Evaluation of Emmet Fox's Published Claims on God, Thought and Prayer in Meth8/VŁ4

Colin James III
Ersatz Systems, Colorado Springs, CO
info@cec-services.com
November 23, 2026

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.

This paper is located at: **https://ersatz-systems.com/FOX_CLAIMS_M8VL4_V5N2.pdf**

Abstract

Emmet Fox (1886–1951), a Divine Science minister and New Thought writer, published teachings on prayer, thought and the nature of God that many Alcoholics Anonymous members read. This paper lists his published claims, ties each claim to its source work, and maps their propositional structure to the Meth8/VŁ4 quad-valent modal logic. It evaluates two groups of formulas by truth table, including necessity (#) renderings. Group A reconstructs Fox's efficacy chain for prayer. Only its modus ponens form is a tautology, and the bridge from his two premises to the conclusion is not. Group B maps the dilemma "either God is everything or else He is nothing," which this review did not find in any Fox text, as God implies all things or God implies nothing, written (p>#q)+(p>~q). That formula is not a tautology. It is T in 12 of 16 rows and N in the other four. Fox's sentence "God is not truthful but Truth itself, and wherever there is Truth, there is God" maps literally to a formula that is F in every row, a contradiction. The contradiction comes from rendering "not truthful" as the negation of truth. The plain equivalence of God and truth is consistent but not a tautology. Meth8 evaluates propositional structure only. It does not decide whether any claim is true.

1. Claims and their sources

Table 1 lists the claims, the work that carries each one, and how much of the source this review read. Claims F1 to F9 are Fox's own assertions. F10 is a claim about Fox. F11 is the dilemma, which this review tested but did not find in Fox.

ID	Claim	Source work	Evidence read
F1	Stop thinking about the difficulty and think about God instead. Fox claims the method never fails when given a fair trial.	The Golden Key (1931); Unity adaptation [1][2]	Fox's own text, read in excerpt
F2	Conditions cannot be changed directly, but they change for anyone who completes the Seven Day Mental Diet. Each lapse restarts the count.	The Seven Day Mental Diet, mid-1930s [3]	Fox's own text, read in excerpt
F3	Thoughts are things, and all power lies in creative thought.	Power Through Constructive Thinking (dated 1932 by one retailer, 1940 by another) [4]	Publisher and retailer descriptions only
F4	God is the only real Cause and the only real Power, in every thought and action.	The Sermon on the Mount (1938), Chapter 2, "pure in heart" [5]	Read through mid-Chapter 3; passage paraphrased in a tool-assisted reading

ID	Claim	Source work	Evidence read
F5	God is the only real Presence, and all the rest is shadow.	Work not identified; Beliefnet quotes Fox [6]	Secondary quotation
F6	Defining God would limit Him, so one approaches God through seven main aspects, such as Life, Truth and Love.	Alter Your Life, chapter "The Seven Main Aspects of God"; pamphlet The Ground Plan of the Bible [7]	Excerpts and a biographer's description
F7	God is not truthful but Truth itself, and wherever there is Truth, there is God. God is absolute Truth at all times and in all circumstances.	Second main aspect of God; reprinted in Around the Year with Emmet Fox (1952) [7][16]	Fox's own text, read in excerpt
F8	The Sermon on the Mount is a general introduction to Scientific Christianity.	The Sermon on the Mount (1934 title page) [8]	Secondary description
F9	Harboring resentment blocks divine grace and impedes spiritual progress.	The Sermon on the Mount, forgiveness section [9]	Third-party summary only
F10	Fox influenced the Alcoholics Anonymous founders, especially through The Sermon on the Mount.	Claim about Fox, not by him [8] [10][11]	Secondary studies
F11	"Either God is everything or else He is nothing."	Not located in any Fox text reviewed. The wording appears on page 53 of the Big Book [12].	No Fox source found

Table 1. Fox's published claims mapped to source works.

2. Source status

The evidence varies in strength, and the evaluation inherits those limits.

- Direct text. The Golden Key and the Seven Day Mental Diet appear in published excerpts of Fox's own words. The Golden Key states its method in one sentence: "Stop thinking about the difficulty, whatever it is, and think about God instead." [1]
- Partial reading. This review read The Sermon on the Mount only through the middle of Chapter 3, which covers roughly the first third of the book. It found the claim that God is the only real Cause and Power in Chapter 2 [5]. Chapters 4 to 7 and The Lord's Prayer stayed unread.
- Descriptions only. For Power Through Constructive Thinking, this review read publisher and retailer descriptions, which disagree on the original date [4]. It did not read the book.
- Unattributed quotation. Beliefnet quotes Fox as saying God is the only real Presence and the rest is shadow, but names no book [6]. This paper treats F5 as unlocated.
- Dilemma not found. The review searched for the form "God is everything or else He is nothing" and found it in none of the Fox material above. It does appear on page 53 of the Big Book [12], and scholars link Fox to AA [8][10][11]. Neither fact shows that Fox wrote it.

