

# Conversation Starters 5

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. Did you ever think you knew something that no one else knew? Or knew something so obvious that everyone else should know it too? But then when you started looking around for 'fellow viewers' there were none to be found. But even then, with the advent of the universal search engine, somewhere out there there should be one, maybe more, of those who know and believe the same.
2. Key to Life – you know more than you think you know.
3. Descent means seeing things as they are at the lower levels – otherwise you're not descending. (D. E. Harding)
4. "The only way to have anything is to pass it on." (DEH)
5. "Light at its source is not light, but the zones it irradiates." (DEH)
6. God is the most powerful symbol operated by the human mind. That doesn't make Him unreal.
7. "No one person can be expected to have enough expertise in so many fields to get all the important details right." (T. Van Flandern)
8. Can you wait for something that won't happen in your lifetime?
9. Jesus offered to separate appearance from reality.
10. Modern way of thinking – we only believe in things that can't ultimately satisfy us.
11. Kingdom of Heaven – like a treasure hid in the field. Matt. 13:44
12. The universe is positive in its orientation. God is good because it is the essential (default) quality of Oneness. If you are the only thing in existence, why would you do anything negative? It would only hurt you!
13. If we lived forever, would we still care about God?
14. Jesus while he lived preached the Kingdom of God; after he died, his followers preached him.
15. Paul was chosen from the womb; Jesus was chosen before the womb.
16. In a God-controlled deterministic universe, there would be little point in emphasizing sin over evil – just 'make' the person 'good' and sin becomes a sometimes thing, easily dealt with; the lessons would still be learned, but you would be concentrating on eradicating evil, the basis for all human misery.
17. You call it a mystery then you define it.
18. The soul is personal; the spirit is impersonal.
19. The acknowledgement of a 'Father' deflects from too much attention on Jesus – who is involved in day to day duties – Concept: if not, Jesus as 'Father' dealing with Christ would be unworkable; also, it works as buffer so Jesus can interact on a normal basis.
20. "If you talk, you preach." (Anon.)
21. As the universe (space) expands, time and distance become irrelevant. The only solution is instantaneous travel between any two points.
22. Greek perception of truth: that which is unconcealed; that which is discovered; seen as opposed to seem.
23. Greek Truth: "...not to escape notice."
24. "Higher than actuality is possibility." (Heidegger)

25. God to the Modern World: Negative Hallucination – recognize the reality of something it does not believe exist (such as prayer), the better to deny it. Don't believe in it but act and react negatively to it as if they do believe it.
26. Spirit of Humanity is the same as the Spirit of God; else there would be no lines of communication.
27. Jesus offered life (gift of God) in place of life situation.
28. "The English word 'myth' derives from the Greek 'mythos', which means 'word' in the sense of a final pronouncement. Its special meaning appears by contrast with the Greek 'Logos' which means 'word' in the sense of a truth that can be argued and demonstrated." (D. Boorstin)  
Compare myth to journalism – expect to be believed with anonymous sources.
29. God's relationship to Himself: by definition, He has few or no constraints. How does He decide what actions to take? What course of action?
30. Humans tend to think mostly of themselves, but to be fair, humans are mortal and staying alive should be a top priority. Not a problem with God.
31. According to God's will (I Peter 5:2): not out of compulsion but freely. Inherent Contradiction if you believe God's will is pre-determined.
32. "God Spoke to Me." Did Jesus ever say that?
33. "...a pupil is never educated to the degree of consciousness, but only to the degree of trust and reverence, and a child is not made a man, but kept a child." (H.D. Thoreau)
34. Create = Bring Order out of Chaos.
35. According to Edith Hamilton, the Ancient Greeks were "Spiritual Materialists."
36. Seeing things in relation to other things simplifies them, e.g., the Greek Parthenon and a Gothic Cathedral.
37. Central themes of the Bible are Life and Death and Life vs. Death; Satan = Adversary; Death = 'Last Enemy'; Serpent beguiled Adam and Eve away from life to death; Jesus came that we might have life more abundantly.
38. The spirit of a person is the part that you can't see. Just like God, it's invisible.
39. What's better? That God can do all or that that He already did all?
40. "Liberty comes when we stop fighting and agree to disagree." (Anon.)
41. The essence of Christianity is that the smart help the stupid while hoping that the stupid learn something.
42. A.I. – the attempt to prove that one form of intelligence can create another form of intelligence.
43. If the Christ is the Second Adam, who is the Second Eve?
44. What makes visible the invisible?
45. What lifts the soul?
46. Evil results from a lack of maturity.
47. Hebrews were Naïve Realists – maybe not right but not wrong either. Knowledge based on observation.
48. Theology can be a Pseudo-Science, but Science can be a Pseudo-Theology.
49. The meeting place for God is the human mind.
50. "All Heretics are like this. They imagine that they have found something higher than the truth." (Irenaeus)