2Th 1:9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction^t and shut out from the presence of the Lord^u and from the majesty of his power^v

2Th 1:10 on the day^w he comes to be glorified^x in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.^y

2Th 1:11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you,^z that our God may count you worthy^a of his calling,^b and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose^c of yours and every act prompted by your faith.^d

2Th 1:12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you,^e and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.²

1Ti 1:2 To Timothy^d my true son^e in the faith:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.^f

1Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength,^w that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.^x

1Ti 1:13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor^y and a violent man, I was shown mercy^z because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.^a

1Ti 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly,^b along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.^c

1Ti 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying^d that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners^e —of whom I am the worst.

1Ti 1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy^f so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience^g as an example for those who would believe^h on him and receive eternal life.ⁱ

1Ti 1:17 Now to the King^j eternal, immortal,^k invisible,^l the only God,^m be honor and glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**ⁿ

1Ti 6:11 But you, man of God,^h flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness,ⁱ faith, love,^j endurance and gentleness.

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight^k of the faith. Take hold of^l the eternal life^m to which you were called when you made your good confessionⁿ in the presence of many witnesses.

1Ti 6:13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate^o made the good confession,^p I charge you^q

1Ti 6:14 to keep this command without spot or blame^r until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,^s

1Ti 6:15 which God will bring about in his own time^t —God, the blessed^u and only Ruler,^v the King of kings and Lord of lords,^w

1Ti 6:16 who alone is immortal^x and who lives in unapproachable light,^y whom no one has seen or can see.^z To him be honor and might forever. **Amen.**^a

2Ti 1:2 To Timothy, ^d my dear son: ^e
Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ^f

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, ^d

Phm 1:2 to Apphia our sister, to Archippus ^e our fellow soldier ^f and to the church that meets in your home: ^g

Phm 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ^h

Phm 1:4 I always thank my God ⁱ as I remember you in my prayers, ^j

Phm 1:5 because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus ^k and your love for all the saints. ^l

Phm 1:6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Phm 1:7 Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, ^m because you, brother, have refreshed ⁿ the hearts of the saints.

Jesus' teaching on prayer:

Lk 11:1 One day Jesus was praying ^d in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, ^e teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Lk 11:2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, ⁴⁶ hallowed be your name, your kingdom ^f come. ⁴⁷

Lk 11:3 Give us each day our daily bread.

Lk 11:4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. ⁴⁸ ^g And lead us not into temptation. ⁴⁹ ' " ^h

Lk 11:5 Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,

Lk 11:6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

Lk 11:7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'

Lk 11:8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness ⁵⁰ he will get up and give him as much as he needs. ⁱ

Lk 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; ^j seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Lk 11:10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Lk 11:11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for ⁵¹ a fish, will give him a snake instead?

Lk 11:12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

Lk 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Mt 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor ²⁷ ^z and hate your enemy.' ^a

Mt 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies ²⁸ and pray for those who persecute you, ^b

Mt 5:45 that you may be sons ^c of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ^d

Mt 5:46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? ^e Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

Mt 5:47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Mt 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. ^f

Mt 26:36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Mt 26:37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee ^p along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Mt 26:38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow ^q to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ^r

Mt 26:39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup ^s be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." ^t

Mt 26:40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me ^u for one hour?" he asked Peter.

Mt 26:41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. ^v The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Mt 26:42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." ^w

Mt 26:43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

Mt 26:44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Lk 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ^f

Lk 18:2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.

Lk 18:3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice ^g against my adversary.'

Lk 18:4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,

Lk 18:5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' " ^h

Lk 18:6 And the Lord ⁱ said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.

Lk 18:7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out ^j to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

Lk 18:8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man ^k comes, ^l will he find faith on the earth?"

Jn 17:6 "I have revealed you ^{78 x} to those whom you gave me ^y out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

Jn 17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

Jn 17:8 For I gave them the words you gave me ^z and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, ^a and they believed that you sent me. ^b

Jn 17:9 I pray for them. ^c I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, ^d for they are yours.

Jn 17:10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. ^e And glory has come to me through them.

Jn 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world,^f and I am coming to you.^g Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one^h as we are one.ⁱ

Jn 17:12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost^j except the one doomed to destruction^k so that Scripture would be fulfilled.^l

Jn 17:13 “I am coming to you now,^m but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joyⁿ within them.

