

THE CREED

THE FIRST ARTICLE (PART 1)

DEVOTION

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:13–14)

FOR SHARING

1. A Bible translator was working on a native dialect. His biggest challenge was to find a word in the language for *believe*. As he was working one day, a young man who had converted to Christianity came into his hut. He had run from a nearby village with a message and was out of breath. Before he could convey the message, he had to sit. As he plopped down into a chair, he said in his language, “Before I give you this message, I need to put all of me into this chair and rest.” Suddenly the translator had the word he needed for believe: “put all of me into this and rest.”
What kinds of things do people today “put themselves into and rest”?
2. “On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God” (Psalm 62:7). How does God provide our soul with rest?
3. Luther explains that every aspect of life—both physical and spiritual—is God’s gift. In what ways does creation bear witness to God’s goodness and kindness?
4. St. Paul expressed his confidence, “My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). How does the cross reveal the depth of God’s love and care for the world? for you personally?
5. In all of creation, there is no one exactly like you. For what specific qualities and talents are you most thankful?

PRAYER

O Lord, I thank You that You have given me all that I need in this life and have given me the hope of eternal life. Help me to remember that You keep “all of me” in Your care. May I live as one who carries the gracious promises of a loving Creator. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.