

Midshipmen's Prayer Series – "AMEN."

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The Bible tells us, that when we pray, we should pray with confidence. The Bible also tells us that we should pray without ceasing. The Bible tells us that we should practice intercessory prayer for our friends, families, loved ones and enemies. The Bible also tells us that we should pray acknowledging God's goodness and God's power. Most importantly, the Bible tells us to pray in the name of Jesus.

Over the last several weeks, your Protestant Chaplains have preached through the Midshipmen's prayer walking through the Bible taking a look at different stanzas of this prayer and dissecting it so you can better understand it. What makes this prayer exciting is that it incorporates all of the small details God asks for us to follow when we come to him in prayer.

We started off by helping you see that we are praying to an "All Mighty God whose ways are in the sea, whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over all and whose love never faileth." If we serve a God who is so powerful that he can control the sea, the great waters, who can command all and who provides unfailing love, then don't we serve a God who is powerful enough to take care of our teeny weensy problems? This portion of the prayer also asks us to be aware of His presence and obedient to His will. There is absolutely nothing we can accomplish in life if we are not aware of God's unfailing love all around us. There is no possible way we can be successful and achieve our goals if we are not obedient to the will of God.

After looking at that stanza, we explained the value of being true to our best self in order to guard against dishonesty in purpose and in deed. If you are true to who you are in the eyes of God, then you have no reason to be ashamed of what you are; however, it requires you to remain in the will of God so you remain in his favor. As long as you have favor with God, then you can be proud to stand before your shipmates and those you love.

Next, we talked about "protecting those in whose love we live." During that sermon, we learned that God will cover your family, and those who matter most to you if you simply ask him to. However, we must also understand our family is not just those in our home states and home towns, but our family also consist of the men and women who wear this same uniform.

This prayer also tells us to ask God for the will to do our very best taking hold of each responsibility with a passionate heart and jovial mind, and the prayer asks us to be "considerate

of those entrusted to our leadership.” When you are in a leadership role, you must never forget you are responsible for precious cargo. In the military, that means you are responsible for the lives of God’s children. There is someone’s daughter, someone’s son, someone’s mother, someone’s father, someone’s niece and someone’s nephew who looks to you for guidance through some of the darkest challenges in life, and you must be considerate of the fact that lives are at stake. You can’t possibly lead others if you are vacillating in your thoughts and character. You must know your center.

This prayer also teaches us to ask for our uniform to remind us that we have accepted a higher calling that requires us to give up our self for our country and we know there will be time when we will doubt, but God is faithful and just to steady our faith and give us the courage to keep trying.

Today, we come to the conclusion of this prayer. When we close this prayer we go to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, and our last word is “Amen.”

The person whose example you must follow is Jesus Christ. You must be a person of integrity. You must be a person of honor. You must be a person who speaks truth. You must be a person who is not afraid of confrontation. You must be a person who knows when to speak and knows when to be silent. You must be a person who is charismatic enough that others will want to be around you, and you must be a person who is humble enough to know there are times when you should steal away to get the feet of our Father in Heaven and leave the crowds behind.

In this service, there are six occasions where we pray corporately. We are trying to demonstrate to you that we can never have enough prayer. If you are going to be the leader God called you to be, you must have a strong prayer foundation throughout your daily routines. We are asking God to step in our behalf because we realize we are greater with Him than we are without Him.

Paul writes this text in Colossians because he knows the church is under attack. He knows there is danger ahead of them, but they cannot afford to lose focus on Christ. Young people, the reason why you have so many wonderful men and women in this congregation who hope to encourage you is not because they think they are better than you or because they are trying to look down on you. It is because they have lived life long enough to see the pitfalls and traps you are heading toward. We are passionate about helping each of you make sure you do not make many of the same mistakes we have made.

If you commit this prayer to memory, you will have that will capitulate you to a closer relationship with God, and it will provide a covering for you as you matriculate throughout your military career. Paul wrote Colossians because he was concerned the people of God would be pulled away from God, and it is our prayer you are not pulled away from God. Paul wanted the church to realize that it was Christ that gave them everything they needed for success. It was not their ability to build cathedrals, to build ships, to travel the world, but it was their relationship with Christ. You are stronger because of your faithful foundation in Christ and not because you survived PEP, because you can do chow calls or because you can know your rates. You are stronger because of God.