Jn 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them,^o for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.^p

Jn 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.^q

Jn 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.^r

Jn 17:17 Sanctify⁷⁹ them by the truth; your word is truth.^s

Jn 17:18 As you sent me into the world,^t I have sent them into the world.^u

Jn 17:19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.^v

Jn 17:20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

Jn 17:21 that all of them may be one,^w Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.^x May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.^y

Jn 17:22 I have given them the glory that you gave me,^z that they may be one as we are one:^a

Jn 17:23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me^b and have loved them^c even as you have loved me.

Jn 17:24 “Father, I want those you have given me^d to be with me where I am,^e and to see my glory,^f the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.^g

Jn 17:25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you,^h I know you, and they know that you have sent me.ⁱ

Jn 17:26 I have made you known to them,^j and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them^k and that I myself may be in them.”

Ps 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your nameⁿ in all the earth!

You have set your glory^o above the heavens.^p

Ps 8:2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise^{17 q} because of your enemies, to silence the foe^r and the avenger.

Ps 8:3 When I consider your heavens,^s the work of your fingers,^t the moon and the stars,^u which you have set in place,

Ps 8:4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?^v

Ps 8:5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings^{18 w} and crowned him with glory and honor.^x

Ps 8:6 You made him ruler^y over the works of your hands;^z you put everything under his feet:^{a b}

Ps 8:7 all flocks and herds,^c and the beasts of the field,^d

Ps 8:8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,^e all that swim the paths of the seas.

Ps 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!^f

Ps 19:1 The heavens^v declare^w the glory of God;^x the skies^y proclaim the work of his hands.^z
Ps 19:2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.^a
Ps 19:3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.³⁷
Ps 19:4 Their voice³⁸ goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.^b

In the heavens he has pitched a tent^c for the sun,^d

Ps 19:5 which is like a bridegroom^e coming forth from his pavilion,^f like a champion^g rejoicing to run his course.

Ps 19:6 It rises at one end of the heavens^h and makes its circuit to the other;ⁱ nothing is hidden from its heat.

Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD^j is perfect,^k reviving the soul.^l The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,^m making wise the simple.ⁿ

Ps 19:8 The precepts of the LORD are right,^o giving joy^p to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.^q

Ps 19:9 The fear of the LORD^r is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.^s

Ps 19:10 They are more precious than gold,^t than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey,^u than honey from the comb.^v

Ps 19:11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Ps 19:12 Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.^w

Ps 19:13 Keep your servant also from willful sins;^x may they not rule over me.^y Then will I be blameless,^z innocent of great transgression.

Ps 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing^a in your sight, O LORD, my Rock^b and my Redeemer.^c

What do all of these have in common? How should we pray?

1. All of the example prayers are seeking God's honor and glory first. They are asking for the riches, grace, glory, and power of God to be shown again. All are seeking God's will be done. They are recognizing just how much we need God.
2. Many are praising and thanking God for all He has already done for us in the past. A spirit of thanksgiving seems important. They recognize and praise God for being who He is – focusing on attributes He has revealed to us.
3. In all cases, the person praying has the faith that God is going to be glorified, and fulfill a promise He has given us in scripture.
4. They recognize that God has promised to fulfill our needs, but that we still have needs and we are dependent upon God for continued fulfillment. God has promised to do so (see Matthew 6). But, all of the prayers that ask for something are seeking God's will, grace, and mercy for another with the faith that God will continue to meet the needs that are good for us, and the source of all good things.
5. Grace and peace – every single one of Paul's prayers and greetings is asking for God's continued grace for the believer. In many cases, also thanksgiving for the believer's faith, and knowing by their faith God's grace will continue to pour down for them.
6. They ask for forgiveness in sins. They recognize our dependence on God for

forgiveness, that has been given to us in Jesus Christ. It is interesting the conditional nature in the Lord's prayer – as we forgive others. The cross certainly isn't conditional – but our actions in forgiving others is taught quite a bit in Jesus' teachings as being something we need to learn. God's example in sending His Son to the cross to pay the penalty for our sinfulness is sure a striking example of His grace – and with that in mind of what God has already done for us – it should make forgiving others easier.

7. Deliverance from evil. Satan is a powerful enemy, devouring people like a lion.

^{1Pe 5:8} Be self-controlled ^s and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around ^t like a roaring lion ^u looking for someone to devour.

^{1Pe 5:9} Resist him, ^v standing firm in the faith, ^w because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ^x

^{1Pe 5:10} And the God of all grace, who called you ^y to his eternal glory ^z in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, ^a will himself restore you and make you strong, ^b firm and steadfast.

^{1Pe 5:11} To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. ^c

Again our dependence on Christ is the key. Christ will protect us and not lose us, and He is seated higher than any other power in heaven. He defeated the devil at the cross, and we know the end of the story, but our submission and dependence on Christ is the way we share in that victory.

