What follows is a conversation/ debate that does cover some religious concepts. Nowhere is anyone trying to convince following a certain religion or belief. Its purpose here is purely to show how differing opinions can be discussed.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lillian-daniel/spiritual-but-not-religio\_b\_959216.html

* [**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) I enjoyed this

[August 15 at 4:18pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738517736195423&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

* 

[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Makes me cringe inside sometimes

[August 15 at 4:49pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738527642861099&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

* 

[**Daniela Herrera**](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100004083429686&fref=ufi) This was dumb.

[August 15 at 4:53pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738528902860973&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [1](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=738528902860973)

* 

[**Daniela Herrera**](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100004083429686&fref=ufi) I kind of lump the "spiritual" and "religious" in the same group.

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* 

[**Alex Kogan**](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=ufi) Oh no they are totally distinct groups. This piece she tried to link to at the end but forgot a colon in the url, talks about it more at length. "Spiritual" worldviews are shallower and less developed, they don't build on the ideas of others or foster meaningful dialogue about morality.[http://www.christiancentury.org/.../2011-08/you-can-t-make](http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-08/you-can-t-make)



[**You can’t make this up | The Christian Century**](http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-08/you-can-t-make)

[www.christiancentury.org](http://www.christiancentury.org/)

If we got all these spiritual-not-religious people together, they might find out... [See More](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

[August 15 at 5:13pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738534312860432&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [2](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=738534312860432)

* 

[**Daniela Herrera**](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100004083429686&fref=ufi) I can't finish reading it.

[August 15 at 5:18pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738537582860105&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [1](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=738537582860105)

* 

[**Alex Kogan**](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=ufi) It's like if you wanna do science but you distrust the authority of the institutions so you decide to not go to any of them or talk to any scientists or read their ideas, instead trying to derive calculus independently and build up your own body of scientific knowledge by doing experiments in your backyard. You're depriving yourself of the exchange of ideas and the work of others, and how do you expect to just build a nuanced system of beliefs from the ground up that way?

[August 15 at 5:21pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738537926193404&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Edited](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [1](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=738537926193404)

* 

[**Daniela Herrera**](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100004083429686&fref=ufi) Well that's how religions started anyway, right?

[August 15 at 5:22pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738538532860010&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

* 

[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Eh that's a really biased misinterpretation of spiritual people that relies on debasing all spiritual people to your limited understanding of the varied approaches and interpretations they all make.
And also it gives a legitimacy to religion that I know you don't believe in just so that you can deride these people.

[August 15 at 5:24pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738538819526648&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

* 

[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Yeah, that second article was far too pretentious for me to finish. I'm going to go try to get rid of this headache now.

[August 15 at 5:29pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738539926193204&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Spiritual people have a tendency of borrowing concepts and beliefs from various religions without actually understanding any of them. Then they make their own self tailored "system"which just ends up being a compilation of heresies . Spiritual people rely on them selves to discover some sort of spiritual truth, in doing so they break the first rule of spiritualism and mysticism in any ancient faith. And that is you can not rely on your self to understand the truth. It must be revealed.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) The first half of your comment proceeded to make spiritual sound how they are: completely normal and fine.

[August 15 at 5:44pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738545129526017&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

* 

[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Normal and fine is a matter of perspective

[August 15 at 5:47pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738545972859266&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) What is wrong with prescribing to heresies of a religion that you don't belong to?

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Then the real question is what is wrong with being a heretic

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* 

[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) That's a great question. My answer is nothing.

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* 

[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Assuming you are of no faith. Your answer is expected.

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* 

[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) But then you wouldn't ever be exposed to a situation where you can be considered a heretic or come in contact with a heretic. Being that heresy is completely dependent and in relation to faith, and you don't have one. I don't see how you would have any relevance to the question being asked.

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[**Jeremiah R. Taluzek**](https://www.facebook.com/jeremiah.taluzek?fref=ufi) In very broad terms, religion seems to be concerned with something greater than oneself, which is where transcendent Truth enters the equation. "Spirituality" is the consumerist ripoff of religion, where one essentially creates a belief system based not on Truth, but on preference. I've never met a self-described "spiritual" person who believed anything that made them uncomfortable or put any restrictions on their daily lives. I'm religious, not because I want my religion to be true, but because I believe that it is—uncomfortable parts and all.

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[**Alex Kogan**](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=ufi) Yes I did it, Jeremiah vs. Woody Part 2

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Spirituality is a part of religion as well . Unfortunately the terminology for modern day heretics has become spirituality.

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* 

[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) As a metaphor . Spiritualists in the eyes of a religious person are as follows.

