

TEACHING GOAL

To understand that God requires praise from us and because He is all-powerful we are to rely upon Him to fulfill our requests.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

Q. What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer (which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen) teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.

S.C. 107; L.C. 196; W.C. of F. XXI, Savoy 22; Young 108

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: I Chronicles 29:10-20

Support Passages: II Chronicles 14:11, 20:6-11; I Corinthians 14:16; Ephesians 3:20-21; Philippians 4:6; Revelation 5:13, 22:20-21

BIBLE STORY

II Timothy; Paul relies upon the Lord and is encouraged and confident in God's great power.

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

“I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.” (2 Timothy 1:11–12, ESV)

APPLICATION

Because God is sovereign, omnipotent and glorious, He deserves and requires our praise and we must place our confidence in Him to perform His will for our good.

SUMMARY

It is appropriate in this last lesson of the Family Catechism studies to turn again to the glory of God. It is our chief end to glorify and enjoy God and the Scriptures as our rule to direct us in this, teach us to bring praise and ascribe glory to God in prayer. With our prayers we are to, "Join praises, ascribing to God alone eternal sovereignty, omnipotence, and glorious excellency."¹ And because He is the all-powerful, sovereign God, He is able and willing to help us and therefore we are encouraged to pray that He would. Having asked we are to rely upon Him to fulfill our requests. David writes, "*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.*" "*Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!*"²

On the occasion when the kingdom of Israel passed to Solomon, David prayed, "give my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Thy commandments, Thy testimonies, and Thy statutes, and to do them all, and to build the temple, for which I have made provision".³ As David approached the throne of grace he blessed God using words quite similar to those in the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer. He prayed, "*Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.*"⁴ The Bible is replete with such examples of prayer and we learn that we must come to God in the same way, even as Christ taught us in His model prayer.

According to David's prayer God is the source of all riches and honor and He rules over all things, in His hand is power and might; and it lies in His hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone. Therefore it follows that we ought to thank God and praise His glorious name. It is for this reason that we are greatly encouraged to rely on God to perform His will in our behalf.

Finally let us consider the meaning of the last word of the Lord's Prayer, Amen. We say Amen in order to express our desire to be heard with sincerity. The word amen is a Hebrew word meaning *truly* as it is in the familiar passage, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*"⁵ This text reads literally, "Amen, amen, I say to you ," etc. David ended his prayer in Psalm 41 with the phrase "Amen, and Amen" and in I Corinthians 14:16 we understand that it is important to do likewise. So let us praise God in prayer and rest upon Him to give our desires according to His will.

¹ The Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 196. See also Matthew 26:41 and the example of the Lord which follows.

² Psalm 37:5, 7, ESV

³ I Chronicles 29:19, ESV

⁴ I Chronicles 29:10-11

⁵ John 3:3, ESV