

 Amen. How many times have we seen, heard, or used this word? It’s used hundreds of times in the Bible. Do we really know what it means? It’s more than just a prayer’s sign off. I was taught that it means, ‘I heartily agree,’ which is true, but I didn’t realize until I began researching it a little deeper that it can have other meanings as well.

 In the Old Testament, the verb form is used a multitude of times, and it means to be faithful, to take care of, to be established, to be reliable, or believable. In 1 Chronicles 16:36 it says, “*Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives from everlasting to everlasting! And all the people shouted "Amen!" and praised the LORD.”* So, the people here were not just agreeing with everything that had just been said and sung; they were cheering the fact that God is faithful, that He would take care of them, that He can be believed.

 Jesus used it in a new way. In almost 70 different instances in the New Testament he says, amen lego humin, or truly I say to you. He is showing that he has authority, that he is God. He is faithful, reliable, believable, and will take care of you. Amen!