A= representation of a person that associates them selves with a religion
B= spiritualist

A: hello I am a devout follower of mathematics

B: oh well you see , I believe the concept of arithmetic and math but I do not follow a precise school or tradition .

A: what do you mean?

B: well I do believe that there is such a thing as math. But I do not believe in addition or division.

A: what?

B: well I feel that the concepts of addition and division actually limit me.
A: what?

B: well I have read this book on biology once and there was this thing about evolution and I really liked that.

A: what?

B: also I really feel that 2+2 isn't actually 4. It's just like I became connected directly to the great Maths after days of not doing addition or division while reading that book on biology. And I just felt that 2+2 was actually 27 .

A: that's nonsense

B: it's just what I believe okay? I don't want to argue about it.

A: ( internal thoughts =wtf)

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) Jeremiah, I think that that difference likely comes from the methods those who are spiritual use to find what they believe. I would argue that (at least nearly) everyone wants to believe the truth (maybe not divinely given capital T Truth, but the truth nonetheless - or at least as close to it as they can). If you decline all previously-presented systems of belief, then you are only left with yourself and your own reasoning (patch worked together from what makes sense from religious pieces you have heard of). People aren't going to create a personal belief that doesn't make sense to them logically, so that would be why they don't attach themselves with those 'unattractive' ideas.

The wording towards the end might not exactly get my point across, but I think that you can probably understand what I'm trying to say nonetheless - if you were creating your own system of beliefs, would you choose ones that make you uncomfortable? I think the validity of a belief shouldn't rest on how much of it contradicts with what the holder of those beliefs likes to believe

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* 

[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Continued.....

B: well I don't have to follow a precise discipline in order to math or believe in math
A: ugh I guess

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Misha, I do have a faith system that's been founded by years of religious instruction, church going, and self-reflection.
Your question seems fruitless as Kogan lacks a faith system but I imagine you wouldn't paint him the way you paint me. Disapproving of a heretic of a faith makes as much sense as disliking someone of another faith: none.
Also, I reject all comparisons between religion and science. They make no sense as it gives a legitimacy to religion -and in your opinion your own religion - that doesn't exist. There is no empirical way to prove religion and thus it cannot be considered the way you present it.
Also, the idea that you're supposed to subscribe to a faith that you don't agree with is inane. I agree with Ryan in this regard.

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) If there wasn't a way to prove religion then it wouldn't exist.

[August 15 at 8:07pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738583746188822&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) And I do admit I made an assumption. And as for painting you. I don't think we have reached that level of intimacy yet.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Please prove your religion. I'd love to see you show hundreds of millions of people wrong.
And we might have

[August 15 at 8:09pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738584052855458&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [1](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=738584052855458)

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) The problem isn't in a lack of proof. The problem is in the willingness of people to believe and accept the method.

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[**Alex Kogan**](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=ufi) Yes yes this is wonderful

[August 15 at 8:13pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738584782855385&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) People who seek truth but aren't willing to face the consequences of truth aren't seeking truth. They are seeking comfort.

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) For example with Christianity. Christ came bearing the truth. But people denied him because what he was saying was inconvenient for them to hear. At the same time there where those who realized that the inconvenience was a flaw in them selves not the teaching.

[August 15 at 8:16pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738585206188676&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) In what way are negative consequences an integral part of truth?
Why must the truth have a downside? There's no reason that I can see that the truth must be uncomfortable

[August 15 at 8:19pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738585632855300&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) If you are a person that really loves Big Macs and eat them every day and have done so from the age of 6 till the age of 27 . And the truth your doctor tells you is that you need to stop eating Big Macs or else you will have another heart attack. The truth makes you uncomfortable because it is not what you are accustomed to or the way you have lived your life . But if you don't want another heart attack you have to stop.

[August 15 at 8:25pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738586839521846&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) That's an example of how the truth can be uncomfortable (which is obvious), but not a reason that all truth must be uncomfortable

[August 15 at 8:26pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738587062855157&offset=50&total_comments=85) · [Edited](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Since we are man and not the truth . By not being the same thing we have to adapt to understand it. In doing so we will encounter things that comfort us and others that discomfort us or even frighten us.

[August 15 at 8:30pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738587709521759&offset=0&total_comments=85) · [Edited](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) All progress is uncomfortable.

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) To attain that which one does not have is to breach the very walls of comfort

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Unless if it is a very simple every day task such as purchasing a back scratcher

[August 15 at 8:36pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738589009521629&offset=0&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

* 

[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) You're just listing assumptions here - You assume that man cannot know the truth.

