

IN GOD WE STILL TRUST

Know Your Founders Quiz

- Who was the first U.S. President to reside in the White House?
 - George Washington
 - John Adams
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - James Madison
- Which Founder was a lobbyist in London before the Revolutionary War representing several colonies?
 - John Hancock
 - Samuel Adams
 - Ben Franklin
 - Thomas Paine
- As President, Thomas Jefferson attended Sunday church services held in the U.S. Capitol.
 - True
 - False
- After a bitter Presidential campaign, John Adams (#2) did not attend the Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson (#3).
 - True
 - False
- The phrase "separation of church and state" appears in which founding document?
 - Declaration of Independence
 - Constitution of the United States
 - Bill of Rights
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- Which of the following phrases is engraved on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia?
 - "In God we Trust"
 - "Proclaim Liberty throughout the Land"
 - "No taxation without representation."
 - "Liberty, Freedom, Equality"
 - "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"
- The phrase "In God We Trust" was first used in the United States
 - During the War of Independence
 - During the War of 1812
 - During the Civil War
 - During World War II

Who were the Founders?

- **Founders** –
- **Signers** of the Declaration –
- **Framers** of the Constitution –

Where were they educated? What did they read?

- Harvard, Princeton, William & Mary (schools of religious instruction)
- The Bible, William Blackstone's Commentaries (1765)

What did they believe?

Alexander Hamilton:

*"In all disquisitions of every kind there are certain primary truths, or **first principles**, upon which all subsequent reasoning must depend."*

What were the Founders "First Principles"?

- "Rights granted by God"
- "Government by consent of the governed"
- "Rule of Law"

Requirements for a Republic to succeed:

- Virtue -
- Morality -

Declaration of Independence – References to God

- "... the Laws of Nature and of **Nature's God**..."
- "... all men are **created** equal ... endowed by their **Creator** with certain **unalienable rights** ..."
- "...appealing to the **Supreme Judge of the world**..."
- "... reliance on **the protection of divine Providence** ..."

FIVE FOUNDERS ... and what they said

George Washington – A Man of Prayer

Standing orders (Army) – No drinking, gambling, or cursing

General Orders

"The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army ... "

Thanksgiving Proclamations

"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor."

Prayer at Valley Forge (witnessed by a local Quaker farmer, who was also a Tory, Isaac Potts)

Washington's Farewell Address (September 18, 1796)

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness."

Thomas Jefferson – A Man of Intellect

Jefferson Memorial Inscriptions

Rotunda:

"I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

- letter to Dr. Benjamin Rush, September 23, 1800.

Northeast Portico:

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."

"A Summary View of the Rights of British America,"

"Notes on the State of Virginia,"

letter to George Washington (1786).

Southwest Portico

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,"

- the Declaration of Independence, 1776.

Northwest Portico

"Almighty God hath created the mind free. All attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burthens...are a departure from the plan of the holy Author..."

Jefferson, the Declaration, & Slavery

In 1774, Thomas Jefferson wrote, *"The abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire in those colonies, where it was unhappily introduced in their infant state."*

In his draft of the Declaration of Independence (1775), Jefferson wrote, *"[King George] has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and Liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation."*

(This "grievance" was later deleted from the Declaration during the debate on independence.)

"Separation of Church and State"

- This phrase does **not** appear in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights. It comes from a letter of Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists, January 1, 1802:

*"Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of **separation between Church & State**. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties."*



Washington – Prayer at Valley Forge



Jefferson Memorial

An Evil of Colossal Magnitude

"I believe a time will come when an opportunity will be offered to abolish this lamentable evil. Everything we do is to improve it, if it happens in our day; if not, let us transmit to our descendants together with our slaves, a pity for their unhappy lot and an abhorrence of slavery."

Patrick Henry, 1773

"...slavery is an evil of colossal magnitude."

John Adams

"...an atrocious debasement of human nature..."

Benjamin Franklin

"The real difference of interests, lay not between large and small, but between the Northern and Southern states. The institution of slavery and its consequences formed a line of discrimination."

James Madison, 1787
Constitutional Debates

"I wish from my soul that the legislature could see the policy of a gradual Abolition of slavery."

George Washington

Ben Franklin – A Man of Common Sense

Religion

To religious critic, Thomas Paine: *“If men are so wicked with religion, what would they be without it?”*

“History will also afford frequent opportunities of showing the necessity of a public religion ... and the excellency of the Christian religion above all others, ancient or modern.”

Proposals for education in Pennsylvania, 1749

Virtue

“...only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.” (Letter, 1787)

Constitution Convention – June 28, 1787

“How has it happened that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights, to illuminate our understanding?”

*“In the beginning of our contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, **we had daily prayer** in this room for the Divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?”*

“I have lived a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God governs in the affairs of men.

“And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings, that ‘except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this building no better than the builders of Babel.”

John & Abigail Adams – A Family of Integrity

Law

“The study and practice of law ... does not dissolve the obligations of morality or of religion.” (diary entry, August 22, 1756)

Freedom

“... the right to freedom being the gift of God Almighty, it is not in the power of Man to alienate this gift ...”

