

Chapter 5 – The Authoritarian Faith Path: “Truth is What You’ve Been Told You Must Believe”

53. “Very few people arrive at their particular spiritual point of view through careful _____ of the _____ and _____ supporting it. Most accept it either because they grew up with it ... or because influential people in their lives expect and even demand it ...”
54. Although the “authoritarian” path to religious belief is most evident when we look at Islam, Mittelberg points out that, “this strong appeal to _____ authority can sometimes be seen in _____ circles as well.”
55. Mittelberg says he is not completely anti-authoritarian. What does he say is the critical question regarding religious authoritarian leaders?
- a. _____

56. On the question of integrity and consistency, do you think, in Christian churches, there are any “false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.” (from the *Sermon on the Mount*)? What kind of “fruit” or lack of “fruit” should we look for to be confident that we are following and trusting the right authorities?
- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

57. Regarding ‘accuracy’, Mittelberg says “a leader’s teaching must be: (1) true to the _____ ; (2) true to the leader’s own _____ ; and ultimately, (3) true to _____ words.”
58. What are some examples of an authority figure’s teaching failing the three tests of accuracy in the last question? (Examples do not necessarily have to come from the book.)
- a. (1) _____
b. (2) _____
c. (3) _____
59. “One more test of authority ... The leader or organization worth following will not resist scrutiny in the areas {of} ... _____ , _____ , and _____ .”

60. Do you agree that “the kind of openness and humility I’m talking about are often not exhibited by religious leaders and organizations”? Can you think of any examples?

- a. _____

Chapter 6: The Intuitive Faith Path: ‘Truth Is What You Feel in Your Heart’

61. “People who take [the intuitive] faith path tend not to trust in their _____ or what their eyes and ears tell them, but rather in an inner sense—a _____ instinct they believe points them toward _____ ideas and actions.”

62. Do you agree that we have “some measure of intuitive instinct that works with our other senses—to give us quick and clear impressions of dangers, opportunities, or direction.”? Why or why not? Do you have examples?

- a. _____

63. Regarding this statement, “In light of the avalanche of examples of the power of intuition, why not just go with it?” How would you reply to that question?

- a. _____

64. “What then should we conclude about intuition? It is, at best, an imperfect _____ —one that needs to be _____ and _____ by other _____.”

65. What is the scripture in Proverbs that warns us about following what seems right?

- a. _____

66. “If you want to be confident in your faith, then _____ to your instincts, but also remember you must _____ and _____ them carefully.”