You also aren't giving any reasons. Give me a "because" that doesn't rely on religious assumptions

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* 

[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Because man isn't the truth he can never truly be comfortable with it because comfort completely relies on that which you are accustomed with. And we are only accustomed completely to our selves.

[August 15 at 8:45pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738592662854597&offset=0&total_comments=85) · [Edited](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) Could you explain what you mean when you say "man isn't the truth"?

[August 15 at 8:56pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738595376187659&offset=0&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) And by that logic nothing that is true can be comfortable

[August 15 at 8:57pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738595452854318&offset=0&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**Jeremiah R. Taluzek**](https://www.facebook.com/jeremiah.taluzek?fref=ufi) [Alex Kogan](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756) is my favorite atheist.

[August 15 at 9:14pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738599176187279&offset=0&total_comments=85) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf)

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) The problem with these metaphysical discussions is the lack of concrete foundation because people want to say things they think make them sound like they know what they're talking about by making other people confused because there is no proof. To try and prove or disprove religion--any religion or lack thereof--is an exercise in futility. So let's say we can agree on a couple of premises. A) We--people--prefer to do and believe as we always have has long as it's worked for us; B) we're not inclined to change--or comfortable with change--unless we're convinced there is a better way. If we take these two concepts and relate them to truth, then the truth is comfortable if it agrees with how we think and the truth is uncomfortable if it counters how we think.

[August 15 at 9:55pm](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756/posts/738516199528910?comment_id=738607029519827&offset=0&total_comments=85) · [Edited](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [Like](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=nf) · [3](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=738607029519827)

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) And as far as the original concept of being spiritual but not religious, it's kind of asinine. Spirituality stems from the concept of being something more than a person can control; ergo spirituality stems from religious concepts. One cannot, by definition, be a spiritual atheist. A true atheist disbelieves in the concepts that can cause spirituality. Simply disagreeing with a religion--or many religions--does not make one an atheist; it simply makes one discontent with the explanations offered.

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) Well said.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) I will confess I didn't read the article; it's Friday night and I don't read deep things on Fridays.

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) I guess it would depend on your definition of "religion" (or rather "spiritul") as well - does a belief in the supernatural, but not in something as powerful as a deity make you spiritual?

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) I think being "spiritual but not religious" could also stem from a belief in something larger than ourselves, but a distrust of organized religion

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) Like what?

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) That right there--"a distrust of organized religion"--implies a belief in a higher power, or the basis of religion. Therefore the spiritual would stem from religious concepts, making "spiritual but not religious" an incorrect statement.

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[**Misha Moibenko**](https://www.facebook.com/misha.moibenko?fref=ufi) Man isn't the truth because he searches for the truth thus making it external to him.

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) I can get behind that (referring to Bigs') reasoning.

As examples (relating to your other post), what about someone believing in druidic concepts such as (and I could be misinterpreting druidic beliefs here and if I am then let me know) forest spirits and the like, or more relatably a belief in ghosts (with disbelief in a deity)

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) That might be a moot point because I'm not sure how many people actually believe something like that, or if there would be any logical reason to actually believe in ghosts or spirits while not believing in a deity (I imagine someone could come up with some reasoning, but I haven't reasoned through it myself)

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) I'm wondering when Misha is gonna prove that his religion is right.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) Proving religion right isn't the point; if a religion could be proven correct, then there would be no more discussion about religion. So I really hope, for the existence of your being, that you're not wasting your life waiting for proof of a correct religion.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) I believe the point was could spirituality exist without religious belief, and the evidence points to no.

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[**Alex Kogan**](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=ufi) Ryan I think you've more or less described the shinto religion of Japan. Its still a religion.

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[**Alex Kogan**](https://www.facebook.com/alex.kogan.756?fref=ufi) Anyway I'm glad this happened. Even my high school Comp teacher is involved. Glorious

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[**Ryan Cooper**](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.cooper.902?fref=ufi) I guess my definition of "religion" must have started a bit looser than yours, then; for me it always had connotations of churches and deities and officiality.

I've heard of the Shinto religion, but I'm not all too familiar with it, so I'm not sure that I could debate further about how that and my (mostly Western-influenced) perceptions of religion differ. Either way you make some interesting points. I guess the most true definition is a bit looser than mine, being more of a system of beliefs explaining supernatural phenomena.