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.

3. Method: Meth8/VŁ4

Meth8/VŁ4 is a quad-valent modal logic with the values F, N, C and T. Only T validates a tautology, and a theorem is a formula whose truth table is all T [13]. This paper follows the conventions of the companion papers [14][15]:

- Propositional variables take values F and T only. N and C arise only through connectives and modal operators.
- Truth tables list every F and T assignment, with p varying fastest and F before T. Group A has five variables and 32 rows. Group B has four variables and 16 rows, although its formulas use only p, q and s. Tables print in groups of four rows.
- The possibility operator % maps F to C, C to C, N to T and T to T. The necessity operator # maps F to F, C to F, N to N and T to N.
- The rendering #X = (s=s) tests X for necessity. Because # never returns T, no # rendering can validate, so only the plain form of a formula can serve as a theorem.
- A non-tautologous result counts as a refutation of the claimed theorem. This paper writes & for and, + for or, > for imply, ~ for not and = for equivalence.

4. Mapping the claims

Group A reconstructs Fox's efficacy chain for prayer (F1 to F4). The chain is this paper's reconstruction, not a statement by Fox. Five atoms carry it:

- p = Fox published the practice (the Golden Key).
- q = Fox asserts that the practice works.
- r = God is the only Cause and Power (F4).
- s = thought directed to God changes conditions (F2, F3).
- t = the difficulty is overcome (F1).

The bridge (r&s)>t says that if God is the only Power and directed thought engages it, the difficulty yields. Fox does not state this implication in this form, so this paper treats it as a premise. Table 2 names the Group A formulas.

ID	Reading
A1	Practice published and efficacy asserted
A2	Publication and assertion imply the difficulty is overcome
A3	Publication and assertion imply the difficulty is possibly overcome
A4	Publication and assertion imply possibly sound premises
A5	Sound premises imply the difficulty is overcome
A6	Sound premises imply the difficulty is possibly overcome
A7	Possibly sound premises imply possibly overcome
A8	Modus ponens on the two premises
A9	The difficulty is overcome

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.

ID	Reading
A10	The difficulty is possibly overcome

Table 2. Group A formula identifiers.

Group B maps the dilemma of F11 and the sentence of F7. Four atoms carry it:

- p = God.
- q = truth, or all things. The same formula serves both readings: God implies truth, or God does not imply truth; God implies all things, or God implies nothing.
- r = idle. The enumeration includes it only so every Group B table has 16 rows.
- s = any proposition, used only in the constant (s=s), which is always T.

The dilemma maps to B1, (p>#q)+(p>~q). The first disjunct says God implies q necessarily. The second says God implies not-q. This mapping replaces the classical reading of "God either is or is not" as p+~p, which B7 keeps only for contrast. Fox's sentence in F7 maps literally to B6. "Not truthful" becomes ~(s=s), "Truth itself" becomes (s=s), their conjunction equals p, and "wherever there is Truth, there is God" becomes (s=s)>p. B4, the plain equivalence p=q, renders the two-way statement without the word "not." Table 3 names the Group B formulas.

ID	Reading
B1	God implies all things, or God implies nothing (also read: God implies truth, or God does not imply truth)
B2	God necessarily implies all things (first disjunct)
B3	God implies nothing (second disjunct)
B4	God and truth are equivalent (plain reading of Fox's two-way statement)
B5	Equivalence implies the dilemma
B6	Literal mapping of Fox's sentence: not truthful, but Truth itself, and where Truth is, God is
B7	Classical reading: God is, or God is not

Table 3. Group B formula identifiers.

5. Results

Table 4 lists the Group A formulas in plain form with the 32-row result and the count of T rows.

ID	Formula	32-row result	T count
A1	`p&q`	`FFFT FFFT FFFT FFFT FFFT FFFT FFFT FFFT`	8/32
A2	`(p&q)>t`	`TTTF TTTF TTTF TTTF TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT`	28/32
A3	`(p&q)>%t`	`TTTC TTTC TTTC TTTC TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT`	28/32
A4	`(p&q)>%(r&s)`	`TTTC TTTC TTTC TTTT TTTC TTTC TTTC TTTT`	26/32
A5	`(r&s)>t`	`TTTT TTTT TTTT FFFF TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT`	28/32
A6	`(r&s)>%t`	`TTTT TTTT TTTT CCCC TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT`	28/32
A7	`%(r&s)>%t`	`TTTT TTTT TTTT CCCC TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT`	28/32

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.

