

HC 128-129 – Closing Arguments To Your Prayer

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: When you make a closing argument in your job interview you emphasize how qualified and capable **you are** to do what your prospective boss expects you to do. But when you make the closing argument in the Lord's Prayer **you do not** emphasize your qualifications 品格. Because you acknowledge your weakness, you have to shy away from personal boasting. Instead, you remind God that only **he has the qualifications to ably give what you need** to do the tasks he called you to do.

Today we will examine the details of your closing arguments in your strong appeal for help. This is a humbling sermon.

Our headings are:

- 1. You are willing and able to do what we ask**
- 2. You are deserving of all praise and glory for doing what we ask**
- 3. You will do what we ask through Christ.**

Our goals are: That you will **realize that prayer is not abstract 抽象 or theoretical speech**, or even therapeutic 治疗 speech, **but that you pray to your willing and able Father to give you gifts so you can build his kingdom.**

128 Q. WHAT DOES YOUR CONCLUSION TO THIS PRAYER MEAN? A. *For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever means, We have made all these requests of you because, as our all-powerful king, you not only want to, but are able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.*

You are willing and able to do what we ask

- 1. You can make these 6 petitions to God because he is willing to do them.** You are his precious possession by blood – the blood of Jesus Christ, and by baptism - and God assures you he will do what you ask.

Romans 10: 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 13 For "**whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**"

There are no "if's," "and's," or "but's." You call and God will save. He is willing because of Christ's work!

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious 忧虑 for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication 祈求, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

- 2. It would make no sense calling on someone who might be willing but unable to do what you ask.** **God is your Father and he is also the King of the world** and able to do anything you ask. He controls all things over all times.

Ephesians 3: 20 Now to Him **who is able to do** exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God is **most knowledgeable** of what you need **and he has the experience to do it**. God is never surprised by your needs. And he saves you from being tempted or keeps you through temptations. He destroys those who tempt you.

2Peter 2: 9 then the **Lord knows how to deliver the godly** out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

The prophet Daniel described God's ability to do what he promised – to deliver the Jews in a **temporary deliverance from Babylonian captivity and a permanent deliverance from spiritual captivity** through Jesus. Jesus would be that stone that crushes all the kingdoms of the world through the preaching of the Gospel.

Daniel 9: 4 And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, **who keeps His covenant and mercy** with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 7 "O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, **but to us shame of face...** 8 "O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. 9 "**To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness**, though we have rebelled against Him. 18 "O my God, incline Your ear and hear; **open Your eyes and see our desolations** 荒涼... 19 "O Lord, hear! **O Lord, forgive!** O Lord, **listen and act!** Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

Noticed the word “keeps” in Daniel 9:4. “Keeps” doesn’t mean “keeps in his heart or in his pocket.” “Keeps” means that God “fulfills with his hands what he promises.” (Like we keep a promise.) Of course the greatest evidence of Christ’s ability is in Romans 8: There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Yes, when you want to see sin, you look to yourself, but when you want to see salvation, you look to Jesus.

3. God is willing, God is able, and God delights to do what is good for his bride. While a man brings shame to himself by failing to obey the terms of the covenant, God graciously provided someone else to fulfill the covenant for man during his time in this world and especially on the cross. While a man might do something out of obligation, God has pleasure when he does good for you. Isaiah spoke of God’s delight in his bride.

Isaiah 62:4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate 荒涼; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; **For the LORD delights in you,** And your land shall be married.

Hephzibah means “my delight is in her.” Beulah means “wife.” You are God’s closest relations. He does what is best for his closest relations. Don’t you? He loves his bride and loves to fulfill her wishes. Which man doesn’t build shelves for the wife he loves? Some even build full pantries. And you do this even with your limited ability to love. The Lord, with his great love, delights to overrun the enemies of his Bride to keep her safe and happy. And he wants to be near his bride. He wants her to reproduce. This knowledge should bring you joy.

You are deserving of all praise and glory for doing what I ask

1. Because of who the Lord is and what he has done for you, you ascribe to the Lord “eternal sovereignty, omnipotency 全能 and glorious excellency...” (WLC) This is why you pray “for yours in the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.”

