

My Faith



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WordAction Publishing Company®

Kansas City, Missouri

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By WordAction Publishing Company®
Kansas City, Missouri

ISBN
978-0-8341-2615-2

Printed in the United States of America
at R.R. Donnelley

Cover Design: Keith Alexander
Interior Design: Tom Shank

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Welcome to *My Faith!*

We are so glad you have decided to join us on this adventure. You know that beliefs are important. What you believe strongly influences the kind of person you become and the life you live.

Your beliefs about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, and Christian living are especially important. Knowing the truth about these subjects helps you know God and understand how he wants you to live.

My Faith is a journal with important “need to knows” of the faith such as The Apostles’ Creed, questions and answers about Christian beliefs, and interactive journal pages. It tells what our church believes. It also shows where our beliefs came from—God’s Word, the Bible.

As you read, study, and interact with this book, we trust God will help you understand our church’s beliefs. Even more, we are praying that you will choose these beliefs for yourself and use them to guide your life as God’s chosen and adopted child.

Discovering your faith is a life-long adventure. So plan to keep this journal and refer to it as you grow in faith. God bless you!

Q & A and More

Beliefs About the Triune God, Part 1: The Father

Questions marked with a chalice (☩) are for use in the long catechism only.

1. Where can we find a summary of the basic beliefs of all Christians?

The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed sum up Christian beliefs. (See pages 71-72.)

☩ 2. Where can we find a summary of the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene?

The Agreed Statement of Beliefs sums up the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene as stated in the Articles of Faith. (See pages 76 and 77-83.)

3. Who is God?

God is the Creator of everything and the Ruler of the universe. When we say "God" sometimes we mean our Heavenly Father, and sometimes we mean the Trinity.

- *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (Genesis 1:1).
- *God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne* (Psalm 47:7-8).

☩ 4. Is there more than one God?

There is only one true and living God.

- *I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God* (Isaiah 44:6).
- *You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other* (Deuteronomy 4:35).

5. What is the Trinity?

Trinity means "three in one." There is only one God, but he exists and reveals himself in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

- *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one* (Deuteronomy 6:4).
- *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit* (Matthew 28:19).
- *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all* (2 Corinthians 13:14).
- *Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father"* (Galatians 4:6).

6. Why is God greater than any other being?

God is greater than any other being because he has always lived and always will live, and because he is not limited in any way.

- *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom (Isaiah 40:28).*
- *Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? (Job 11:7)*

7. Why do we say that God is the Creator of everything?

God is the Creator of everything because in the beginning there was nothing. Then God made everything.

- *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).*
- *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible (Hebrews 11:3).*

8. How does God work in the universe today?

God keeps the universe operating and enables everyone who responds to him to be saved from sin. He is actively involved in our lives by answering prayers, and by working in us and through us to glorify his name.

- *"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing (Isaiah 40:25-26).*
- *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).*
- Psalm 66:18-20
- 1 Corinthians 12:14-20

9. How do we describe God's nature and character?

We describe God's nature and character as "holy love."

- *And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3).*
- *We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love (1 John 4:16).*
- *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands (Deuteronomy 7:9).*

10. What do we mean when we say God is holy?

God is different from all other beings, and everything about him is good and perfect.

- *He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he (Deuteronomy 32:4).*
- *As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him (2 Samuel 22:31).*
- *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).*

11. What do we mean when we say God is love?

God wants the highest good for every person and he continually works to bring this about. God especially showed his love to us by sending Jesus Christ into the world to be our Savior. He is the source of all love.

- *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10).*
- *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God (1 John 4:7).*

12. How does God make himself known to us?

God makes himself known to us in many ways but most importantly through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible.

- *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe (Hebrews 1:1-2).*
- *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words (1 Corinthians 2:13).*
- *For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 18:28).*

Create a collage or tape a photo here that makes you think of God.
Underneath it, write a couple of sentences about what your experience
with God has been like so far.

My Faith. My Thoughts. My Reflections.

