

In God We Trust

The inscription on all US coins and currency says, “In God We Trust.” It is our national motto. Believe it or not, its inclusion was an act of Congress. It seems that during difficult times our national leaders saw the need to recognize there is a God.

The words “In God We Trust” come from the Star Spangled Banner, written during the War of 1812. The fourth stanza includes the phrase, “And this be our motto: ‘In God is our Trust.’” The Civil War was another difficult time in our nation’s history. The motto “In God We Trust” was placed on US coins largely because of the increased religious sentiment existing during the Civil War. They appeared on coins minted by the US Treasury starting in 1864.



The “cold war” was also a tense time for the United States. Our nation wanted to distinguish itself from the Soviet Union, which promoted state atheism. The 84th Congress passed a joint resolution declaring “In God We Trust” the national motto of the United States. It was signed into law by President Eisenhower. Following the September 11 attacks on our country, many schools posted In God We Trust posters in their schools. It seems that at critical times our national leaders focus on seeking the blessing of a supreme being.

Over time placing the motto on US currency has passed legal challenges because it has “nothing to do with the establishment of any religion.” The Supreme Court has ruled that the motto is patriotic in nature and is not a “governmental sponsorship of a religious exercise.” It further said that the “government’s recognition of God does not constitute the establishment of a state church as the Constitution’s authors intended to prohibit.”

Paralleling the national motto, the pledge of Allegiance dates back to the 1800’s. It was written in 1887, and officially adopted by Congress in 1942, during World War II. Following the war and in response to the Communist threat, President Eisenhower added the phrase “under God” in 1954. It has been unchanged since that time, including the phrase “One Nation Under God.”



It has often been said, “As long as there are tests there will be prayer in schools.” When we are in crisis mode, whether as a nation or individually, we turn to God. And He is there for us. Look at how He has blessed our nation and us, personally. How many times did you ask God to help you through a situation, and He did, perhaps so seamlessly that you may have thought, “That wasn’t so bad.” The reason is that God helped you through your situation. *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man (Psalm 118:8).*

We live in a nation that allows us to live in freedom, including the right to choose to believe in God or not. Historically, as a nation we believe there is a God. The rest is up to you.

Scripture: *But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works (Psalm 73:28).*

Question: Do you trust the Lord with your life? How can you show your trust in Him during difficult times?

Prayer: Dear Lord, we don’t need to live through a major war or time of strife to put our life in your hands. We place our trust in you, Lord. Amen.