

Pascal, The Wager:

1. Pascal's "Wager" argues that it is rational to believe in God even in the absence of proof. Pascal suggests that one should weigh the potential consequences of belief and unbelief in God. If God does not exist, then there is no harm in believing. However, if God does exist, then belief leads to eternal happiness, while unbelief leads to eternal damnation. Therefore, according to Pascal, it is better to believe in God, as the potential rewards of belief are greater than the potential rewards of unbelief.
2. Pascal's advice for someone who understands the wager but still can't commit to belief in God is to act as if they believe. He suggests that this can lead to genuine belief over time, as one becomes more involved in religious practices and experiences the benefits of faith.

Kierkegaard, Faith and Subjectivity:

1. Kierkegaard thinks that proving or disproving the Bible is not the real issue when it comes to faith because faith is a subjective experience that cannot be proven or disproven through objective evidence. Faith is not a matter of reason, but a matter of passion and commitment.
2. Kierkegaard distinguishes between objectivity and subjectivity by arguing that objective knowledge can never fully capture the truth of lived experience. Objective knowledge is concerned with generalizations and abstractions, while subjective knowledge is concerned with the individual's particular experience of reality.
3. Kierkegaard sees problems with trying to get to God through approximation and objectivity because this approach reduces God to an object of knowledge that can be understood through reason and empirical evidence. This approach fails to appreciate the subjective and personal nature of faith, which cannot be reduced to a set of doctrines or beliefs.
4. Kierkegaard's ultimate definition of truth for an "existing" individual is a subjective and personal truth that involves uncertainty, not objective certainty. This truth is arrived at through the individual's experience of the world and is constantly being re-negotiated in response to new experiences and challenges. Kierkegaard argues that this uncertainty is essential to faith because it allows for the possibility of genuine commitment and passion.