Several organized religions hold pantheistic views. **Hinduism** is the belief that the divine exists in all beings. Hindus feel that all human beings can achieve union with this "innate divinity” and contribute to social harmony. For most Hindus, their religion is not just a faith. It is a combination of reason and intuition that cannot be defined, but only experienced. Hinduism is distinguished by its teaching of reincarnation, a cycle of birth and rebirth. The associated philosophy of *karma* holds that individual intent and actions influence a person’s future.

**Jainism** prescribes a path of ahimsa (non-violence) towards all living beings, and emphasizes spiritual interdependence and equality between all forms of life. Jains believe that nonviolence and self-control are the means by which they can obtain liberation from the cycle of birth and rebirth. Self-denial is a major focus of the Jain faith.

The [**New Age**](http://www.conservapedia.com/New_Age) movement has a pantheistic view of God. 1) “God” is an impersonal, cosmic energy force. 2) Man is himself God, for he consists of and is the creator of "the forces.” 3) Man should seek and accept spiritual instruction directly from the spirit world. 4) All religions and religious teachings lead to the same goal. All have equal merit. 5) Sin and evil do not exist. Peace and love are the ultimate realities.

**Superstition** is a belief held by some people who assign irrational, even supernatural causes to events they do not understand. Generally speaking, those who do not accept the idea of a providential God have a false conception of causation and a fear of the unknown. They are likely to trust in magic or chance and seek knowledge about future events through some form of **fortune telling.** They typically believe that one should avoid anything that

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Adoration

When we praise God, we focus on the character of God. We praise His greatness and worship His majesty. We acknowledge our dependence on him in all things (1 Chron. 29:11-12).

Confession

God knows our sins already, but “confession is good for the soul.” When we acknowledge that God is righteous and we are sinful, we prepare our hearts to receive God’s forgiveness and blessing (Daniel 9:4-19).

Thanksgiving

All blessings come from God (James 1:17) and our gratitude is a response to God’s blessings (1 Cor. 9:11). Because ingratitude is sinful (Rom. 1:21) we should develop an “attitude of gratitude.”

Supplication (request, petition, intercession)

When we have needs, we should “come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16). We may ask God for many things, including 1) mercy ([Psalm 4:1](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Psalm%204.1)); 2) leading ([Psalm 5:8](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Psalm%205.8)); 3) deliverance ([Psalm 6:4](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Psalm%206.4)); 4) salvation from persecution ([Psalm 7:1](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Psalm%207.1)); and 5) our daily bread ([Matt. 6:11](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matthew%206.11)).

Some people raise objections to prayer. 1) If God is all-wise, does He not know what we need without our asking? 2) If God is all-good, will He not grant what we need without our trying to persuade Him? It is true that God knows what we need before we ask for it, but does this mean that God automatically gives us what we need? If so, would people not become Christians simply to receive personal benefits?

Here are some ways in which God answers the prayers of Christians. 1) *No*. This was the answer to Christ’s prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane when He asked God to “let this cup pass from me” (Matt. 26:39). 2) *Wait.* Many months passed before Nehemiah was

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