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

Posted by [snpr1101](#) on Sat, 26 Feb 2011 00:33:55 GMT

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The car salesman analogy to me, is not a good one. Why? Well for starters there is clearly a big difference in consequences between the two scenarios. The consequences of buying a car that has none of the attributes the salesman described and won't start are completely insignificant and minuscule in comparison to spending an eternity in hell because you refused to believe in a Religion or a God.

I realize this was just an example given in an attempt to prove that you could "choose" to believe in someone or something. However, in light of the consequences of whatever you may or may not choose to believe in, the "choice" may become a bit harder.

I think there is a difference between accepting what the car salesman says and truly 100% with all your heart believing in him. Which is silly to expect; who has such strong thoughts for what a car salesman says? Not to mention other holes like the car salesman actually being tangible at present; and knowing that you will be able to inspect the car at some point. That's why I don't like the example.

Back to the original question however - "Can somebody choose to believe".

In my opinion, we are probably capable of believing in something like a God with about 99% assurance. Why? Because with zero evidence of a supreme being existing somewhere for whatever reason in the past, during or after our lives; our logical selves (However lacking that may be in some) will always question and seek logical answers. Logical answers. Tangible proof. Not spiritual energy floating around in the cosmos. Not the warm fuzzy feeling in your chest. Not images of the great one cupping the world in his hands; something on the same plane of existence as us that we can either see, touch, feel, hear or even smell.

Speaking from experience, I 99% believed in a god when I was younger. Went to Sunday school. Went to a Christian school. When you're surrounded and intoxicated with religion 24/7; it becomes not to accept it. When an adult with authority in the eyes of a child tells an impressionable child that God exists, and all those who do not accept him into your hearts will suffer in eternity in hell; you really do not have a choice. Yet that 1% is the constant niggling doubt in your mind. Asking questions; seeking answers that eventually nobody can answer. And I think that has helped me to "see the light" as such.

So 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.