

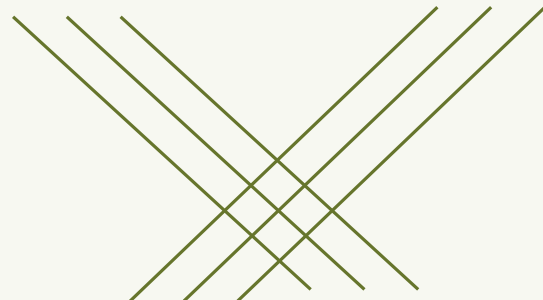
Deism- Theism Gradient Audit

A Manual for Sincere Seekers

A guided workbook for using the audit to clarify what you believe, why you believe it, and where confidence, evidence, experience, testimony, and bridge premises may be carrying uneven weight.

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How to use this manual

Read chapters 1-5 before your first pass. Keep chapters 6-9 open while rating. Use the appendix when you want exact definitions, formulas, or the full claim map.

Why This Tool Exists

The Deism-Theism Gradient Audit is a clarity tool for people who want their beliefs to become more honest, more proportionate, and less protected from inspection. It is especially useful for sincere Christians, seekers, doubters, pastors, teachers, and discussion groups who want to ask not only what is believed, but what role each belief plays in a larger web of convictions.

The tool does not try to settle whether Christianity is true. It helps users map the distance between thin claims, such as a source or creator of reality, and thicker Christian claims about prayer, healing, revelation, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, and transformation.

<p>For sincere seekers</p> <p>It gives language for honest uncertainty without forcing a person into premature rejection or unearned certainty.</p>	<p>For Christians</p> <p>It distinguishes mature confidence from inherited confidence, borrowed authority, and claims that need more direct support.</p>
<p>For doubters</p> <p>It identifies exactly where pressure appears rather than treating all Christian claims as one undifferentiated block.</p>	<p>For groups</p> <p>It creates a structured way to discuss evidence, testimony, and experience without shaming disagreement.</p>

The guiding question

What can my current evidence, experience, reasoning, testimony, and bridge premises responsibly support - and where am I asking a claim to carry more weight than it has earned?

Confidence Can Outrun Substantiation

The central distinction in the audit is between Confidence and Personal Substantiation. A person can sincerely believe a claim, find it emotionally meaningful, and live within a community that treats it as central, while still being unable to personally make a careful case for it.

Term	What it asks	Common mistake
Confidence	How credible or likely the claim currently seems to you.	Using it as a loyalty marker or identity signal.
Personal Substantiation	How well you can personally explain, defend, qualify, and revise the claim under fair questioning.	Borrowing a pastor's, apologist's, scholar's, or community's case as if it were your own mastery.
Gap	The positive distance between Confidence and Personal Substantiation.	Treating a large gap as proof the claim is false rather than as a prompt for repair.

A high Confidence score with a low Personal Substantiation score is not automatically irrational. Human knowledge depends on trust, testimony, communities, experts, memory, and experience. The audit simply asks users to label that structure honestly.

A useful sentence

I may hold this claim by trust, hope, testimony, or tradition, but I should not pretend that I can personally carry the entire evidential burden unless I can actually do so.

The Five-Band Gradient

The audit is called a gradient because its claims become thicker as they move from broad source claims to specifically Christian divine-action claims. The movement from left to right requires bridge premises. A bridge premise is a claim that licenses movement from a thinner claim to a thicker one.

Band	Focus	Core question
1. Minimal Deism	Source, contingency, explanation	Is there an explanatory source beyond the physical universe?
2. Design Deism	Order, purpose, life-permitting structure	Is the source plausibly purposive or design-like?
3. Personal Theism	Mind, awareness, intention, communication	Can the source reasonably be treated as a personal agent?
4. Interventionist Theism	Prayer, healing, guidance, foreknowledge, transformation	Does the Christian God act in human life in distinguishable ways?
5. Specific Christian Theism	Jesus, scripture, Spirit, salvation, worship	Are specifically Christian claims warranted, not merely possible?

The gradient does not assume that belief must develop in this order psychologically. Some people begin with personal experience, worship, or testimony. The gradient asks about logical support: what must be true for a downstream claim to be licensed?

Basic Functions at a Glance

The app is intentionally compact, but it contains several working surfaces. Use the claim cards for rating, the dashboard for pattern recognition, and the reports for reflection or follow-up analysis.

Function	What it does	Use it when...
Claim cards	Present one auditable claim, two sliders, notes, diagnostics, and an annotation accordion.	You are doing the actual rating work.
Confidence slider	Records how credible the claim currently seems.	You want to name belief-strength without pretending it is all personally defended.
Personal Substantiation slider	Records how well you can personally explain and defend the claim.	You want to separate personal mastery from delegated trust.
View, Category, Search	Restrict which of the 50 claims appear below.	You want only matching items, such as prayer, scripture, high-gap, or unrated claims.
Next Unrated	Jumps to the next claim without scores.	You want a systematic first pass.
Review Pressure	Jumps to the most urgent gap or dependency alert.	You want to repair the profile rather than keep rating new claims.
Export / Import	Saves or restores a JSON profile with scores and notes.	You want backups, comparison over time, or movement between browsers.
Reports and AI prompt	Turn the current profile into readable summaries or a rigorous follow-up prompt.	You want a second-stage review outside the live interface.

Important filter rule

The View, Category, and Search controls do not change the 50-claim bank or erase saved ratings. They only determine which matching items are displayed in the Claim Explorer.

A Quick-Start Workflow

- 1 Open the audit and make a quick first pass through claims that feel central to your faith, doubt, or inquiry.
- 2 For each claim, assign Confidence separately from Personal Substantiation.
- 3 Use the note field whenever a score depends on trust, testimony, private experience, or an unresolved question.
- 4 Use filters to focus on a category such as prayer, healing, scripture, Jesus, or divine guidance.
- 5 Review the dashboard only after enough claims are rated for a visible pattern to emerge.
- 6 Inspect Diagnostic Alerts, then decide whether to lower Confidence, raise Personal Substantiation, or revise the claim more modestly.
- 7 Copy the final report or AI prompt for a second-stage Socratic review.

Do not polish the first pass

The first pass is a snapshot, not a confession of final certainty. Honest rough numbers are more useful than inflated numbers that protect a preferred identity.

A simple rhythm

First pass: rate quickly. Second pass: inspect gaps. Third pass: inspect dependency tension. Fourth pass: revise notes and export the report. Later: repeat the audit and compare changes.

How To Rate Claims Well

The sliders use a 0-100 scale, but the numbers are not meant to look scientific beyond the user's honesty. The aim is disciplined self-rating: enough precision to reveal patterns, not false precision that pretends to settle the matter.

Range	Confidence guide	Personal Substantiation guide
0-20	Very weak, speculative, or currently implausible.	I cannot presently defend this claim.
20-40	Possible but thinly supported.	I can name a few considerations but not a responsible case.
40-60	Plausible or partially credible.	I can sketch a partial case and acknowledge live objections.
60-80	Substantially credible.	I can explain the main evidence, bridge premises, and alternatives.
80-100	Strongly credible and resilient under challenge.	I can defend it carefully, with caveats, defeaters, and scope limits.

When to add a note

- When a claim is held mainly by delegated trust.
- When a private experience matters deeply but is hard to evaluate publicly.
- When testimony is central and you need to remember its strengths or weaknesses.
- When a claim depends on a bridge premise you have not yet inspected.
- When you think the claim should be restated more modestly.

How To Read The Dashboard

The dashboard is not a grade. It is a map of pressure points. Its job is to show where a profile is earning rightward movement on the gradient and where confidence may be outrunning personal support.

<p>Aggregate Position</p> <p>A 1-to-5 progress estimate. It starts at 1 and adds each rightward band's average effective support divided by 100.</p>	<p>Theism Index</p> <p>The same position converted to a 0-to-100 progress scale.</p>
<p>Average Substantiation Gap</p> <p>The average positive amount by which Confidence exceeds Personal Substantiation.</p>	<p>Claim Scatter</p> <p>A visual field showing where rated claims sit by category lane and Confidence.</p>
<p>Category Profile</p> <p>Average Confidence and Personal Substantiation within each gradient band.</p>	<p>Diagnostic Alerts</p> <p>High-pressure claims where gaps or dependency tensions deserve review.</p>

The key calculation

Effective support = $100 \times \sqrt{(\text{Confidence} / 100) \times (\text{Personal Substantiation} / 100)}$. A claim with C 90 and P 10 does not behave like a strongly supported claim. Its effective support is about 30.

Bridge Premises and Dependency Tension

A downstream claim can be more specific than the claims that support it. Dependency tension appears when a later claim has much higher effective support than its prerequisites. This is especially important for claims about miraculous healing, answered prayer, prophecy, scripture, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Example

A high rating for 'The Christian God sometimes miraculously heals' creates pressure if the more basic claims about divine agency, answered prayer, and distinguishing divine action from coincidence are weak, unrated, or only lightly substantiated.

- Ask what must be true before the downstream claim is licensed.
- Check whether a bridge claim is merely possible or actually supported.
- Avoid moving from a broad creator claim to a specific Christian action claim without an independent step.
- Use the Dependency Map to locate the weakest bridge rather than treating all doubts as equally important.

The repair question

What independently defensible premise would justify this move from a thinner claim to a thicker Christian conclusion?

Preset Lenses, Reports, and the AI Prompt

Preset lenses are comparison profiles. They are not identities to adopt or answers to submit. Apply one, inspect the pattern, then ask where your actual profile is more skeptical, more doctrinal, more experiential, or more cautious than the label you might use for yourself.

Feature	Best use
Preset Lenses	Compare your ratings with recognizable stance profiles.
Brief Report	Capture a quick status summary.
Full Report	Export the most complete map of scores, categories, gaps, tensions, and notes.
Skeptical Audit	Pressure-test the strongest claims and largest leaps.
Pastoral Reflection	Review the same structure in gentler language for personal or group reflection.
AI Prompt	Carry the current profile into a Socratic assistant for deeper follow-up.

When using the AI prompt, ask the assistant to focus on one claim, one bridge premise, or one category transition at a time. The goal is not to let an AI settle your worldview. The goal is to make your next question sharper.

Common Use Cases

<p>Personal audit</p> <p>A Christian wants to see which beliefs are personally anchored and which are mostly inherited.</p>	<p>Doubt clarification</p> <p>A doubter wants to identify the exact claim or bridge premise where confidence collapsed.</p>
<p>Pastoral conversation</p> <p>A leader wants to discuss evidence without treating honest uncertainty as disloyalty.</p>	<p>Study group</p> <p>A group compares which claims feel strongest, weakest, most testimonial, or most dependent on experience.</p>
<p>Seeker inquiry</p> <p>A seeker distinguishes 'Christianity might be true' from 'this specific Christian claim is warranted.'</p>	<p>Apologetics repair</p> <p>An apologist rewrites an overstrong claim into a more modest conclusion the evidence can actually carry.</p>

A group-use norm

The healthiest group use lets people say 'I hold this by trust,' 'I need to study this,' or 'this claim should be more modest' without treating that honesty as failure.

Limits, Cautions, and a Healthy Outcome

What the tool does not do

- It does not decide whether Christianity is true.
- It does not measure spiritual maturity, sincerity, or devotion.
- It does not prove a claim false when Personal Substantiation is low.
- It does not turn private experience into public evidence by itself.
- It cannot prevent dishonest self-rating; it can only make patterns easier to notice.

What a good outcome looks like

A good outcome is not necessarily a lower or higher Theism Index. A good outcome is a clearer map: which claims are central, which are speculative, which are supported by testimony, which depend on private experience, which require bridge premises, and which should be stated more modestly.

Some users may end with a more carefully defended Christian profile. Others may end with a more modest Christian profile, a deistic profile, or an agnostic profile with sharper open questions. The common gain is reduced blur.

Quality standard

Use the tool well when your final profile contains clear notes, proportionate scores, named bridge premises, fair rival explanations, and at least one claim you are willing to make more modest.

Appendix A: Glossary and Formulas

Term	Meaning in this audit
Confidence	How credible the claim currently seems.
Personal Substantiation	How well you can personally defend the claim with evidence, bridge premises, rival-explanation handling, and defeater awareness.
Effective Support	$100 \times \sqrt{(C / 100) \times (P / 100)}$. This discounts claims when either C or P is low.
Substantiation Gap	$\max(0, C - P)$. High P does not cancel unsupported confidence elsewhere.
Dependency Tension	Downstream effective support minus the average effective support of prerequisite bridge claims. Unrated prerequisites count as zero current support.
Bridge Premise	A premise that licenses movement from a thinner claim to a thicker downstream claim.

Formula summary

Effective Support is measured from 0 to 100. Aggregate Position = $1 + ((\text{Design support} + \text{Personal support} + \text{Interventionist support} + \text{Specific Christian support}) / 100)$. Theism Index = $((\text{Aggregate Position} - 1) / 4) \times 100$.

Appendix B: The 50-Claim Architecture

The full claim set is grouped below so users can see the architecture before rating. The live app contains annotations, tags, dependencies, filters, and notes for each claim.

Minimal Deism

ID	Claim
C1	The physical universe has some explanation beyond merely describing its internal events.
C2	The universe is not ultimately self-explanatory.
C3	The universe depends on something that is not identical to the universe.
C4	The existence of physical reality is not a brute fact.
C5	The beginning or finite past of the universe points to a cause beyond ordinary physical events.
C6	The totality of physical reality requires an explanation not contained within that totality.
C7	The regularity of nature requires an explanation beyond simply naming physical laws.
C8	The initial conditions of the universe were not merely accidental or unexplained.
C9	The existence of contingent things points to some non-contingent explanatory ground.
C10	A minimal creator or source of the universe exists, even if nothing else is known about it.

Design Deism

ID	Claim
C11	The universe was intentionally caused rather than accidentally caused.
C12	The universe was caused by something with goal-directed features.
C13	The structure of the universe is better explained by design than by chance, necessity, or unknown impersonal processes.
C14	The apparent fine-tuning of physical constants is evidence of purposeful calibration.
C15	The universe was created for the emergence of life.
C16	The universe was created for the emergence of conscious beings.
C17	The creator had some preference for order over chaos.
C18	The creator had some preference for life-permitting conditions over non-life-permitting conditions.
C19	The creator is more like an intelligent agent than an impersonal force.

ID	Claim
C20	The creator intentionally established a stable order that could support meaningful interaction with conscious beings.

Personal Theism

ID	Claim
C21	The creator has something analogous to mind, intention, or awareness.
C22	The creator is aware of the universe after creating it.
C23	The creator is aware of conscious creatures within the universe.
C24	The creator is capable of choosing between alternative possible actions.
C25	The creator has purposes related to human beings.
C26	The creator cares about whether humans understand reality accurately.
C27	The creator can act within the universe after its initial creation.
C28	The creator can communicate information to human beings.
C29	The creator can respond differently to different human actions, prayers, or requests.
C30	The creator is not merely the source of the universe but an ongoing personal agent.

Interventionist Theism

ID	Claim
C31	The Christian God actively responds to human persons rather than only sustaining the universe impersonally.
C32	The Christian God sometimes answers petitionary prayer in ways not reducible to chance, coincidence, or ordinary causation.
C33	The Christian God sometimes miraculously heals physical or psychological conditions.
C34	The Christian God sometimes provides guidance or wisdom that improves human judgment beyond ordinary reflection.
C35	The Christian God sometimes gives people morally corrective conviction or discernment.
C36	The Christian God sometimes provides foreknowledge, warnings, or prophetic insight about future events.
C37	The Christian God sometimes communicates through dreams, impressions, visions, or other experiences without those experiences being merely psychological.
C38	The Christian God sometimes protects, delivers, or redirects people through providential events.
C39	The Christian God sometimes brings durable moral or spiritual transformation that exceeds ordinary social or psychological explanation.

ID	Claim
C40	Some Christian claims of divine action can be responsibly distinguished from ordinary coincidence, suggestion, or social reinforcement.

Specific Christian Theism

ID	Claim
C41	The Christian God reveals truth about himself to humans rather than leaving humans to infer everything from nature alone.
C42	Christian scripture reliably conveys core truths that the Christian God wants humans to know.
C43	Jesus is the central and uniquely authoritative revelation of the Christian God's character and purposes.
C44	Jesus' resurrection is a substantiable miracle that vindicates Christian claims about God.
C45	The Christian God forgives sins and reconciles humans to himself through Jesus Christ.
C46	The Holy Spirit is an active divine agent who guides, teaches, empowers, and comforts believers.
C47	The Christian God can give spiritual gifts such as prophecy, healing, wisdom, discernment, or tongues.
C48	Christian prayer, worship, and obedience can become real channels of interaction with God rather than only human ritual.
C49	The Christian God can guide communities as well as individuals toward truth, repentance, and moral correction.
C50	The core Christian picture is true: God personally acts through Christ and the Spirit to save, guide, heal, and transform human beings.