

'Fallibilism' (pub. 08.01.13-17:42). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-notes-religious-and-scientific-infallibilism>.

---

**Term:** Fallibilism

**Quote:** For years [—] I used for myself to collect my ideas under the designation *fallibilism*; and indeed the first step toward *finding out* is to acknowledge you do not satisfactorily know already; so that no blight can so surely arrest all intellectual growth as the blight of cocksureness; and ninety-nine out of every hundred good heads are reduced to impotence by that malady - of whose inroads they are most strangely unaware!

Indeed, out of a contrite fallibilism, combined with a high faith in the reality of knowledge, and an intense desire to find things out, all my philosophy has always seemed to me to grow... .

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1897 [c.]). *Notes on Religious and Scientific Infallibilism [R]*. MS [R] 865.

**References:** CP 1.13-14

**Date of** 1897 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-notes-religious-and-scientific-infallibilism>