Using that definition, I would have to agree that spirituality (though it's still difficult to make a blanket statement covering all people) would almost certainly be founded upon "religious" beliefs.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) John, the entire point of my pressing that is Misha insisted that religion wouldn't exist unless there was a way to prove It.
I challenge this because it's incorrect, denies hundreds of years of Christian history to make it's point, and misleads in giving religion a legitimacy that it does not possess.
A religion does not possess the truth in the way that a scientific organization does. I don't see how one can think that it does.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) If that's what Misha stated, then I would agree with you because religion exists without proof. As for your last statement, I think we're getting into the difference between truth and proof, which does not always have to agree. Take paradoxes for example. Most people dislike liars, yet most people lie, yet most people do not dislike themselves even though the scientific proof indicates they should. Scientific proof does not always indicate universal truth. That's a different discussion altogether.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) I think in general I find the mention of the truth when referring to religion to be obnoxious as everyone thinks their religion possesses the truth without any way of actually knowing so.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) So are you saying that because something cannot be known therefore it cannot be true?

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) No, I think purporting that yours is true without knowing so is foolish.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) The difference being between "I believe it's true" and "I know it's true." No, of course, you don't know it's true, that's impossible.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) You contradict yourself. If you believe that something can be true without being proven--given there is no evidence to prove something else--then there is no difference between saying "I believe" or "I know." And in that regard, it would be foolish, or even cowardly one could say, to have a belief in something regarded as truth and not purport it.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) Impossible is only believed by people who stopped with a satisfactory answer.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Just because it hasn't been proven, doesn't mean it isn't true. But it definitely doesn't mean it is. However, if it hasn't been proven, then you can't know, you only believe. There's a huge difference between faith and reason. In example, there's no way to know that Jesus Christ is the son of God. People believe that.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) There's only a huge difference between faith and reason if there is reason to believe the faith to be untrue. If there is no reason other than "it hasn't been proven," then there is no functional difference between belief and knowledge. With no functional difference, we would behave the same whether we say believe or say know; ergo, believe equals know.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) No, that makes no sense. Faith literally requires a detract from logic. It requires one to believe that which is unreasonable. To accept that which is illogical. The entire point of faith is that you cannot know and thus it is important. What value is there in believing from knowledge? What virtue? None. "Faith is a leap beyond reason" - St. Thomas Aquinas.
I have a friend that believes the Earth is 4000 years old because of her faith. This is objectively untrue. But if we didn't know how old the Earth is, that wouldn't mean she KNOWS that it's 4000 years old. She would believe that and we wouldn't know whether or not she is correct.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Knowing is certainty. Believing isn't.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) Of course it makes no sense to you if that's the example you chose. Your friend can be proven wrong; therefore, her belief cannot be considered knowledge, as there is evidence to counter the belief (plus that's probably a misinterpretation of her faith on someone's part). But if there is nothing that can disprove a belief; it may as well be certainty. You seem to be using the terms "logic," "reason," and "truth" interchangeably, and that's not the basis here; I've brought up nothing about truth or belief being logical or reasonable. Your choice of quotation from St. Thomas Aquinas could be better used to support my claim, because we would not take a leap of faith that we did not believe to be true.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) I think you have fundamentally misunderstood my statements. Especially since you think I'm using those interchangeably when my entire point is drawing a clear distinction. And your last statement completely missed my point. You take a leap of faith on something you BELIEVE, not something you KNOW. There is no leap if you know.
Also, you really didn't grasp the second half of my example when I said, "But if we didn't know how old the earth is...."

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) I did grasp the second half of the example; I immediately found it irrelevant because we do know the Earth to be older than 4000 years old. Making up an argument and tweaking it to your liking does not make it a good argument.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) And I didn't miss the point; making them all caps did help clarify though. You take a leap when you believe; got it. You're missing the next step: when there is nothing to counter a belief, it's as good as knowledge, which also means that any further leaps aren't really leaps. That could also explain why people who have such conviction in their beliefs seem to take what we call "leaps of faith" with relative ease; they view their belief as knowledge, making the "leap" really more of a logical next step.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Just cause there is no evidence to the contrary of an opinion or belief, doesn't make it correct. How would it be as good as knowledge?

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) If one person's faith tells them a lake belongs to the devil, and another person's tells them it is holy, they both can't be correct. They don't know anything, they believe. Not having evidence against them doesn't mean they're both right. This is the defining argument of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

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[**John Bigler**](https://www.facebook.com/JBigs1825?fref=ufi) Right, but that's satire; anything that tries to convince it's not satire is satire. And it's not even that good of a satire. I don't believe you actually brought in the Church of the FSM thinking it would prove your point. I've come to the conclusion that you don't actually have anything that could counter my base argument other than you're unwillingness, or perhaps knowledge, that you believe me to be wrong. You've offered no actual proof, yet are still convinced you are right. Which, I guess, would make me right.

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[**Woody Stanfield**](https://www.facebook.com/woody.stanfield?fref=ufi) Hahaha omg. All right, John, you can have it. Take the win. Congratulations.

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