8. Active in sharing our faith.

9. Faith – asking that the believer being prayed for grow in their faith. It also recognizes the faith that is there as God given and necessary for the believer's right standing with God.

10. Righteousness – recognizes and glorifies Christ for our imputed righteousness He purchased with His blood on the cross.

Why do we end prayer with amen?

From John Piper, Future Grace:

^{2Co 1:20} For no matter how many promises ^m God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” ⁿ is spoken by us to the glory of God. ^o

The literal Greek translation, in choppy english:

“Wherefore also by Him is our amen to the glory of God through us”

Translated into better english: “Therefore, because of Christ, we say AMEN to God in our prayers, to show that God gets the glory for the future grace we are counting on”

Amen is a Hebrew word that moved into Greek without changing, and moved into English without changing.

Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary (2 volumes), Pradis CD-ROM:Ne 5:12, Book Version: 5.1.50

12-13 "Amen" (GK H589) means "to believe or trust." It is used in passages that praise God (e.g., 1Ch 16:36; Ne 8:6; cf. 1Co 14:16), in doxologies (e.g., Pss 41, 72, 89, 106), and as an assent to an oath and its curse formula (Nu 5:22; Dt 27:15-26).

Numbers 5:22b: “ ‘Then the woman is to say, “Amen. So be it. ^F ”

So, by saying Amen, we are reaffirming our trust in God

So, if Amen means “Yes” in restating our agreement and trust to God, verse 2 Corinthians 1:20 can be translated:

In Jesus Christ God says his Yes to us through His promises; and in Christ we say our Yes to God through prayer.

What does this imply?

1. Our prayer goes to God through Jesus. Jesus is God's Yes to all the future grace that we seek in prayer.
2. The giver of the grace gets the glory. Amen is the great affirmation that God is the bountiful giver, and I am the needy receiver. Amen affirms God's inexhaustible future grace to respond to our need in the very best way for His glory and our good.
3. Prayer is a response to God's promises, His assurances of future grace.
4. Amen primarily means - “Yes, God has made all of these promises and we trust in Him” and links our faith with the foundation of it all, Jesus. Amen is our affirmation of “Yes Lord, you can do it”. “Yes Lord, you are powerful”. “Yes Lord, you are wise”. “Yes Lord, you are merciful”. “Yes Lord, all future grace comes from you and has been confirmed in Christ”. Amen is an exclamation point of hope after a prayer for help.

Why do we pray – in Jesus name?

Jn 14:5 Thomas ^c said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jn 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am ^d the way ^e and the truth ^f and the life. ^g No one comes to the Father except through me. ^h

Jn 14:7 If you really knew me, you would know ⁷¹ my Father as well. ⁱ From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Jn 14:8 Philip ^j said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jn 14:9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. ^k How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Jn 14:10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? ^l The words I say to you are not just my own. ^m Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Jn 14:11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ⁿ

Jn 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith ^o in me will do what I have been doing. ^p He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Jn 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask ^q in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

Jn 14:14 **You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.**

In Jesus Name – this is really God's Amen to us. All His promises are Amen in Jesus, Jesus Christ is God's Yes and Amen at the end of our prayers. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises. Then when we say “Amen”, this is our Yes and Amen back to God for His (in Jesus). Which means that our Amen, and the prayer it supports, is our Yes to God's Yes to us. It is our commitment from our hearts that we will now live by faith in the Yes of God's guaranteed future grace.

This isn't a way for us to think that if we ask for something selfish or outside of God's will. Just like when a child asks a parent to have ice cream for supper, or something that ultimately is not in the child's best interest, out of love and looking out for the child's welfare, the parent will have to say no. God has already demonstrated his love for us, in sacrificing His Son on the Cross to redeem us to Him. God is love, and God is infinite and unchanging. So, this great demonstration of grace and love in the past in the cross demonstrates God's character, and love and grace for us. We have so much of the same love and grace to look forward to in our future with Him in His presence and glory.

We also have to recognize the role of timing. When we ask for something that is in line with God's promises to us in scripture – He will fulfill that promise. God cannot and will not lie as that is not part of His character. But, the best timing and fulfillment of that promise may not be exactly when we think it should happen. Just have faith it will happen, when it is best for us. God will always fulfill His promises.

Ro 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son,^x but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Paul's logic here is that if God sacrificed His own Son on our behalf – isn't He going to continue to look out for us and pour out all grace for our good for us in the future?

We can trust in that, and trust in God. He has demonstrated His love and grace for us in the past, and we can count on that also in the future, and trust that God knows what is best for us and will continue to deliver all things to us for His glory.