

Making A Choice To Believe **“A Spiritual Decision”**

By: Dan Ford



Why make a choice to “Believe” in anything?

This might seem to be a simple enough question, but it is also a really complex concept to get our minds wrapped around. It also appears that it is typical for us to ask this question, and then promptly forget we asked it at all. We go on dealing with all the challenges that we have to face everyday.

That is the scenario that dominates our lives. We have momentary inquiries that seem to be important to us at the time, but if the answers do not arrive like a lightning bolt into our consciousness, we quickly move on to the next thing that grabs our attention. Also, when we are very young, we are willing to be open-minded about almost everything. We are all psychic explorers in those early years, and then suddenly we aren't. This is very sad.

As we move onward towards our adulthood, we have many opportunities to question who and what we are and where we are going and what we will ultimately become. Quite often during those times, that question about who we really are and what we want to believe in comes creeping into our consciousness. We usually ignore those slightly persistent questions because we are so involved in the physicality and emotionality of the maturing process.

In other words, that age-old question arises again and again but we are far too engrossed in our work or play to stop and listen for those elusive answers. Our once open minds begin to close up just like the aperture of an old camera. This is not a natural state for inquiring souls to thrive in.

And while we are participating in all that growing up stuff, there are many people and institutions or groups within whatever civilization or culture we belong to, that have decided that they will take advantage of the fact that we are innate psychic explorers who are wobbling in and out of a very confused state of trying to decide who we are, and what we believe, and what it is we want to become. They understand that it is very important to believe in something in order to advance the evolution of our souls and they take advantage of our involvement in all of the diversions available to us in this physical realm we are currently residing in, to lure us into their sphere of influence. They tell us that all we need to do is join their group, and read their books, and repeat their stories and follow their rules and to do all of that without questioning. And then miracle of miracles, upon our death and departure from this realm following a

single life experience, we will enter into an undefined elevated state that most of these groups call heaven.

It seems to matter little that every single one of us have entirely different life experiences while we are here in this earthly realm. Some of us have had it easy and some of us have had it extremely difficult. Some of us have learned a lot and some of us have absorbed very little. A few have served mankind to a great degree and many more have only served themselves. A very few have been saintly and another very few have been truly evil. Most of us fall somewhere between those extremes.

How often in the learning processes have we seen that everyone graduates from a learning experience with the same degree regardless of their academic or life enhancing achievements?

Do we really think that entry into any worthwhile albeit poorly defined heaven will be that easy? If we have been created simply to become mindless supplicants to a Deity who seeks only to bolster its ego, why not just make that clear to us from the instant we are created?

Non-human animals for the most part, have been designed to be themselves and not question their degree of being. They just are! It's that simple! They react to their existence and their surroundings in accordance with an internal programming that we call instinct. We humans have not been created in the same manner. We question everything and that is the beauty of our being. We continually seek to experience something new, and that something new serves to help us evolve into something better than we were previously. Unlike the non-human animals, a new experience results in changing us quite dramatically. We humans also strive to improve our circumstances. We seem to be aware that there is more to our existence than what is obvious to us in any given moment or circumstance. We create exquisite music and sing beautiful songs. We paint inspirational works of art and construct uncountable things including soaring architectures, as well as entire cities and nations. And we write informative, illuminating and exciting books that transfer our

knowledge, experiences and thoughts to unlimited numbers of our fellow humans. What a wonderful design mankind is.

These unique characteristics have placed us onto an accelerated arc of evolutionary development. According to scientific research, most of our fellow animals have taken millions of years to evolve into what they are, and unless they mutate into other similar species because of cultural or genetic splits, they stay pretty much the same. We humans on the other hand have been changing on a relatively fast track of 40,000 years, not so dramatically much on a physical basis but certainly on a technological and intellectual basis and it would seem that we are just getting started. And this is in spite of the influence of others in control that we exist with and they seem to be intent on holding us back from the evolutionary process.

And while we are on the subject of evolution, it makes sense to segue back into our discussion of making that decision to **believe** in something. As fast as we seem to be evolving, in comparison to other living things on our planet, we are significantly held back by those aforementioned people, institutions and groups who are committed to organizing and controlling our actions spiritually, politically and personally. They have been able to persuade most of us to take the easy way and simply adhere to the laws and tenets that they espouse. And because this is not obviously always a totally wrong thing, many of us acquiesce to their demands and follow their laws and accept their theologies with very few questions. In large part this has often been a good thing as it has reduced the chaos that is inherent in anarchical or other forms of leaderless organization, be it governmental or religious in nature. Much good has often come from many of those organizational influences. But, and this is an important but, there have also been a lot of negative things such as wars that have also resulted from humans attempting to maintain or promote their allegiances at any cost.

My problem with them is their tendency to insist on remaining totally rigid and conservative to their current tenets and resistant to changes that would benefit themselves and their followers.

