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Greetings, Fabulous Folks of the Fortieth and Fellow Friends,

Fifty years before this phrase, "In God We Trust," appeared on our U.S. currency, a poem set to music that would officially become our National Anthem in 1931, would bear a similar line as well:

Then Conquer we must when our cause it is just.

And this be our motto, In God is our Trust.

The "Star Spangled Banner's" fourth verse was, in my humble opinion, the inspiration that would further define who we are as a nation. Our U.S. coins, our U.S. paper money, even our national motto (which became law in 1956 under President Eisenhower) echoed this rarely-sung verse that would confirm we are, indeed, One Nation under God.

Allow me to share with you some interesting facts, and food for thought:

James Pollock was known as the "Great Christian Governor of Pennsylvania," and later a Congressman, as well, who was also a close friend of President Lincoln and shared his views of anti-slavery before the War Between the States. As the Director of the United States Mint, he was asked by Treasury Secretary Chase to select a phrase that would express Americans' faith. He began the quest, during the first years of the Civil War, to find a motto that reflects our national recognition. Numerous correspondences later, Mr. Pollock suggested, "Let us reverently acknowledge his sovereignty, and let our coinage declare our trust in God." That would be the tenor of many citizens, as letters of encouragement between 1861-1863 were addressed to Mr. Chase. After many variations, including "God Our Trust," the new bronze 2-cent coin bearing "In God We Trust" was birthed, and "the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coinage," was circulated in 1864. Leaders of our great country knew the importance of faith in the public square and trust in a Sovereign Almighty God, especially during a turbulent time when her land and her people were suffering from a dreadful and dividing civil war.

Today, in the midst of such civil unrest, lawlessness, division, and downright wickedness, the very essence of what holds us together as a nation is torn and tattered. The moral fabric of America is in much need of repair!! Though this is not 1864, in all likeness, we are in a warzone and a nation gone nutso! Bring us principled leaders and a people who respect the law and whose strength is weakness, for they know "where their help comes from." Will it take a crisis of unprecedented peril in order for a people to turn from their evil ways? Oh, that the headlines would read, "Be still, and know that I am God," Psalm 46:10, and that our nation, once again, would declare: In God IS Our Trust. For in the land of the living, America is at the crossroads. How will she respond? Whether you agree or not, ultimately, we are in the hands of a Sovereign Almighty God, and He, alone, controls the outcome of all events.

Sincerely,
Terri Lynn