

Pathwork on
Religion

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 5 *Happiness for Yourself or Happiness as a Link in the Chain of Life*, puts religion into a context that I find helpful – and defines religion broadly as “re-connection with God.” It helps me see that, “Yes, I am religious!”

26	<p>Now I want to switch to a subject which has been discussed on some occasions and seems to puzzle some of you: How and why is it possible that there are so many different religious concepts on earth? You think, "Everybody says something different, much of it is contradictory; therefore none of them can be in truth." My dear friends, there is only one truth. Let me explain why there are differences in the human concepts and how they should be viewed -- and here I exclude errors which have slipped into the concepts through faulty transmissions. As everything has form and gestalt in spirit, so does truth, that is, the true state of things. The form is unchangeable and yet in constant flux, since everything in the spirit is in continuous, ever-vibrating, circular motion. Nothing is static, neither feelings nor circumstances, nothing at all. Imagine a wheel, unchangeable in its basic form, but constantly turning. At various places and at different times, after fulfilling certain conditions, people occasionally lift the veil that covers it and see a small segment of the huge wheel. One person, at one particular time, sees one detail behind the veil; another, at another time, or in another place, sees something quite different. Their observations may occasionally coincide, but often they do not, since the wheel is turning and whoever lifts the veil may see just then something different. What they see may sometimes appear contradictory, because the connection between the parts of the whole cannot be seen through the veil. If the whole wheel were visible, the seemingly contradictory parts would be seen as belonging to a whole. So humanity is fighting because their various interpretations sound like contradictions. In reality this is not so. Even when a religious concept contains definite errors, one can find the grain of truth on which it is based.</p>
27	<p>People often approach this whole area with a wrong attitude. They believe that there cannot be such a thing as absolute truth, only relative truth, a conclusion they base on their various glimpses behind the veil. They purport that everything connected with God and Creation is more or less a matter of personal opinion or taste. Each belief contains something beautiful and noble, they say, and therefore all these matters of belief are subjective and not absolute or objective. The conclusion, based on emotions, is that there is no absolute spiritual truth. Instead of trying to find the truth that can be found in each religious concept, people dismiss everything, at least emotionally, as illusion, imagination, and a matter of preference. This means that the entire concept of the absolute, which can only exist in spirit, becomes predicated on human perception with its errors, elevating it above all else. By embracing this error, you become passive, you are unable to lift the veil and to personally experience the truth. This is only possible when a person is convinced that there must be an absolute truth above relative human truth, and when you are careful not to</p>

	transpose the relative human truth onto the absolute spiritual truth. That would necessarily close the door to personally experiencing the truth.
28	<p>In this respect people can be divided into two groups. One clings dogmatically to a set of beliefs without much thinking or examining their feelings about them. They will never know what it is to have a deep personal experience of truth. The other group is the one I mentioned before. Today it is especially numerous, mostly consisting of intellectually advanced people. They claim that their views are particularly unbiased, that they have "freed" themselves. But they throw the immutable, eternally moving, absolute, divine truth into one basket with human dogma, and thus they lose the solid ground from under their feet. Both groups represent extremes; both are in untruth and miss the point. The second group is just as far away from the truth as is the first one, yes, often even more so. With all their superficial, intellectual knowledge, they are actually the ones who are the searchers. But they can find only if they first open a door within themselves, perhaps a door to their unconscious.</p>
29	<p>What is "religion?" There is so much misunderstanding about this, and you are often anxious to assure yourself and others that you are not "religious." You make the mistaken assumption that being religious means to adhere to some sect and blindly accept a set dogma. Religion means "re-connection with God," and everybody wants this, whether knowingly or not. All unfulfilled longing is basically nothing else but the wish to return to God, that is, to "religion." The more a person is aware of this wish, the more peacefully and harmoniously the soul currents will flow. People may even find their way back to God through a sectarian community, if the instructions received there activate their soul force and open the door to self-search and through that to higher perception. This is the essence of religion that people can discover also by adhering to a religious sect. Then the minor errors or deviations do not matter; in this case they are only details. Such details become important only when they hinder the individual's progress, whether directly or indirectly. This, however, depends largely on the individual.</p>
30	<p>For other people, the way back to God does not lead through joining a religious sect; they must be shown another road. But whatever the way, everyone needs help from the outside; this outside help constitutes the material with which they must build their own house. But "religion," that is, "reconnection with God," is essential for all. God is absolute, God is truth, and therefore the truth beyond human error is also absolute. Humans will receive as much of the truth as they are able to understand and assimilate, according to their development. There are many, however, to whom more could be given than what they are receiving -- but they do not want it. They are too lazy, or they are not fulfilling the requirements for some other reason. But to those who truly knock, the door will be opened.</p>