Pascal's Wager

Blaise Pascal (June 19, 1623 – August 19, 1662) was a French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and philosopher. Pascal is often credited with the discovery of the mathematical theory of probability, and he also made serious contributions to number theory and geometry.

Pascal's Wager (or Pascal's Gambit) is the suggestion posed by Pascal that, even though the existence of God cannot be determined through reason, a person should wager as though God exists, because living life accordingly has everything to gain and nothing to lose. Pascal states, however, that some do not have the ability to believe. In this case, he directs them to live as though they had faith, which may lead them to belief. The Wager was set out in note 233 of his *Pensées*, a posthumously published collection of notes made by Pascal in his last years as he worked on a treatise on Christian apologetics.

Historically, Pascal's Wager was groundbreaking as it had charted new territory in probability theory, was one of the first attempts to make use of the concept of infinity, marked the first formal use of decision theory, and anticipated the future philosophies of pragmatism and voluntarism.

It should be noted that to live as though you have faith, without actually coming to believing faith in Jesus as your Savior, will in the end result in the same eternal destiny as those who didn't even try to live as though they had faith – Hell. Jesus did not come to give us a better life in this world because we live "good," He come to forgive the sins of those who have saving faith in Him.

Probability Theory Applied to Belief in Jesus as the Messiah

Options	Value		Probability Considerations if True
	Gain	Loss (Costs Incurred)	
Believe in Jesus	Eternal life with God = Infinite value.	Passing pleasures of sin. Incur cost associated with the effort of striving to please God.	If only one chance in a billion that Jesus is the only savior, it is still worthwhile to believe. A tiny chance at an infinite reward still has infinite value, even if there is a high probability of some finite cost. One billionth of plus-infinity is still plus-infinity.
Reject Jesus	Enjoying whatever happiness the world and the devil offer.	Hell (Forever separated from God and all goodness) = Infinite Cost.	Very high chance of gaining some finite amount of benefits. But, even a one billionth chance of minus-infinity has a value of minus-infinity, which outweighs all finite benefits.
Conclusion			

Only those who are absolutely certain that the Bible is false, who can give absolute zero probability to its truth, can rationally choose to disbelieve. The rational way of counting the cost always leads to trusting in Jesus. But, as Jesus taught, only few will be rational when counting the cost.

Luke 13:23-30 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." NKJV