

The Final Confessions of Faith in the Lord's Prayer

I. In the doxology II. In the final word

I. The Confession of faith in the doxology

A. The Lord's prayer doesn't end with a petition but worship

1. The closing is a doxology

a. other Scriptures illustrate that such doxology is to abound

b. 1 Chron. 29:11-12; Rom. 11:36; 1 Tim. 1:17; Phil. 4:20; Jude 25; Rev. 1:5, 6; 4:11; 5:13; 7:12

B. Yet the closing phrase is not just worship or doxology

1. The words are a *confession of faith*

a. prayers needs to include a confession of faith: James 1:6-7; Heb 11:6

2. This confession of faith is to be found in *opening & closing* of our prayers

a. Prayer needs to express "*immediately, in the very beginning of our prayer*" (HCat. q/a 120) our faith in God the Father

b. see in the Psalms how much *confession of faith* is included: Ps. 62:1-2; 71:1; 86:4-5

C. The closing phrase in sharp focus reveal this confession of faith

1. **For:**

a. links to all former petitions and the opening address

b. also express our motivation for our petitions

2. For *Thine is the kingdom forever*

a. here as children of God we honor and trust His sovereignty

3. For *Thine is the power forever*

a. power is His ability and strength to do all things He wills

b. see example of believers: 2 Kings 6:17; Daniel 3:17

4. For ***Thine is the glory forever!***

- a. here we confess His glorious character (excellencies) as revealed to us in Jesus Christ

D. Ursinus' comment on q. 128:

We do not use arguments that we may move or influence God or persuade Him to do what we ask. But that we ourselves may be persuaded that God the Father will do this and that we may be assured of being heard.

II. The final confession of faith is in the final word

A. This last word is also a confession of faith

1. 'Amen' is a Hebrew word untranslated for *certainty – assuredly*
2. The certainty of being 'heard' is not based on our *feelings or impressions*
3. The certainty of being 'heard' is based on *God's promises and truths*

B. How often (or rarely) is our 'Amen' a genuine confession of faith in which we *rest assured, waiting in confidence?*

Closing Reflections:

A. What is /was purpose of preaching thru Catechism?

1. what is the greatest comfort?
 - a. not *mere knowledge* (head)
 - b. but *knowledge (head) that affects our heart (will and affections)*

2. Has this only *Gospel comfort* become comfort to you?