

The Search For Divinity and Spiritual Truth in the Universe: an Inductive Approach

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For "[Tips for the Religiously Curious](#)" on [Name the Unknown](#)

PHASE I: My questions and your answers (no one is looking...so be completely honest)

1. Is there a God?
 - 1a. No. Implication: Don't try to find him
 - 1b. Yes. Implication: Try to find him Go to 2
2. Would knowing the truth about God have temporal and/or eternal implications?
 - 2a. No. Implication: Don't worry about it
 - 2b. Yes. Implication: Try to find the truth Go to 3
3. Is it possible to know the truth about what God requires of us?
 - 3a. No. Implication: Don't try to find out
 - 3b. Yes. Implication: Search for the truth Go to 4
4. Does the fact that lots of people claim to know the truth, yet they differ so much, does it follow that none of them have the right answer?
 - 4a. Yes. Implication: Don't search among the established religions. Discover it elsewhere.*
 - 4b. No. Implication: Search the established religions Go to 5
5. Is there is a way to sift through the established religions to discover which have truth?
 - 5a. No. Implication: Just pick one and hope its right
 - 5b. Yes. Implication: Establish search criteria Go to 6
6. Are there existing objective criteria that would serve as helpful guidelines in the search?
 - 6a. No. Implication: Make up your own.
 - 6b. Yes. Go to Phase II

PHASE II: My suggestions for establishing helpful objective criteria

*Note: these suggestions may work whether you search involves looking amongst established religions/philosophies or not.

1. Don't reject anything just because it doesn't happen to fit your existing notions about God. It is at least theoretically possible that there is something within YOU that doesn't want you to find God. Do you want to believe something that was created in your own mind to suit your own needs, or do you want to follow what is objectively true? Shouldn't you be open to discovering truth, rather than trying to create it out of thin air?
2. Are there ANY spiritual truths that you know for certain right now? If so, list them out. Then, ask yourself the following questions of each of them individually: How do I KNOW this? Why do I believe this? Where does this position come from? What is it based on? Could this be simply the way I want it to be?
3. Is it possible that one or more of the established religions or philosophies have it completely right? If so, then it would seem logical to seek it, find it, believe it, and follow it. If not, why not? If not, is it possible that one or more of the established religions have some parts of the truth laced within their general doctrinal position? If so, how can you discern this and distinguish truth from falsehood?
4. What signs would suggest to you that any existing religious or philosophical tradition has some large chunk of the truth as a part of their doctrine? Does "true religion" manifest itself in some obvious way so that the seeker can recognize it? If so, list these signs out. Then ask yourself the questions found in II 1 above.

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Equipping and Empowering the Religiously Curious