

*for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen*

*(Matthew 6:13, NIV)*

You may have noticed that in many Bibles that last sentence is given in a footnote or put in brackets. Most Bible scholars agree that Jesus did not actually teach those words but that the early church added them to make the prayer complete. Jewish prayers usually ended with words of praise or thanksgiving and Jesus seems to have left the disciples free to fill those in as they liked.

The apostle Paul also suggests that thanksgiving should accompany our requests from God (*Philippians 4:6*). He himself often ended his discourses with words of praise called a doxology. Ephesians 3:20-21 is a good example and could be an alternative ending to the Lord's prayer:

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

*(Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV)*

*Prayer: Take a moment to find your own words for an alternative ending to the Lord's prayer. What is that is foremost in your mind when you think of God? Write it down and use it today.*