1Chronicles 29: 10 Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. **11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom,** O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. 13 "Now therefore, our God, **We thank You And praise Your glorious name.**

Satan is only a prince... who has been stripped of his power. God is King with unlimited power and glory. The Pharaoh's, the Caesar's, and the kings of England have all lost their power and glory. Even saints of the Bible – like Isaiah – said he was of unclean inglorious lips. David cried about his sins because they made people run away from him. He became a stench. But God's glory was so great that Moses had to turn away his face lest it overwhelmed him.

2. We call these praises of God “doxologies” 颂歌 Doxologies usually come at the end of worship or end of prayers. (Doksas=glory. Logos=words.) **You find doxologies in the Old and New Testaments.**

1Timothy 1:17 Now to the **King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever.** Amen.

Psalms 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, **But to Your name give glory,** Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

“Name” in Psalm 115:1 represents the person. God is a great person so his people glorify him.

John 14: 13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the **Father may be glorified in the Son.**

God is a good person and so his people glorify him.

3. “God is great” and “God is good,” are not 2 glorious facts in a bubble - isolated. With these 2 facts in your heart, God will strengthen your faith. (Faith in confident hope based on knowledge of yourself or others.) **With strong faith, you can confidently make these 6 petitions.** Look at the example of Jehoshaphat's plea for help because of his faith!

2Chronicles 20: 6 and said (Jehoshaphat): "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? 11 "here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

Asa made a similar plea for help on account of his faith.

2Chronicles 14: 11 And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail 胜过 against You!"

You will do what we ask through Christ - Amen

129 Q. WHAT DOES THAT LITTLE WORD "AMEN" EXPRESS? A. *Amen* means, This is sure to be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer, than that I really desire what I pray for.

1. Some people, especially Pentecostals, use "Amen" to either acknowledge a fact (People are living in sin. Amen, Come on now!) or to simply to motivate the preacher to keep on going. (The Devil is destroying the church. Amen.)

2. But what do you mean when you say "Amen?"

a. It means you desire 渴望 God to fulfill what he has said. (You don't desire the Devil to destroy the church.)

b. It means you have an assurance and confidence that God would fulfill what he has said. This is why only a Christian can properly say "Amen." The non-Christian does not have this true desire or confidence. He has no basis for this confidence. Look at the wonderful confidence you Christians have to say "Amen!" Before you ask, God answers.

Isaiah 65: 24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Even when you fall short of doing what is acceptable, God does not give up.

2Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

2Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen...

God uses this exaggerated 夸大 language to give you strong assurance that he hears all your prayers. But don't forget that while God answers your prayers, because you are his child and he loves you, **his foremost motivation 动机 for answering your prayers is because it is for his glory.** Yes, God gives you what you need so you can have joy, but primarily so you can work for his kingdom.

3. Make sure you listen and agree first. Look at how understanding is necessary for agreement!

1Corinthians 14:16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, **since he does not understand what you say?**

No one signs his name without agreement. So don't say "Amen" without understanding!

Conclusion:

In your closing argument you are:

1. Expressing confidence that God is **willing and able to give the things you need** to have joy and to do the job he has called you to do.

2. You are acknowledging that **God deserves all glory, honor, and praise for his ability and his willingness to give you what you need to have joy and do the job** he has called you to do.

3. You are communicating your desire and confidence that **God would do** what he has said he would do.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Believing that God is willing and able – even delights to meet your needs 需求 pray for them.

2. When you pray, take the time to praise God for who he is (his ability) and what he has done and will do for you (his willingness). Don't pray in generalities. Learn the Psalms to see his greatness. Detail his goodness in your life. These things will make your prayer more believable.

3. When you say “Amen” at the end of the prayer, let it not be a sigh of relief that the prayer is done, but that is it a strong spiritual desire that God would honor your requests.

But isn't this a humbling sermon. You have no ability in yourself to do the work that God has called you to do. You need him. Nothing hinders your prayer more than arrogance and independence. If you find you struggle to pray this way, ask the Lord to humble you – to show you the degree of your need – and so may you cry out to him.

Finally, a word to non-Christians: Prayer is essential for your duties on earth. But no prayer is acceptable 蒙悦纳 to God unless it comes through Jesus Christ. There is no prayer without his sacrifice. May you desire to embrace Christ's sacrifice on the cross as your own so you can have access to the Father in heaven. May you do so today.