**Thinking about theses**

all beliefs

not justified

justified

If A and B are true, then a belief is justified; and

If [ ], then a belief is not justified.

If C or D are true, then a belief is justified; and

If [ ], then a belief is not justified.

1. Putting “ands” into the antecedent of a conditional narrows down what the conditional applies to (makes it apply to fewer things). For your theses for this paper, if one of the conditional applies very narrowly, then the other must apply very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Which of these two conditionals will give you more easy counterexamples?
2. Consider the following claim. What’s wrong with it? “If A has enough reasons to believe p, and these reasons are not defeated, then A’s belief ’s belief that p is justified. By ‘enough,’ I mean ‘enough reasons to make the belief justified.’”
3. Making practically rational decisions and forming justified beliefs might be analogous in certain ways. How so? So what?
4. Is the following Paul’s view? If not, how should this be modified to reflect her view? If so, what if anything is ambiguous or unclear about it?

*If A has to make a decision, and the decision could result in a personally transformative experience for A, then A’s decision is not practically rational.*

1. When Joel was a child, he always trusted his parents’ judgments about how to treat other people. His parents said that he should not hit other children, so he didn’t hit other children. His parents said that he should share with other children, so he shared with other children. His parents said that he should not say mean things to other children, so he didn’t say mean things to other children. And so forth.

As he became an adult, Joel never bothered to try to understand the reasons behind the moral advice other people give him. He does not understand why other people’s lives, property, or feelings matter at all. But he never hurts other people, and is generally very helpful and generous, because this is what he has been told to do.

Given the above, is there something deficient, lacking, or bad about Joel’s adult behavior?

1. Francine prays every day, goes to church every week, and is active in her religious community. She has read the Bible cover to cover and believes that everything it says is true. She lives in an isolated community where everyone shares the same faith, where people often have religious experiences, and where people are not aware that many other people have different religious views.

However, Francine has no idea at all what “God” means or what the word “Jesus” is supposed to refer to. When she reads sentences in the Bible, or talks to other people about religion, she almost never has any idea what is being talked about. For her, it’s like reading a textbook in super-advanced quantum physics: she figures that these sentences must be true, and that she has good reasons to believe them because so many other people do and they are confirmed by experiences, so she believes what is said, but she has no real comprehension of what she believes.

Given the above, is there something deficient, lacking, or bad about Francine’s religious beliefs?