

There is No God?



Agnosticism, atheism and simple unbelief in the existence of a spiritual foundation to creation are convictions continuing to grow in favor at this very moment in time. *Agnostics* postulate that it is impossible to know whether there is a God without evidence sufficient to convince them. *Atheists* make it a point to deny the existence of God. Whether God exists or not for an *unbeliever* is of no consequence; for them reflection upon God is irrelevant.

These attitudes are chosen most often after some amount of consideration of organized religion and its trappings in general, finding it lacking in some essence being sought, finding it illogical or based on an invisible certainty called *faith* which some logical thinkers may find unappealing.

You may have questions about the relevance of God in your life, or you may strongly believe that there is no God. If you don't believe in God, why would you even care to change that opinion? There is one obvious and pragmatic answer; it is that studies have shown that on average believers live happier and more satisfying lives than do non-believers. The internet and other sources offer a number of global happiness and fulfillment studies alluding to this observation.

Believing in God or not believing is a choice having nothing to do with choosing religion over no religion, it's simply about choosing belief or disbelief. From a strictly logical point of view, follow along with this train of thought: either there is a God or there

isn't. If there isn't a God then you can choose either to believe or disbelieve. If you choose to disbelieve, you've gained nothing; if you choose to believe, studies show that your life should be more happy and satisfying. On the other hand, if God exists and you choose to disbelieve, again you've gained nothing but if you choose to believe, studies show that your life should be more happy and satisfying and you'll have gained everything.

Choosing to believe in the existence of God because of a logical deduction such as this isn't a particularly gratifying way to become a believer, but for a person simply interested in being consistently logical it is the only rational conclusion; why would any thinking person choose beliefs shown to provide less happiness? Why choose to believe what pays the least dividends?

When it comes to a belief in God the usual source for understanding either comes from within or from organized religion, but the religious choice leads to a quandary, which religion? They're all different even though their deep-down foundations tend to be very similar. Still, why one over another? Which can give the most meaningful understanding of God upon which to base a decision of belief or unbelief?

Any non-believer intelligent enough to dismiss a kindergarten version of God should understand what it is they profess not to believe in just as thoroughly as they should understand what it is they do believe in. You can learn how others have related to God through the study of religious texts: the Bible, the Koran, the Bhagavad Gita, but there is no treatise on God that compares to the fullness and depth of understanding as that described by The Urantia Book; it can be considered the definitive work on the nature of God. The first five chapters of The Urantia Book are titled: "The Universal Father", "The Nature of God", "The Attributes of God", "God's

Relation to the Universe", "God's Relation to the Individual". If nothing else, these five chapters are required reading for anyone defining themselves as a non-believer. Understanding the scope and content of these five chapters will provide the foundation necessary to truly be a non-believer; anything less exhibits a lack of conviction since the application of logic alone can never disprove or disclose the personal validity of God.

For the believer recognizing that religion is the traditional time-honored way of understanding, approaching and relating to God, understand too that God exists outside of the confines and definitions of religion. You may discover God through association with a religion but you may also discover God outside of any religion.

If you desire to better understand the nature of God outside the confines of organized religion, then you owe it to yourself to read The Urantia Book.

There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving! (The Urantia Book, 32:5.7)



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