

Why Say... “Amen?”
Bible Study – May 7th, 2020
Pastor Charles A. Hall

We as Christians oftentimes use the term “Amen” regularly in and out of church, mostly around other Christians, but do we really know what the word means, are we using it correctly, and at the most appropriate time?

People have become so accustomed to saying the word “Amen” to almost anything that they hear that we have unknowingly altered or lessen the biblical definition and use of the term “Amen.” The term “Amen” has a particular and profound use as it relates to the true inspired Word of God. For the most part, we have become so accustomed to saying and hearing the term “Amen” that it has become an almost spontaneous response to whatever is said whether actual biblical truth or not! As if our Christian standing or level of Christian maturity is somehow associated with how often we say the word “Amen.”

Sometimes, we find ourselves saying “Amen” just because somebody else said “Amen,” well that is not a good reason to say “Amen,” we should only say “Amen” when we believe what we heard or what we read is the absolute truth. In other words, you should believe in your heart and mind that what you just agreed with is factual, accurate, and can be validated.

From a biblical standpoint the word “Amen” is the Hebrew word “ei- men” which means “so be it,” verily, or truly, and true which represents a declaration of your confirmation of what was spoken or written.

In the book of Revelation 3:14 Christ is referred to as “the Amen, the faithful and true witness.” It is used here in direct relation to the terms True and Faithful, and emphasizes Christ and His message, the example of TRUTH (John 14:6; 17:17). These two verses clearly demonstrate the scriptural meaning of the term “Amen.”

We should never say “Amen” to anything that we are not certain about or are not in complete agreement with, because to do so is to be speaking Hypocrisy. (*to pretend to agree with something that you actually disagree with*)

If we are using the word “Amen” to validate, confirm or to state agreement with a worldly statement or writing, we are using the term improperly and not in the same context the writers of the Holy Word of God intended.

We should never be cavalier or careless in using the term “Amen,” if we do, we have lessened or degraded the biblical meaning of the word which means truth, so be it, true or truly.

When we say, “Amen,” we are actually saying **Yes** before God Almighty, and that we agree with what has been stated as truth.

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In today’s worshipping environment, few Christians fully understand what the implication of saying “Amen” is. By saying “Amen,” one acknowledges what has been said in a prayer or statement as truth and further promises a solemn oath to faithfully perform it in his or her life.

The biblical origin of the use of the term “Amen” as an affirmation of truth was used first in the Old Testament found in **Numbers 5:11-22**, specially verse **22**. The context in which a word is used is especially important in helping to determine its meaning. To gain a better prospective of something it is always helpful to locate in the Bible where it was first used. In this text the words are associated with a woman who allegedly committed adultery. In those days, it was customary for the woman to be taken before the priest and warned, if she had committed adultery, the bitter water (which the priest would create and give her) would, “make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell.” The accused woman would then respond with the words “Amen, Amen,” which in this text meant “so be it, so be it.”

The word “Amen” is used 25 times in the Old Testament.

A couple of scripture examples:

- 1Chronicles 16:36
- Nehemiah 8:6

During Jesus’ almost 3 years of earthly ministry he used “Amen” or a form of the word to place greater emphasis on the importance of what He was saying or what He was about to say. We know that everything that Jesus said was true and important because it is impossible for Him to lie (**Hebrews 6:18**). However, there were times when Jesus wanted to make sure the hearer did not overlook certain bible truths.

A few scripture examples:

- Matthew 6:13
- Matthew 28:20
- John 5:24
- Romans 1:25
- Romans 1:36

The word “Amen” is mostly used in the gospel in the New Testament **52** times in the synoptic gospel Matthew, Mark and Luke, and **25** times in the gospel of John.