

Amen, Amen

JESUS said: “*If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:31–32).

This ‘freedom’ is from the law of sin and death. It is the removal of the otherwise inevitable rule that sin (disobedience to God) brings death:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

Jesus also said that he spoke the truth (John 8:45–46). In fact, the word ‘truth’ occurs over 20 times in the Gospel record of John.

Truth is a full declaration, unmodified, unified and complete. God’s truth is His unchanging, eternal Word. Jesus said:

He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father’s Who sent me (14:24).

[In prayer to God] *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth (17:17).*

Jesus is clearly identified with this truth:

...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

Amen – Truly

In the Gospel records Jesus often speaks using the emphasis ‘I tell you the truth’.

A more accurate translation would be, ‘Amen; I tell you...’ but this same phrase in the Greek is translated in various different ways even in the same English version of the Bible. In his Gospel, Luke sometimes translates the Hebrew word ‘amen’ into the Greek ‘in truth’.

The phrase occurs 30 times in Matthew, 14 times in Mark and 6 times in Luke. In the Gospel of John, the phrase is always ‘Amen Amen’ and this occurs 25 times. In the New King James version, the translations are ‘assuredly’ and ‘most assuredly’ respectively. (And ‘truly’ in the passages where Luke has already translated ‘amen’.)

The phrase is often associated with prophecies, warnings about judgement and advice on how to please God. All the words of Jesus are important and significant, but the context made Jesus use this word to emphasize some key messages.

The Vital Truth

Some typical examples are given in the table overleaf, in no order of importance. Please look them up. There most certainly is such a thing as ‘truth’. So there are also untruths. God has revealed His truth in the Bible and especially in the words of His son Jesus the Christ. We do well to believe and to tell the truth.

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Reference	The Words of Jesus
Matthew 6:2–18	Assuredly [Amen], I say to you, they have their reward.
Matthew 16:28; Mark 9:1*	Assuredly [Amen], I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.
Matthew 24:2	... Assuredly [Amen], I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.
Matthew 25: 12, 40, 45	Assuredly [Amen], I say to you, I do not know you/inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these/inasmuch as you did it not to one of the least of these.
Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17	Assuredly [Amen], I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.
Mark 12:43*	Assuredly [Amen], I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all...
Luke 23:43	Assuredly [Amen], I say to you today you will be with me in paradise.
John 3:5	Most assuredly [Amen amen], I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
John 10:7	Most assuredly [Amen amen], I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
John 13:15	I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly [Amen amen], I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master.

**In his account of these sayings Luke translates 'amen' as 'truly'.*

The Message

This repeated truth is about half-hearted believers: in relation to hypocrisy, Christian charity, prayer and fasting.

Christ's prediction of his transfiguration. This truth is a revelation of what happens when Christ returns. The transfiguration was a prelude of what lay in the future. Peter, James and John are given a glimpse of immortality in the transformed figure of Jesus.

Truth about the prophecy of the destruction of the temple (fulfilled in AD 70 by the Romans).

Truth about judgement – Jesus' words to different people. When the Son of Man comes and all his holy angels with him, he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Truth about faith. In life, the child who does all he can to please his parent gives supreme joy; the same holds true in man's relationship to God.

Truth about giving: a widow giving the little that she had was a perfect example of the kind of devotion Jesus sought.

Truth about a special dispensation for a thief who repented, made by Jesus while dying on the cross.

Truth about the vital need for adult baptism and spiritual rebirth for anyone who wants to be part of God's promises.

Truth about Christian discipleship. The gate is narrow, but open to all who embrace the truth as it is in Jesus.

Truth about service. A beautiful example as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples.