

**2023 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 132 RELIGION
SPIRITUALITY AND NON-RELIGION SURVEY
JULY 31-AUGUST 6, 2023
N=11,201**

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

ALTID Do you think of yourself as...**[RANDOMIZE a-e]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Religious Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	53	43	4
b. Atheist Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	10	81	8
c. Agnostic Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	16	74	9
d. Spiritual Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	64	30	6
e. Non-religious Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	28	64	7

ASK ALL:

SPIRIMP How important is spirituality in your life?

Jul 31-Aug 6
2023

40	Very important
31	Somewhat important
18	Not too important
10	Not at all important
<1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SPIRMEAN In your own words, what does the term "spiritual" mean to you?

RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% OR TO SUBTOTALS INDICATED BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED; UP TO THREE RESPONSES WERE CODED

Jul 31-Aug 6

2023

27	Belief in organized religion
12	Belief in God
8	Belief in Jesus, the Holy Spirit or other elements of Christian theology
5	Obedience to God/following scripture, religious teachings
4	Faith/faithfulness
4	Religion/religious
32	Belief in something else
14	Belief in higher power
7	Belief in the unseen/otherworldly
6	Souls/spirits
3	Belief in something more/bigger than self
3	Life after death
2	Energy/vibrations
2	Universe
<1	Superstition
4	Belief outside of organized religion
3	Belief outside of religion/the church
1	Opposition/nonparticipation in organized religion
<1	Creating/subscribing to own beliefs
24	Connections
12	Connections with God
4	Connections with nature, outside world
4	Connections with self
3	Connections with higher power
2	Connections with other people, humanity
1	Connecting with something more/bigger than self
1	Connecting with the unseen/otherworldly
10	Related to self or others
4	Being kind/respectful
2	Inner peace
2	Purpose/meaning
2	Sense of guidance/direction
1	Mindfulness
<1	Gratitude
1	Morality
1	Cynicism
1	Means little/nothing
3	Other/Unclear/Don't know
22	Refused

ASK IF SPIRITUAL (IN ALTID_d) OR SPIRITUALITY IS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT (IN SPIRIMP):

SPIRESSENT1 How important is each of the following to what being spiritual means to you? **[SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS; RANDOMIZE SCREEN 1 AND 2; RANDOMIZE a-e ON FIRST SCREEN AND f-j ON SECOND SCREEN]**

RESULTS BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID THEY ARE SPIRITUAL IN ALTID_d OR THAT SPIRITUALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THEIR LIVES IN SPIRIMP [N=8,157]

	Essential part of what being spiritual means to <u>me</u>	Important, but not <u>essential</u>	Not an important part of what being spiritual means to me	<u>No answer</u>
a. Continuing family traditions Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	27	44	28	1
b. Following a religious faith Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	40	29	30	1
c. Following a set of beliefs that I make for myself Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	39	29	31	2
d. Being connected with God Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	70	16	14	1
e. Being open-minded Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	53	33	13	1
f. Being connected with something bigger than myself Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	74	19	6	1
g. Being connected with nature Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	43	38	19	1
h. Being connected with loved ones who have passed Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	31	35	33	1
i. Being connected with my true self Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	64	25	11	1
j. Being connected with other people Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	39	46	14	1

ASK IF SPIRITUAL (IN ALTID_d) OR SPIRITUALITY IS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT (IN SPIRIMP):

SPIRESSENT2 And just in your own words, is there anything else that is an essential part of what being spiritual means to you?

RESULTS BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID THEY ARE SPIRITUAL IN ALTID_d OR THAT SPIRITUALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THEIR LIVES IN SPIRIMP [N=8,157]

RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% OR TO SUBTOTALS INDICATED BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED; UP TO THREE RESPONSES WERE CODED

Jul 31-Aug 6
2023

16	Belief in religion/organized religion
5	Belief in God
5	Jesus, the Holy Spirit or other elements of Christian theology
4	Following religious teachings/scripture
3	Religion/faith
2	Prayer
1	Religious fellowship/relating with people with similar beliefs
<1	Sharing beliefs with other people/proselytizing
16	Related to self or others
9	Being kind/respectful
3	Open-mindedness/non-judgement/acceptance
2	Mindfulness
1	Peace
1	Purpose/meaning
1	Awareness of impact on others
1	Golden Rule
1	Gratitude
12	Connections
5	Connection/relationship with God
3	Connecting with self
3	Connecting with others/community/humanity
3	Connecting with Earth/outside world/nature/animals
<1	Connection/relationship with higher power
2	Belief in something else
1	Life after death
1	Belief in higher power
11	No, nothing else is essential
4	Unclear/Other/Don't know/Not sure
47	Refused

ASK ALL:

SPIRACT1

How often do you do each of the following? [**RANDOMIZE ITEMS**]

		Several times a <u>day</u>	Once a <u>day</u>	A few times a <u>week</u>	Once a <u>week</u>	A few times a <u>month</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Meditate	Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	7	7	12	4	10	27	34	1
b. Spend time in nature	Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	11	11	26	8	20	19	4	<1
c. Spend time looking inward or centering yourself	Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	14	10	20	6	14	21	14	1
d. Exercise	Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	8	17	33	6	13	19	4	<1
e. Practice yoga	Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	1	1	5	3	5	21	64	<1

ASK ONLY OF THOSE WHO DO SPECIFIC ACTIVITY AT LEAST A FEW TIMES A MONTH IN SPIRACT1:

SPIRACT2 What is the MOST IMPORTANT reason why you do each of the following? [**DISPLAY ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS SPIRACT1; RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS "TO FEEL CONNECTED WITH SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MYSELF" TO "TO HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE," "FOR A DIFFERENT REASON" ALWAYS LAST**]

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

	To feel connected with something bigger than <u>myself</u>	To get health benefits, including <u>relaxation</u>	To feel connected with other <u>people</u>	To feel connected with my <u>true self</u>	To have fun and enjoy the <u>experience</u>	For a <u>different reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>	NET Do this activity at least a few times a month (in <u>SPIRACT1</u>)
a. Meditate Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	10	12	1	11	1	3	<1	=38
b. Spend time in nature Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	18	21	2	6	26	4	<1	=77
c. Spend time looking inward or centering yourself Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	13	12	3	27	2	5	<1	=64
d. Exercise Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	2	59	2	3	6	3	<1	=76
e. Practice yoga Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	1	10	1	2	1	<1	<1	=15

ASK IF FORM 1:

GOD Do you believe in God?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

ASK IF FORM 1 AND BELIEVES IN GOD:GODBIBLE Which of these statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

- 1 I believe in God as described in the Bible
- 2 I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe

ASK IF FORM 1 AND DOES NOT BELIEVE IN GOD:HGHPWR Which of these statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

- 1 I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe
- 2 I do not believe there is ANY higher power or spiritual force in the universe

ASK ALL OF FORM 2 AND THOSE FROM FORM 1 WHO DID NOT ANSWER IN GOD:

MISSINGGOD Which of these statements comes closest to your views, even if none is exactly right?

- 1 I believe in God as described in the Bible
- 2 I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe
- 3 I do not believe there is ANY higher power or spiritual force in the universe

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

Jul 31-Aug 6 <u>2023</u>		Apr 11-17, <u>2022</u>	Sep 20-26, <u>2021</u>	Apr 20-26, <u>2020</u>	Dec 4-18, <u>2017</u>
54	Believe in God as described in the Bible	57	57	56	56
34	Believe in higher power but NOT in God as described in the Bible	32	32	31	33
10	Do not believe there is any higher power or spiritual force in the universe	10	9	10	10
1	Unclear/Refused ¹	1	1	2	2

¹ Includes those who said "yes" in GOD but then didn't answer GODBIBLE, those who said "no" in GOD but then didn't answer HGHPWR, and those who didn't answer MISSINGGOD.

ASK ALL:

SPIREXIST Regardless of whether you believe in God or a higher power in the universe, do you believe that other spirits or unseen spiritual forces exist?

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

65	Yes
14	No
21	Not sure
<1	No answer

ASK IF THINKS THERE ARE SPIRITS OR UNSEEN SPIRITUAL FORCES:

SPIRTYPE Are the spirits or unseen spiritual forces generally...

RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

12	Helpful
4	Harmful
39	Both
9	Neither
1	No answer
35	Said no, not sure, or did not answer in SPIREXIST

ASK IF THINKS THERE ARE SPIRITS OR UNSEEN SPIRITUAL FORCE:

SPIRENC Have you ever personally encountered a spirit or unseen spiritual force?

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

30	Yes
33	No
1	No answer
35	Said no, not sure, or did not answer in SPIREXIST

ASK ALL:

BEYONDEXP Have you ever had a sudden or unexpected feeling of connection with something from beyond this world?

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

45	Yes
54	No
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SOUL Do you believe people have a soul or spirit in addition to their physical body?

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

83	Yes
15	No
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

BELIEVE

Which of the following, if any, do you believe in? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Yes, I believe <u>in this</u>	No, I do not <u>believe in this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Heaven			
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	71	27	2
Sep 20-26, 2021	73	25	2
Dec 4-18, 2017	71	28	2
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	74	24	2
b. Hell			
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	61	37	2
Sep 20-26, 2021	62	36	2
Dec 4-18, 2017	60	38	2
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	62	35	3

ASK ALL:

DTHLKE

Do you believe people who have died can... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Definitely <u>true</u>	Probably <u>true</u>	Probably <u>not true</u>	Definitely <u>not true</u>	Not <u>sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Be aware of things going on among those who are still living						
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	14	30	18	16	22	1
b. Communicate with people who are still living						
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	15	26	20	19	19	1
c. Provide assistance, protection or guidance to people who are still living						
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	17	29	18	18	18	1
d. Harm people who are still living						
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	4	13	27	35	19	1
e. Be reincarnated (reborn again and again in this world)						
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	9	18	21	29	23	1
f. Be united with other loved ones who have already died						
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	26	31	12	11	18	1

ASK ALL:

SPIRSPEAK Have you ever had a strong feeling that someone who has passed away was communicating with you from beyond this world?