Morality and Religion

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.”

Upon moving into the White House (1802)

“I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.” (letter to Abigail)



Liberty Bell

- Commissioned in 1752 by Pennsylvania Assembly – “Proclaim Liberty throughout the land” (Lev. 25:10)
- Cast in London; shipped to Philadelphia, cracked upon ringing when hung in State House
- Recast twice in Philadelphia
- Rung on July 8, 1776 to announce reading of Declaration
- 1830's – Abolitionist societies adopted it as a symbol: “Liberty Bell”
- Famous crack appeared in 1840's



Great Seal of the United States

- Adopted and first used in 1782
- On the dollar bill since 1935
- *E pluribus unum* – Out of many, one
- Eye of Providence
- “Annuit Coeptis” – favors our undertakings
- “Novus Ordo Seclorum” – New order of the ages



Patrick Henry – A Man of Passion

House of Burgesses (Virginia) March 23, 1775

"... an appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left to us! ... Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God that presides over the destiny of nations and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

The Bible

"[The Bible] is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed."

Government

"The great pillars of all government and of social life ... are virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone, that renders us invincible."

Patrick Henry's Last Will & Testament

"This is all the inheritance I can give to my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed."

NATIONAL MOTTO: "In God We Trust"

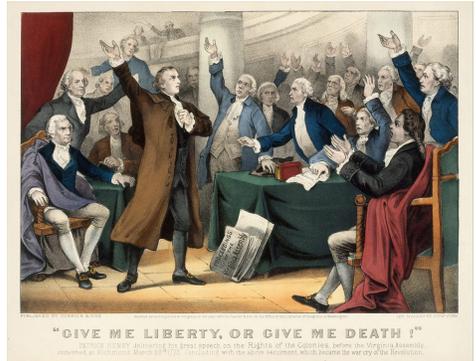
"In God We Trust"

- **1814** – Star Spangled Banner – Stanza #3
- **1866** – The phrase was added to U.S. Coins at the direction of Treasury Secretary, Salmon P. Chase: *"No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins."*
- **1956** – Congress declares **"In God We Trust"** official motto
On July 30, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law officially declaring "In God We Trust" to be the nation's official motto. The law, P.L. 84-140, also mandated that the phrase be printed on all American paper currency.

At a Flag Day speech in 1954, Eisenhower elaborated about religion in public life: "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

Pledge of Allegiance

- The phrase **"under God"** was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 by an act of Congress, signed into law on June 14, by President Eisenhower.



Patrick Henry – House of Burgesses

Final verse of Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key (1814)

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.



"In God We Trust" on 1866 Coin



The U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Supreme Court

Ironically, while the Congress and the Executive Branch were affirming reliance on God, the Supreme Court was dissolving the practice of that belief:

- In ***Everson v. Board of Education (1947)***, the Supreme Court declared, "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach."
- **Justice Hugo Black** wrote: "*In the words of Thomas Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect a wall of separation between church and state.*"
- ***Engel v. Vitale (1962)*** – "...Prayer in its [New York's] public school system breaches the constitutional wall of separation between Church and State"

Ronald Reagan:

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

So ... how should we, as Christians, respond?

John Hancock

"I conjure you, by all that is dear, by all that is honorable, by all that is sacred, not only that ye pray but that ye act."

Pray for ...

Vote for ...

Read and share ...

Washington's General Orders of 1776

*"Let us therefore **rely upon** the goodness of the Cause, and **the aid of the supreme Being, in whose hands victory is**, to animate and encourage us to great and noble Actions."*

Remember ...

IN GOD WE STILL TRUST

READ MORE ... LEARN MORE

To learn more about what the Founders said and did ...

- **Paul Revere's Ride** – David Hackett Fischer
- **1776** – David McCullough
- **Miracle at Philadelphia** – Catherine Drinker Bowen
- **Rise, and Fight Again** – Charles Bracelen Flood
- **Bunker Hill** – Nathaniel Philbrick
- **John Adams** – David McCullough
- **The Adams Chronicles** – Jack Shepherd
- **Liberty! The American Revolution** – Thomas Fleming
- **Angel in the Whirlwind: The Triumph of the American Revolution** – Benson Bobrick
- **The Day the American Revolution Began** – William H. Hallahan
- **George Washington's War: The Saga of the American Revolution** – Robert Leckie
- **Last Call for Liberty** – Os Guinness
- **Washington's Crossing** – David Hackett Fischer
- **In the Hurricane's Eye** – Nathaniel Philbrick
- **Long Knife: The Story of George Rogers Clark** – James Alexander Thom

Available from Wallbuilders.com:

- **Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence** – 1848 reprint.
- **Original Intent: The Courts, the Constitution & Religion** – by David Barton
- **The Jefferson Lies** – David Barton
- **The Bulletproof George Washington** – David Barton
- **Wives of the Signers** – 1912 Reprint
- **Women in the American Revolution** – Jeanne Munn Bracken