ID	Formula	32-row result	T count
A8	((((r&s)>t)&r)&s)>t	TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT	32/32
A9	t	FFFF FFFF FFFF FFFF TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT	16/32
A10	%t	CCCC CCCC CCCC CCCC TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT	16/32

Table 4. Group A plain truth tables.

Table 5 lists the Group A necessity renderings #X = (s=s).

ID	Formula	32-row result
A1	#(p&q)=(s=s)	FFFN FFFN FFFN FFFN FFFN FFFN FFFN FFFN
A2	#((p&q)>t)=(s=s)	NNNF NNNF NNNF NNNF NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
A3	#((p&q)>%t)=(s=s)	NNNF NNNF NNNF NNNF NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
A4	#((p&q)>%(r&s))=(s=s)	NNNF NNNF NNNF NNNN NNNF NNNF NNNF NNNN
A5	#((r&s)>t)=(s=s)	NNNN NNNN NNNN FFFF NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
A6	#((r&s)>%t)=(s=s)	NNNN NNNN NNNN FFFF NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
A7	#(%(r&s)>%t)=(s=s)	NNNN NNNN NNNN FFFF NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
A8	#(((((r&s)>t)&r)&s)>t)=(s=s)	NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
A9	#t=(s=s)	FFFF FFFF FFFF FFFF NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
A10	#%t=(s=s)	FFFF FFFF FFFF FFFF NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN

Table 5. Group A necessity renderings.

Table 6 lists the Group B formulas in plain form with the 16-row result.

ID	Formula	16-row result	T count
B1	(p>#q)+(p>~q)	TTTN TTTN TTTN TTTN	12/16
B2	p>#q	TFTN TFTN TFTN TFTN	8/16
B3	p>~q	TTTF TTTF TTTF TTTF	12/16
B4	p=q	TFFT TFFT TFFT TFFT	8/16
B5	(p=q)>((p>#q)+(p>~q))	TTTN TTTN TTTN TTTN	12/16
B6	(p=(~(s=s)&(s=s)))&((s=s)>p)	FFFF FFFF FFFF FFFF	0/16
B7	p+~p	TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT	16/16

Table 6. Group B plain truth tables.

Table 7 lists the Group B necessity renderings.

ID	Formula	16-row result
B1	#((p>#q)+(p>~q))=(s=s)	NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN
B2	#(p>#q)=(s=s)	NFNN NFNN NFNN NFNN
B3	#(p>~q)=(s=s)	NNNF NNNF NNNF NNNF

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.

ID	Formula	16-row result
B4	`#(p=q)=(s=s)`	`NFFN NFFN NFFN NFFN`
B5	`#((p=q)>((p>#q)+(p>~q)))=(s=s)`	`NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN`
B6	`#((p=(~(s=s)&(s=s)))&((s=s)>p))=(s=s)`	`FFFF FFFF FFFF FFFF`
B7	`#(p+~p)=(s=s)`	`NNNN NNNN NNNN NNNN`

Table 7. Group B necessity renderings.

6. Discussion

- Group A: only A8 is a theorem. The argument form ((((r&s)>t)&r)&s)>t is T in all 32 rows. A2 to A4 fail where p and q hold but the conclusion or the premises do not, so publishing a teaching and asserting that it works does not make it work.
- The bridge is a premise. A5 fails where r and s hold and t does not. The chain from F4 and F2 to F1 therefore depends on the stated bridge, which Fox never wrote as an implication.
- The dilemma is not a theorem. B1, (p>#q)+(p>~q), is T in 12 of 16 rows and N in the other four. It is N exactly where God and q are both T, because # maps T to N, so p>#q is N and p>~q is F, and N+F is N.
- Neither disjunct is a theorem. B2, God necessarily implies all things, is T in 8 of 16 rows, F where God holds and q does not, and N where both hold. B3, God implies nothing, is T in 12 of 16 rows and F where both hold.
- Equivalence does not rescue the dilemma. B5 gives the same 16-row result as B1, so even if God and truth are equivalent, the dilemma stays N where both hold.
- What Fox supports. F7 states both directions: God is Truth, and wherever Truth is, God is. That supports p>q and q>p, which B4 renders as p=q. Fox rejects the second disjunct, God does not imply truth. He does not state B1, and he does not discuss whether it is a theorem.
- The literal mapping is contradictory. B6 is F in all 16 rows. The contradiction comes from the mapping: it renders “not truthful” as ~(s=s), which is always F, and conjoins it with “Truth itself,” which is always T. Fox’s contrast is between having truth as an attribute and being Truth [16]. B4 renders his two-way statement without the negation, and B4 is satisfiable (T where p and q agree).
- Classical contrast. B7, p+~p, is a theorem (16 of 16 rows). The implication reading of the dilemma is not, which is why this paper does not use B7 as the reading of “God either is or is not.”
- # merges F and C and never validates. Every # rendering yields N where the plain formula is T and F where it is F. B2, B6 and B7 give all N even though they are theorems, as the necessity table requires.