There is a price to pay for being so ultra conservative regarding our activities in this regard. The price for rigidity in keeping the status quo is lessening an ability to evolve into something better than we are now and that, I believe with all my heart is counter to what we have been created to become. Keeping to the status quo would have kept us in the cave. Keeping to the status quo would mean that we should not have developed tools and weapons or improved our huts and replaced them with better houses. Our villages would not have become cities and the worship of animals would not have been replaced by any of the great religions we have today. Staying overly conservative would have meant that mankind should have ignored Jesus, Mohammad, Buddha, Confucius, Ghandi, Martin Luther King and many other great thoughts and beliefs. If there had not been those individuals who refused to limit their thoughts and inquiries, we would still think the world was flat as well as being the center of the universe and many countries would never have created Constitutions' that protect their citizens from leadership abuse. Perhaps most importantly, if we remain ultraconservative, most of our fellow humans would have stayed in the various forms of bondage that those in superior positions place them in. The mass of humanity would have remained in physical, economic and social slavery forever if we could not evolve into gradually higher forms of personal freedom.

It is difficult to forsake the comfort of the comfortable. It is far easier to remain nestled in a cozy home than to embark outward into an unknown and possibly dangerous destination, but where would we be as a society if everyone attempted to remain as they are at the moment? We live in a world that constantly alters its existence. It seems to be obvious that this condition of evolution is the essence of Creation itself and we as participants must evolve within the process as well, whether we are comfortable with it or not.

I personally visualize the essence of Creation as a flow of Consciousness, similar to a river. From our perspective within that flow we cannot normally see it, feel it or even really understand it on an intellectual level. However, if an individual is of an artistic or creative bent, they can immerse themselves into it. So can a deeply spiritual person sense their immersion into this river of Spiritual

Consciousness when they shed the rigid doctrines demanded by others and surrender egos that generally dominate personal actions. They can then simply be in the instant and feel the flow of that spiritual stream of consciousness.

Many of us often experience some of this flow when we give ourselves up to inspirational music, look lovingly at babies, animals or each other or perhaps listen to a spirited motivational speech or read a dramatic book or see a movie that they can truly relate to. The various disciplines of meditation can introduce respite from daily problems, provide solutions to emotional stress and even introduce entry into blissful states. We can enter into that flow of Spiritual Consciousness when we practice meditation or perhaps pray in a heartfelt and sincere manner. In any case, we can immerse ourselves into that creative flow as an individual and as that inquiring individual we can absorb and take out peace, joy, solutions to chaos and emit a sense of well being, at least until the competition from our earthly activities again overwhelm our senses. During immersions into that flow of universal harmony a seeker of creative solutions can achieve breakthroughs that they could not achieve while involved in everyday activities. As quoted from *The Process Of Creation* taken from a little known writings called *The Gaelic Manuscripts*, "*The endurance of the (creative) result is dependent on the dynamics with which the creative intelligence works. These dynamics in turn depend upon the degree of spiritual development and aspiration to which their originator has attained.*"

At some given point in this lifetime, if you want to listen to your inner urgings to sincerely believe in something higher than yourself and to use that belief to reignite your effort to move along on your very own evolutionary path, you simply need to select the way that truly connects with your internal spirituality. There is **nobody other than yourself** that can determine what path you need to adopt to start or continue on that journey. It may very well be the path you are on now. If the religion or spiritual belief that you practice at present truly satisfies you, then you might as well stick with that. However, many if not most organized theological or spiritual belief systems are structured to maintain control or discipline for the total "flock" and by

doing that does not tolerate an individual's need to evolve in personal ways. It is often not necessary that you leave that environment, but it is important that you remain free to question whether or not what thoughts they are promoting are applicable to your growth. In many cases they insist their followers submit to their rules without question, even when their tenets are very outdated and not believable by educated standards. What was best understood and related to in the era of Jesus or Mohammed is not going to be understood and related to in our present stage of development. Quite often the principles are still relevant but the old stories and the organizational mandates are quite outdated and can hold an individual's soul's growth back if followed too rigidly.

It is not for me or anyone else to say exactly what you should believe or what your evolutionary timeline and earthly pathways should be. There are those here on this globe that are in relatively new or beginning stages of their growth and others who are much further along. I also believe that all of us will ultimately "graduate" with full honors and that the numbers of experiences that we individually have are of little importance at that time. We most likely have had and will continue to have many failing grades before we reach our perfection. The only real mistake we can make is wasting the perceived time and experiences that we have and there is no moment like the present to start or return to our journey's path.

You can start that journey by selecting a "Belief" system that appeals to your intellect and emotional makeup. Once having made that selection, learn and practice as much as you can about your choice to see if that selection was a correct one. Just remember, don't follow the precepts blindly. The laws or rules of behavior may not necessarily be a perfect fit for you. Constantly ask questions after you have given the doctrines a fair and full chance of convincing you that they are true and relevant ones.

Attached below, you can review a listing of most of the major and some of the minor religious organizations that are available to help you in your search. There is also a listing of many of the non-

religious Spiritual and Philosophical organizations that are available if that is your preference.