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

38	Yes
61	No
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SPIREXP How often do you experience each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	At least once a <u>week</u>	Once or twice a <u>month</u>	Several times a <u>year</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Feel a deep sense of spiritual peace and well-being Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	28	16	22	22	10	2
b. Feel a deep sense of wonder about the universe Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	28	18	25	19	9	1
c. Feel the presence of something from beyond this world Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	14	8	15	30	32	2
d. Feel a deep sense of connection with humanity Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	17	13	23	31	13	2

ASK ALL:

SPIRENERGY Do you believe each of the following things can have spirits or spiritual energies? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Parts of nature, like mountains, rivers or trees Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	48	50	1
b. Certain objects, like crystals, jewels or stones Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	26	72	2
c. Animals other than humans Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	57	41	2
d. Graveyards, cemeteries or other memorial sites Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	50	48	2

ASK ALL:SPIRTHINGS Do you have any of the following for spiritual purposes? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Yes, I have this for <u>spiritual purposes</u>	No, I do not have this for spiritual <u>purposes</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Jewelry Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	19	80	1
b. A tattoo or piercing Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	9	90	1
c. Crystals Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	12	87	1
d. A shrine, altar or icon in your home Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	15	84	1
e. A cross Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	36	63	1

ASK ALL:SPIRCOM1 Are you involved in any of the following types of communities? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. A religious community, such as a church or religious congregation Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	39	60	1
b. A spiritual community, such as a group that helps you find a connection with something bigger than yourself, nature or other people Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	14	85	1
c. A nonreligious volunteer or community service group Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	16	83	1

DISPLAY SPIRCOM2a-c ON SAME SCREEN AND IN SAME ORDER AS SPIRCOM1**ASK IF BELONG TO RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY:**SPIRCOM2a How important is being involved in a religious community to you? **[RANDOMLY
DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 OR 5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS IMPWOMPRES]****RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL**Jul 31-Aug 6,
2023

13	Extremely important
11	Very important
11	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
1	Not at all important
<1	No answer
61	Said no or did not answer in SPIRCOM1a

ASK IF BELONG TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY:

SPIRCOM2b How important is being involved in a spiritual community to you? **[RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS IMPWOMPRES]**

RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL

Jul 31-Aug 6,
2023

4	Extremely important
4	Very important
4	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
1	Not at all important
<1	No answer
86	Said no or did not answer in SPIRCOM1b

ASK IF BELONG TO NONRELIGIOUS VOLUNTEER OR COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP:

SPIRCOM2c How important is being involved in a nonreligious volunteer or community service group to you? **[RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 OR 5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS IMPWOMPRES]**

RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL

Jul 31-Aug 6,
2023

2	Extremely important
5	Very important
6	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
<1	Not at all important
<1	No answer
84	Said no or did not answer in SPIRCOM1c

ASK ALL:

SECBEL1 Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

Jul 31-Aug 6,
2023

25	There is a scientific explanation for everything, even if we don't understand how everything works
74	There are some things that science cannot possibly explain
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SPIRWORLD Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

Jul 31-Aug 6,
2023

17	The natural world is all there is
81	There is something spiritual beyond the natural world, even if we cannot see it
2	No answer

SHOW RELIMPACT AND SCIMPACT ON THE SAME PAGE, RANDOMIZE RELIMPACT AND SCIMPACT. RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS "RELIGION/SCIENCE DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD" AND "RELIGION/SCIENCE DOES MORE GOOD THAN HARM", WITH "RELIGION/SCIENCE DOES EQUAL AMOUNTS OF GOOD AND HARM" ALWAYS LAST. KEEP RESPONSE OPTIONS IN THE SAME ORDER FOR EACH QUESTION

ASK ALL:

RELIMPACT Overall, what impact does religion have on American society?

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

21	Religion does more harm than good
40	Religion does more good than harm
37	Religion does equal amounts of good and harm
2	No answer

SHOW LIFEDIR AND LIFLESPIR ON SAME PAGE, RANDOMIZE ORDER OF LIFEDIR AND LIFLESPIR

ASK ALL:

LIFEDIR Over the course of your lifetime, have you generally...

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

24	Become more religious
33	Become less religious
21	Some of both—sometimes becoming more religious, other times less religious
21	Stayed about the same religiously
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

LIFLESPIR Over the course of your lifetime, have you generally...

Jul 31-Aug 6,

2023

41	Become more spiritual
13	Become less spiritual
23	Some of both—sometimes becoming more spiritual, other times less spiritual
22	Stayed about the same spiritually
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

RELEFFECT To what degree would you say each of the following statements describes your views?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>A fair amount</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Religion helps society by giving people meaning and purpose in their lives Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	36	43	15	5	2
b. Religion encourages superstition and illogical thinking Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	17	26	27	28	2
c. Religion encourages people to do the right thing and treat other people well Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	36	40	17	6	2
d. Religion causes division and intolerance Jul 31-Aug 6, 2023	24	35	23	15	2