

AMEN

IS NOT A WIMPY WORD.

“May the God of peace...provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will, and may he, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases him. And to Christ be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21

Amen is not a wimpy word. So be it. May it be so. Amen affirms, approves. Amen is not an afterthought. It is not just a conventional closing or tag ending. Amen is a word from Hebrew meaning *certainly, truly*. It is an expression of approval. It is a solemn ratification of prayer and belief.

An anthem text attributed to Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) speaks powerfully to me:

*“O Lord, increase my faith, strengthen me and confirm me in thy true faith;
Endue me with wisdom, with wisdom, charity and patience; In all my adversity
teach me to say Amen,
teach me to say Amen,
teach me to say Amen,
teach me to say Amen.”*

I want to walk with God in the paths which will lead me to increased faith. I know God will instruct me that I may be strengthened and confirmed in His true faith. I am ready to be clothed in His word and His wisdom. I wish to be surrounded by His charity and filled with His patience. I can not hold close these gifts only for my own protection; I must pour them out as His vessel, as His instrument in the world.

Can I say Amen to those difficulties which are not so long or lasting? Can I say Amen even as I walk through dark valleys? Can I say Amen even when I feel as though I am standing still, not even sensing any progress or movement toward the light? Can I say Amen even when I feel doubt that there is a Light?

To accept is to cease immediate struggles, to receive with graciousness that which is. To approve is to ratify or confirm. To say Amen is to say “yes.” To say Amen is to say “*I stand with you, Lord.*” To say Amen is to put myself on ready alert that God may be valid, real and true in my life.

In all my hope and joy, in all my trust, may I stand with You. In all my difficult circumstances, in all my conflicts and distress, may I stand with You. As I seek to live in Your will, may You do Your mighty work far beyond my understanding. Amen, and amen.

From the Internet by Nancy Denison.