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.

7. Conclusion

In Meth8/VŁ4, Fox's published claims on prayer and God are not theorems on their own. Only the argument form of modus ponens in Group A validates. The efficacy of the Golden Key rests on two premises that Fox asserts and Meth8 cannot check: that God is the only Power, and that directed thought changes conditions. The dilemma, mapped as God implies all things or God implies nothing, is not a theorem, and equivalence of God and truth does not make it one. Fox's text supports the equivalence of God and truth, and it does not contain the dilemma. The literal mapping of his sentence about Truth is contradictory only because it renders "not truthful" as the negation of truth. A full check of Fox's other works, especially Alter Your Life and Power Through Constructive Thinking, could still turn up the exact wording of the dilemma.

Note on preparation

Claude, an AI model, assisted in drafting this paper. A short script computed the truth tables with the connective, necessity and possibility tables used in the companion papers. A tool-assisted reading of The Sermon on the Mount produced the Chapter 2 paraphrase, and Claude did not verify it against the printed book.

References

[1] E. Fox, "How to Use the Golden Key," Unity (adapted from The Golden Key). https://www.unity.org/article/how-use-golden-key

[2] The Golden Key booklet, Unity, with reprint (written 1931). https://cdnc.heyzine.com/flip-book/pdf/33b5b7ab65ae3a703ddc01c8a9b0785e5da46282.pdf

[3] E. Fox, The Seven Day Mental Diet. https://www.alchemylab.com/seven_day_mental_diet.htm

[4] E. Fox, Power Through Constructive Thinking, descriptions at Everand (first published 1940) and Perlego (originally published 1932). https://www.everand.com/book/163647280/Power-Through-Constructive-Thinking ; https://www.perlego.com/book/3028152/power-through-constructive-thinking-pdf

[5] E. Fox, The Sermon on the Mount (Grosset & Dunlap, 1938), ebook text. https://www.prestongroup.org/aa_docs/Sermon_On_The_Mount_eBook.pdf

[6] Beliefnet, "There Is Nothing You Cannot Be, Do or Have," 2005. https://www.beliefnet.com/wellness/2005/06/there-is-nothing-you-cannot-be-do-or-have

[7] E. Fox, "The Seven Main Aspects of God." https://www.scribd.com/document/616556397/7-Main-Aspects-Of-God ; H. Wolhorn, Emmet Fox's Golden Keys to Successful Living (Harper & Row, 1977). https://archive.org/download/EmmetFoxCollection/Emmet%20Fox%20Collection.pdf

[8] Wikipedia, "The Sermon on the Mount (book)" and "Emmet Fox." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sermon_on_the_Mount_(book) ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmet_Fox

[9] Shortform, summary of The Sermon on the Mount. https://www.shortform.com/summary/the-sermon-on-the-mount-summary-emmet-fox

[10] "A 'Spiritual Solution': The Influence of Emmet Fox and New Thought on Alcoholics Anonymous," UC Santa Barbara thesis, 2012. https://alexandria.ucsb.edu/lib/ark:/48907/f3qv3jgz

[11] A.A. Meetings 1938–1942, Indiana University South Bend archive. https://library.iusb.edu/search-find/archives/gcarchive/docs/bk-aameet.pdf

[12] Alcoholics Anonymous, page 53, transcription. https://anonpress.org/bb/Page_53.htm

[13] C. James III, Meth8/VŁ4 System Description. https://ersatz-systems.com/Grok3b.description.M8VL4.pdf

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.

[14] C. James III, Evaluation of the Alpöge–Claude Riemann Hypothesis Lean Release in Meth8/VŁ4, November 20, 2026.

[15] C. James III, Evaluation of the Masullo Human-Written Proof of the Generalized Riemann Hypothesis in Meth8/VŁ4, November 22, 2026.

[16] Emmet Fox Society, “January 13: God is Truth,” quoting Around the Year with Emmet Fox (1952). https://medium.com/@emmetfox/january-13-god-is-truth-bebba570c558

Copyright © 2026 Colin James III. All rights reserved.