

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

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WE BELIEVE

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**SCRIPTURE:** Selected Scriptures

**SERIES:** The Apostles Creed

**TITLE:** We Believe in God

**CIT:** We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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**SUMMARY**

By stating that we believe in God, we are saying that we believe in a real God, the only true God, and the Yahweh God of the Bible. We are stating that He is the almighty, the beginning and the end, the sovereign above all things. We are saying that He is maker of all things, sustainer of all things, and that He reigns over us as our benevolent King who is Father. He isn't a disconnected or distant God, but He is near and fatherly to His people. This is what we are saying in the phrase: I (we) believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*I believe in God the father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ, god's only son, our lord:  
Who was conceived by the holy spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
At the right hand of the father,  
And he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting.  
Amen.*

## Romans 10:9-11

<sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

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### 1. We Believe

**Knowledge is invisible. Belief is visible.**

There is an order to how we are saved. Belief and confession go together but the belief precedes the confession. The confession is simply a response. But we see here that we are to believe in our heart. It doesn't say know in our heart. There is a great distinction between knowledge and faith. We can know something is wrong yet still do it and not let our behavior be changed by the knowledge. Yet, to believe in something, to believe the consequences, to believe in the rule of law, and the spirit of the law can inwardly change our disposition toward it. Similarly, our faith in God is not a knowledge of Him and His activity. It's not even simply a signal of His existence; it is a belief in Him and a trust/faith/assurance of His character.

*Application Question: Do you know, or do you believe?*

- What is the difference in knowledge and belief?
  - o How is it different as it relates to our relationship with God?
- What is an example of a change in your life that came from a belief, not just knowledge?
- What does it mean to believe with our heart?

## Romans 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

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## 2. We Believe in God

### God is the One true God, not an imaginary one.

We want a God because something in us tells us to worship. It's literally in our bones. Yet, we also tend toward not worshiping the right One in the right way. I believe in God means that we believe in a real God, not an imaginary one. Not an ethereal one. Not one that we can piece together like Mr. Potato Head making Him how we want Him to be. We believe in the God of Scripture, not a God we make up. We are made in His image; we aren't allowed to fashion a god for ourselves made in our image.

*Application Question: Are we trusting in the One true God who is conforming us to the image of the Son?  
Or are we trying to make a god in our image?*

- What are some ways we tend to reimagine God and transform Him into something He is not?
- What are the dangers of doing this?
- What are some things about God, Scripture, or life that are hard to accept?

## 1 John 3:1a

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so, we are.

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### 3. We Believe in God the Father

#### God is our true Father – Connected, personal, & loving

Believing in God the Father means trusting in God as a Father and putting our belief in His fatherly love and authority over us. In saying I believe in God the Father, we are stating that God loves us like a father does his child. This should bring to mind the father and son in the story of the prodigal son. He is the gracious father giving unconditional love to His children along with care, discipline, and direction.

*Application Question: Are you trusting in God as a loving father or a disconnected boss?*

- What is the difference in God being a distant deity and Him being a benevolent Father?
- How does the prodigal son's father help us better understand the fatherliness of God?
- Are there ways that you tend to relate to God like He is a boss or a work superior rather than a loving Father?

## Revelation 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

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### 4. We Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth

**Not weak. Not small. Not insecure. He is almighty.**

If we are not careful, we can end up fashioning a god in our minds who we think is God but is inconsistent with the God of Scripture. If we reinvent God based on our liking and preference, we will end up fashioning a god who isn't the true God. Many times, we speak of God like He is weak and insecure, begging people to love Him back. The God of Scripture is certainly loving, kind, and gracious. Praise God for this. He is also mighty, worthy, holy, perfect in all His ways, righteous, and fully whole, complete, and free of all insecurity. God does not beg people to accept Him. He demands in His Word and by the simple nature of His character and power that we fall on our knees in awe, fear, and reverence to the great Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*Application Question: Do I believe that God is almighty and able to handle the issues in my life?*

- What comes to mind when you hear that God is “almighty?”
- How does God being almighty practically help us as His people?
- What is the danger of looking at God like He is weak and begging for us to accept Him?
- How does a person grow in reverence and awe of God?