

Conversation Starters 4

The following are not meant as dogmatic statements but as thought provokers and conversation starters. Statements not directly attributed to someone belong to SMN.

1. Every story is a story about what might have been, or what could have been, or even sometimes what was.
2. When you work and think outside of an organization, you're essentially on your own. Your ideas are just your thoughts.
3. "Energy is eternal delight." (W. Blake)
4. Homo Sapiens is the only species of large mammal – thus large enough to evolve a human-sized brain – to have made every one of the required lucky turns in the evolutionary maze." (E.O. Wilson)
5. Judaism over time – God became distant as the law became near. (P. Johnson)
6. Truth is the matter of the imagination/ circumstance and situation/ distance and relation/ hope and expectation.
7. God is humble/ man is vain.
8. "Obedience cannot be both voluntary and involuntary." (R.B. Withers)
9. Reality can exist without a supernatural God, but a supernatural God cannot exist without Reality. (God existing outside Reality or Time is a non-sensical idea.)
10. The trajectory of Spirit is emanation.
11. "What you do in this world is a matter of no consequence. The question is, what you can make people believe you have done." (A.C. Doyle)
12. Can you outlive a memory?
13. Ideas come from reflecting on experience. (Locke)
14. The universe is too big for any one individual but is just right for all pervading mind.
15. "A man is not really dead, until the last man who knows him has also died." (J.L. Borges)
16. The idea of personal immortality is outrageous.
17. Jesus didn't become human so He could do away with humanity – it was to make it better.
18. "...exaggeration is essentially a form of ignorance." (R. Weaver)
19. According to Plato, friendship can only exist among the good, because good is an integrating force while evil is a disintegrating one.
20. What is the difference between knowing an absolute and knowing an absolute absolutely? (R. Weaver)
21. Why does God want humans to have eternal life?
22. Compensation – the spirit grows as we age. Spirit trumps mind and body.
23. What most Bible teaching lacks is insight and nuance. Most teaching is repetitive and tautological, e.g., 'God is God'. Many Bible teachers like to take strong positions and stick with them through Hell and High Water. Let's face it, the pot of money is only so big, and only by drawing clear distinctions between themselves and other Bible teachers, can the proponents of 'Truth' attract and keep a loyal following that will sustain their monetary needs. Things are either yes or no, which is, very rarely the case. The objective is superficial – how do I get your money?

24. God has unlimited grace and gets upset if He doesn't use it. Re: Rom. 3:24, 5:20, 6:1, 13:8; Gal. 4:8, 5:13; Jas. 1:22-27.
25. When it comes to saving humanity, God was the best man for the job!
26. Think of Spirit as the basis of celestial technology.
27. "Making sense is a way of dealing with reality but also of denying it." (D. McKinney)
28. What does it mean when what you believe in rests upon a blanket statement that you've never really thought deeply about?
29. Thinking about the Spirit is the Work of the Spirit.
30. It makes little or no sense that God has always existed only as Spirit. If that's the case, why create a physical universe? Why would God create something so inferior to Himself? Is that the best use of His creative faculties? Wouldn't a spiritual creation make more sense? Why deal with the physical at all?
31. The war in Heaven happens because Satan is ordered to leave.
32. You can't have reality as we know it without matter and energy. You can't have God as we know Him without His ability to think and act. And God can't think and act without energy (which is interchangeable with matter). If God came before energy, how did He come up with the energy to create energy? Did God in an alternate reality create this reality? If so, where did that God get his energy? And so on... I'm not saying that Matter/Energy has always existed. I'm just saying they exist and I'm asserting that it's hard or even impossible to conceive or imagine existence without them.
33. Christ dying to save Mankind is an example of God's internal logic.
34. Ode to Humanity: Some thrive/ Some just survive/ Some take a dive/ Some never arrive.
35. Can consciousness and time be separated?
36. Jesus left – Absence made the Spirit grow fonder.
37. It is said that God has need of nothing, and only has to metaphorically snap His fingers to get what He wants. But no being has ever had to work harder than God to get where He is today. That's why He appreciates hard work. God is at heart a problem solver.
38. Jesus is the former God of the Old Testament who has undergone profound experiences He was not capable of before living as a man on earth.
39. Looking for the book that has yet to be written – a Bible perfectly in accord with Science, but not the Science of the 21st Century, but the Science of the last century of human existence.
40. "As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of demand." (J. Billings)
41. As you grow older, you try to go back to places you've never been.
42. Guilt looks to the past; remorse looks to the future. If you don't feel guilty, you can't feel remorse. Remorse means doing something about the guilt.
43. Three Corollaries of "Good" Religion:
 - 1) God is One – If God Is One, then He is the same God for all creation.
 - 2) A moral life should be practiced.
 - 3) Rewind or Punishment in the afterlife.
44. "Non-Existence by its own definition cannot be." (G. Giorbran)
45. "There is no alternative to existence." (G. Giorbran)
46. "...any attempt to find an ultimate beginning from nothing is doomed to fail." (G. Giorbran)
47. A Bounded Infinity – the number of decimals between Zero and One.
48. The only thing that speaks to everyone everywhere is the Spirit of God.

49. When two possibilities are both good, then you're OK with either outcome.
50. Privacy can be a temporary abode, created through high tech, then disassembled when privacy is no longer needed. One's home is the universe not a stationary place.
51. Is Time the key aspect of Reality?