Today, this series is concluded just the way the prayer is concluded-“In Jesus name.” We get to God because we go through Jesus. Our sin blocked us from getting to God, but when Jesus shed his blood on that Old Rugged Cross, he opened the doors for us to have salvation. You and I must have a burning desire to be all into Christ. His word tells us to delight in him, and that means we should be in love with him.

When my wife and I first started dating, I wanted to do all I could to get her to fall in love with me. Some of you have heard me tell this before, but I wanted her to want me. I knew what her schedule was better than she did. The only route she could take to get home went right past my gym, and I would make it a point to be in the gym’s parking lot hoping she would catch a glimpse of me as she hit the stop light. She mentioned a cologne she liked and took a bath in it every day. She told me a meal she liked and I learned to cook it. She told me the books she liked to read, and I read the books so I could quote them to her. She told me the songs she liked to listen to so I bought the CDs. I wanted to know all about her and make her want to know all about me. I wanted to make sure she was aware that I would be everything she needed me to be.

God is telling all of us, He sent his son to be everything we need and more. However, we miss opportunities to get closer to God because of pride. This prayer comes to a conclusion knowing that pride cannot be part of the equation. You must humble yourself before God and be willing to call upon Jesus’ name acknowledging that he is your only source of salvation.

The disciples were scared when Jesus told them he was going to leave them, but he had to go to the cross in order for them to have the comforter he promised. Likewise, Jesus had to go to the cross in order for us to have power.

When Paul says he took your sin to nail it to the cross, it was because he knew that without the death of Jesus we were condemned to Hell. Today is the day you leave pride at the door and ask God to take your sin and nail it to the cross. Today is the day that you check pride so God can check you in to Heaven.

To cut across the field, there are more than 30 times the Bible uses the word Amen. In those times, do we really know what we are saying? Amen is a statement of firmness. It says, "So let it be." It is a statement of security. It is a statement of trust. When we say "Amen" at the end of a prayer, we are actually saying, "Lord seal it." The Lord seals the prayer because of that awesome son Jesus and that advocate that went to the Cross on your behalf. His sacrifice meant death no longer had a sting and death no longer has power. In the book of Revelation the Bible says in chapter 3 the great Amen is Jesus. That means Jesus is the conclusion. He is the exclamation point. He is the seal to the prayer. His death means the prayer is heard by God because he stamped it by His blood.

His proclamation, his virgin birth, his life, his betrayal and his conviction are the story, but his death is the exclamation point. Rather than you carrying a heavy burden you were not designed to carry, take it to the cross and leave it there. Rather than trying to solve problems you are not capable of fixing, take it to the cross and leave it there. Rather than trying to conquer the world by yourself, take your burden to the cross and leave it there.

Remember, leave your burden with the Lord and shout your Amen. You take fornication to the cross and shout, Amen, because it is done. You take gossiping to the cross and shout, Amen. You take cheating, stealing, backbiting, adultery and alcoholism to the cross and shout, Amen. You take worry, you take hate, you take anger, you take depression to the cross and shout, Amen. When you seal it by the power of Christ you can't take it back.

By his death we have the same power and authority of Heaven. It is by his death that we have a healing. It is by his suffering that we have freedom. It is by his resurrection that we have joy. It is by his ascension to Heaven we have freedom. It is by Christ we have power. We can shout Hallelujah because the Amen means we concluded our prayer knowing we have a greater power than the rest of the world. It is a power the world can't give and the world can't take away. When you have that type of power, all of God's people can say, "AMEN!"

Questions:

1. How can you pray with more authority and conviction?
2. What does the word, "Amen" mean to you?
3. What do you need to take to the cross and leave with God?
4. Has anyone ever said you are too "proud?" If so, how did it make you feel? If not, is there anyone you know who is too proud? What is that person like to be around?
5. What are some of the things that are pulling you away from your relationship with God?
6. If you could write a letter to a friend warning them of danger ahead, what it would say?
7. What are some things you wished someone would have warned you about?