



# William James on Psychology and Religion (Illustrated)

*William James*

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## **William James on Psychology and Religion (Illustrated)** William James

The book has an active table of contents for readers to access each chapter of the following titles:

- 1) The Varieties of Religious Experience
- 2) Pragmatism
- 3) A Pluralistic Universe
- 4) Human Immortality
- 5) The Meaning of Truth
- 6) The Will to Believe

The book contains the important works about psychology and religion by William James, one of the greatest American psychologists.

Religious concerns become explicit in the collection. James believed in that a research in human nature such as Varieties can contribute to science of religion and that religious experience involves a domain inaccessible to science but accessible to the individual human subject.

The works in the collection were widely used by students of psychology to study psychology and religion.

William James influences on Psychology theory are as the follows:

### 1) Pragmatism

According to pragmatism, the truth of an idea can never be proven. James proposed we instead focus on what he called the "cash value," or usefulness, of an idea.

### 2) Functionalism


James opposed breaking down mental events to the smallest elements. Instead, James focused on the wholeness of an event, taking into the impact of the environment on behavior.


### 3) James-Lange Theory of Emotion

The James-Lange theory of emotion proposes that an event triggers a physiological reaction, which we then interpret. According to this theory, emotions are caused by our interpretations of these physiological reactions.

In addition to his influence on Psychology, William James' discussion of choice and rationality, as well as self-interest, made significant contributions to areas of concern in modern economic theory. Each of these themes is connected with aspects of relevant economic literature and is the contribution of James' pragmatism to economic theory.

This is a must read book for the readers who are interested in researching modern psychology and its influence on religion.

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