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Pascal, "The Wager" (Pensees) – pp. 356-359

Pascal's "Wager" argues that having faith in God is a reasonable choice, regardless of whether God's existence can be proved. According to Pascal, believing in God is the only rational option. If God exists, belief leads to eternal happiness, whereas denying leads to eternal damnation. If God does not exist, belief nevertheless leads to a more full and noble life. As a result, even if someone is not totally convinced of God's existence, it is still in one's best interests to believe.

Pascal tells someone who understands the wager but lacks the ability to dedicate themselves to believing in God to "act as if" they believe. Following Christian beliefs and morality, even if you're not entirely convinced, may eventually lead to belief by experience and habit. Pascal also encourages people to pray for faith, as this may lead to belief.

Kierkegaard, "Faith and Subjectivity" (Concluding Unscientific . . .) – pp. 376-382

Kierkegaard argues that faith is a question of subjective commitment rather than scientific evidence. He feels that trying to show or dismiss the Bible completely misses the point of religion.

Kierkegaard differentiates between "objectivity," which has to do with universal facts that can be proven or disproven, and "subjectivity," which is focused on human experiences and beliefs that cannot be objectively proved. Kierkegaard argues that subjective experiences, rather than objective knowledge, provide real value in life.

Kierkegaard says that attempting to reach God through objective approximation is pointless. He believes that in order to genuinely know God, a person has to have a subjective experience of him, and that this experience cannot be measured or scientifically proved. Kierkegaard also opposes the idea of using reason to understand faith, saying that reason's influence for understanding God is restricted.

For a regular person, Kierkegaard's definition of truth talks about uncertainty rather than certainty. He believes that truth can't be scientifically proven but it has to be personally experienced and devoted to. Kierkegaard believes that true faith is willing to accept doubt and that this is what allows for a more significant and genuine encounter with God.