

**Pascal, The Wager**

82-86

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**Assumed:** You cannot know whether God exists, nor can you know what he is.

**Question:** Should one believe or not believe in the face of the uncertainty?

**Answer:** It's better to believe because...

	You believe	You don't believe
God Exists	Gain infinite happiness for infinity	Infinite pain
God does not exist	You gain a bit	Neither lose nor gain

If you believe “[y]ou will be faithful, honest, humble, grateful, generous, a sincere friend, truthful. Certainly you will not have those poisonous pleasures, glory and luxury” (84, right column).

**Question:** I see it's best to believe, but how should I do it?

**Answer:** Don't look for proofs of God's existence; train your passions, not your reason.

- Hang out with believers and act as if you believed: take the holy water, have mass, *etc.*

**Objection:** Believers are always afraid of hell.

**Reply:** Who should be more afraid: those who don't believe and will certainly face it if there's a God, or those who do believe and so have hope of avoiding it?