

INTRODUCTION

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,
a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
(2 Timothy 2:15)*

The Christian Faith

Why Study Christian Doctrine?

Purpose of This Study

Using This Study

Origin of the “Declaration of Faith”

Christian Union—

Church of God—

Church’s commitment—

The Declaration of Faith—

Discussion

The Christian Faith

- 1) What is the basis for Christians' knowledge and faith in God?

Why Study Christian Doctrine?

- 2) What does the word "doctrine" mean?
- 3) Why do we need to study the Word of God?

Purpose of This Study

- 4) What is the purpose of our study on the *Declaration of Faith*?

Origin of the "Declaration of Faith"

- 5) Why did the Church of God decide that it needed an official faith statement ?

Your Study of the "Declaration of Faith"

- 6) What would you like to learn in this study?
- 7) Is there a particular question that you would like to have answered?

If you are doing this study in a classroom setting and are comfortable doing so, please share your question with the class and/or instructor; (or) the whole class may answer this question by writing their questions on slips of paper and passing them to their instructor.

Prayer

Our Father, the Fountain of all wisdom, to You we dedicate this study and invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate our minds and hearts so that the knowledge of Your Word may increase among us. May this study be used for Your honor and glory and for strengthening Your people in Jesus Christ.

Our Father, we pray for those who teach and for those who learn that they may be able to lead others to Christ and submit themselves in obedience to Jesus Christ.

Our Father, we pray for our own denomination, the Church of God. Increase among us knowledge of God's Word and help us to show the learning of Your ways in all that we do.

Our Father, we pray for the universal church throughout the world, as Your people study your Word and serve You. May there be a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit accompanied by mighty "signs and wonders," as in the days of Jesus and the apostles. May Jesus Christ be exalted; may Your people be led into all truth; and may they be empowered to live the Christian life, sharing the Good News of Your love with others.

Amen.

Resources for Additional Study:

Conn, Charles W. *Like a Mighty Army: A History of the Church of God*, definitive edition, 1886-1995. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 1996.

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The Hal Bernard Dixon, Jr. Pentecostal Research Center contains materials concerning the pentecostal, charismatic, and holiness movements as well as the archives of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee). The Research Center collects, organizes, and preserves materials that show the origin, history, development, and theology of the Church of God, other pentecostal denominations, and charismatic ministries. The Research Center's website includes links to other pentecostal and charismatic resources on the Internet.