

Front	Back
<p>What is a religious experience?</p>	<p>A direct or indirect encounter with the divine or sacred, often described as transformative or deeply meaningful.</p>
<p>What is a mystical experience?</p>	<p>An experience of unity with a greater power or ultimate reality, often transcending normal human understanding.</p>
<p>What is a conversion experience?</p>	<p>A profound change in belief, often involving the adoption of religious faith as a result of a personal encounter with the divine.</p>
<p>Who was William James?</p>	<p>A philosopher and psychologist who studied religious experience in his book "The Varieties of Religious Experience".</p>

Front

Back

What are the four characteristics of mystical experiences identified by William James?

Ineffability, noetic quality, transiency, and passivity.

What does ineffability mean in the context of mystical experiences?

The experience is beyond human language and cannot be adequately described.

What does noetic quality mean?

The experience provides insights or knowledge that is deeply meaningful and spiritual.

What is transiency in a religious experience?

The experience is temporary, but its effects may be long-lasting and life-changing.

Front

Back

What does passivity mean in the context of mystical experiences?

The individual feels as though the experience is being controlled by an external force or power.

What is an example of a conversion experience?

St Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, where he encountered a vision of Christ.

What is an example of a mystical experience?

St Teresa of Ávila's visions of union with God.

How might a psychologist view religious experiences?

As a psychological phenomenon, possibly an illusion or a result of the subconscious mind.

Front

Back

What is the physiological interpretation of religious experiences?

They may be caused by brain activity, such as temporal lobe epilepsy or drug-induced states.

How can religious experiences be understood as union with a greater power?

Some interpret them as a connection with God, ultimate reality, or a higher spiritual force.

What is the argument that religious experiences are illusions?

Some argue they are subjective and shaped by cultural or personal expectations, rather than being genuine encounters with the divine.

Why are religious experiences significant in religious studies?

They provide evidence for the existence of God or the divine, and offer insight into faith and spirituality.

Front

Back

What is a corporate religious experience?

An experience shared by a group of people, such as the Toronto Blessing.

What is Swinburne's principle of credulity?

If someone experiences something, it is rational to believe it unless there is evidence to the contrary.

What is Swinburne's principle of testimony?

We should trust the accounts of others unless we have reason to doubt their reliability.