



WOW: Word Of the Week

Amen

December 11, 2024

Amen! Perhaps a strange Word of the Week. Another weekly WOW.

If I were to use phrases to title my weekly reflections, I would write, "Amen Doesn't Mean Goodbye!"

We start with the basics. What does the word Amen mean? So be it! Truth.

The word exists in Hebrew. The Hebrew word *āmēn* (אָמֵן) means "certainty," "truth," or "verily". It is used to affirm something, or as a response to a prayer or blessing.

The Greek word *amēn* (ἀμήν) is used to express agreement, confirmation, or desire.

The basic meaning of the Semitic root from which it is derived is "firm," "fixed," or "sure." The related Hebrew verb means "to be reliable" and "to be trusted."

Amen! Agreement. Truth. May it be.

My barber and I talk about a lot of things during my (more or less) monthly visits to the barber shop. She is committed to providing Bibles for those who do not have one. We talk about the need for more Bibles in the Haitian churches in the Dominican Republic. We share thoughts, experiences, insights.

Last month, conversation turned to the word Amen. She observed that many people treat Amen as a goodbye. The final Amen on Sunday. Goodbye. See you next Sunday. A prayer ends with Amen. Too often, that Amen is like hanging up on a phone conversation. Goodbye.

Think! We can do better! How can we live in the constant presence of God if we let our Amens serve as goodbyes? We say goodbye—too often that means cutting the communication. How will we live out God's continuing presence through his Holy Spirit? How will Christ dwell in our hearts by faith? How will we pray without ceasing? How will we be the presence of God to those we encounter?

In a moment, when I finish this week's WOW with an Amen, it will be intentional. It will be a final reminder to us that Amen does not mean goodbye.

Rather than an ending, perhaps we should see Amen as a beginning. When truth has spoken or heard, it is okay to speak an Amen. It is even better to go forth and live out those truths, aware of the "presence" of the one who is Truth in our lives! Here is an idea. May your Amen a commitment: I will live out truth. I will abide in truth. I will reflect truth to those I touch. Because the One who is truth is constantly present in my life!

"God loves you; I love you. That is the way it is going to be." So shall it be. We go forth to live out truth. Amen.