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Subject: Re: A psychological question: "choose to believe"

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Sat, 26 Feb 2011 01:58:42 GMT

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shippo wrote on Fri, 25 February 2011 17:35? what do you mean when you say "the rest of us can't"?

The rest of you can't chose to believe in someting?

I don't want to sound rude, but it seems like you just aren't reading what the other people in the conversation are saying.

Yes, my original question was whether people can decide to believe something (doesn't matter what it is for the purposes of the question; it's just a question of how the human mind works)

if you say yes then your mind works differently to mine, simple as that. i cannot make a decision to believe something. i could choose go to church and bow my head in prayer and sing the hymns etc... but what i can't choose to do is instruct my mind what to believe. i can control my actions, but not my beliefs.

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 25 February 2011 09:06 Given that the rest of us can't, does this make you reconsider the fact we'll be punished for not being the right religion?

Nope

well, there you go. the prospect of people being tortured forever as punishment for not being the right religion doesn't bother you at all? either you don't really believe it either or you don't have any human compassion (i think i know which one it is)

Quote:Spoony wrote on Fri, 25 February 2011 09:06

If you don't object to the fact that this negates the whole concept of freedom of religion, and if you don't object to the fact it's torture, do you at least object to the fact that we're being threatened unless we do something we can't do?

who is doing the threatening? do you mean God?

Christians/Christianity. The religion and its adherents say it. I am inclined to think it is not actually true, but this doesn't make it OK to make the threat anymore than it's acceptable to mug someone with a fake gun.

Quote:snpr1101 wrote on Fri, 25 February 2011 17:33So can somebody choose to believe? They probably could with the right environment. I realize it may sound like you can be forced into believing; which probably isn't a bad description. But at the end of the day, you make the decision with the stimuli you have.

sounds reasonable, but what about this:

I am a Corpsman in the US Navy, I am a christian, and yet I am surrounded by 90% non christians. how does that work?

Did you have a "religious upbringing", i.e. what was the attitude of your parents and your school (two different questions, obviously) in regard to religion?

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