

Conversing with Billy



Billy Campbell [Jun 10, 2017, 12:43:21 AM](#)

The subject of life in my opinion: See I don't believe in a "God" in the way a religious person does. I do believe there was a force that shaped the universe. Most scientist believe that the Big Bang was perfect for creation, in the way of if the explosion was just a little less "explosive" it may have only lasted a few million years or even a few milliseconds. There can't just be something from nothing. Humans as a species are so complex that we share atoms with the universe. Other animals and species have their own way of life that gives them a way to live in conjunction to their surroundings. Was the universe just a big fluke? Are there other universes? Are there a similar species in our current universe that has developed an intelligent way of life much like humans? We don't know, we may never know. We have developed so much in the last 100 years mainly through our technology. There could be a way of life much like our Stone Age on another planet where it hasn't had surge of intelligence like ours. No one truly knows if our animals and species are just a one of a kind type phenomenon or if there are many more like it. I like these discussion but when you get people who are not open to the thought of these ideas it's very hard to have an intelligent conversation, trying to convey all our ideas.

937 views



PastorJuan @PastorJuan [Jun 10, 2017, 2:03:34 PM](#)

Hi Billy,



PastorJuan @PastorJuan [Jun 10, 2017, 2:08:51 PM](#)

As my name implies, I am a believer of "God." But, I enjoy greatly conversing with people about their different points of views and beliefs. I don't insist that they agree with me, because I may likely not agree with them. Having said this, I have no trouble listening to other people's reasoning about "reality" and "truth" as long as they don't mind that I will ask questions (not challenges) about their beliefs so that I may understand better. If the other person can take questions without feeling attacked, I do so greatly enjoy those conversations. Mainly, because questions (and even challenges) don't bother me.



Billy Campbell @billycampbell27 [Jun 11, 2017, 2:42:32 AM](#)

@PastorJuan See I am completely open to a discussion. Ask me all the questions you want. I'd have questions for you but I can't exactly think of any right now due to the fact that the majority of people that reply to me are always very hateful and not open to discussion

Conversing with Billy



PastorJuan @PastorJuan Jun 12, 2017, 4:55:30 AM

Great, then let's start off with a basic question. You make several assertions in your statement, what basis (foundation/"truth") do you use to guide you in the conclusions you make?



Billy Campbell @billycampbell27 Jun 12, 2017, 10:22:10 AM

@PastorJuan Without trying to offend anyone that reads this I think it is a little weird to me to think there is a man in the sky the controls everything. It's kind of a creepy feeling that some believe that there is a man in the sky that watches every movement they take, controls the weather, kills millions of people through natural disasters and had a son through a "virgin". Now don't get me wrong I think people are entitled to their own beliefs but I think the bible is just a big novel that some man wrote a few thousand years ago to try to explain the unexplainable such as weather, why the sun sets, why there are living creatures, why humans are the only species to communicate through their voices and make a sentence, why there are stars in the sky, things of that nature The basis to my agnostic type feeling comes to a head with not the things happening on earth but with how the universe was created out of seemingly nothing. There are a lot of questions that may never be answered such as "is earth the first planet to evolve intelligent life or are we just a freak of nature in the cosmos?" When it comes down to it there is no real hard evidence that we can distinguish the fact from the imagination. If that even makes sense



PastorJuan @PastorJuan Jun 12, 2017, 4:45:01 PM

@billycampbell27 Hi Billy. Hey, great points. I can see you have given these arguments (expressed opinions) some thought. Thanks for responding. First of all, I agree with you. I don't believe there is some "man in the sky" who "controls everything." Mainly, because as a Christian believer, our Bible teaches that God is not a man (human or male). Whereas we believe that we are somewhat like God, "He" is nothing like us. The Bible teaches us that God is Spirit, and we believe that spirits do not have a sexual reproductive organs (to make them male or female), they don't need to have children. Secondly, the same Bible teaches that we were given free-will (at least to a point, that is). And, if that is true, then there have to be some things in which God chooses not to interfere. In my own concept of this belief, I have said, "No" to God at times by choosing to disobey. You know, the "sin" thing and all that. Those times, I believe, God did not interfere with my choice and decision to disobey. I also agree with you that it's kind of creepy that we are watched. But, in our case (believers) that is something we accept as an unchangeable truth. Think about it, if there really is a God, then "He" can do whatever the heck "He" wants and there would be nothing any mere human can do about it. So, in the case of Christians, we accept it and live with it instead of stressing ourselves over something we cannot control.

Conversing with Billy

As far as the Bible is concerned, you are right again, at least regarding that it was written by a bunch of humans thousands of years ago. We cannot argue that at all. And, you are right that much of it is given to explain many things and answer many questions which people then (and many of us today) have about a lot of things. And, as you imply, we do find those answers. Though we do not get every answer to every single question which may cross our minds, to those of us who have studied the Bible, it has been the source of many true and real answers no matter who wrote it. I once jokingly said, "Hey, I don't care if it was monkeys who wrote the Bible, my only concern is does it work!" And, you know what, Billy. For me, it has worked. Not just some silly emotional feeling claims. As I have applied its teaching in my life I have changed in a better man than I had been before. And, no I am not saying that all people who do not believe in God are bad or something, I am speaking of me. Your question regarding the "creation" of the earth is just as important to us as it is to you. We also do not know the answer. We choose to believe what the Bible teaches, but that teaching cannot be explained in some emotional argument about how God "can do anything, so there!" Nope, even among Christians we have slightly differing views on this important issue. But consider this, either a "God" created everything (meaning there was a purpose for our existence), or things just sort of appeared and became the universe, and we are just some big cosmic accident (meaning our lives were also just an accident of circumstances). While we cannot force our beliefs to become the truth for everybody, each of us CAN choose to believe what we choose to believe, the difference of the two will impact how you see your life, and every single choice you make for the rest of your life. Do you see yourself as a creation of a "God" or, as you said, "just a freak of nature in the cosmos?" You get to answer the question, no matter what anyone else says. One more point, there are also Christians who believe that we were not the first humans (or similar beings) to inhabit the earth. If you ever get a chance to read a Dake's Bible, you will find that there seems to be some evidence in the Bible for that argument. Sure, mainstream Christianity thinks that is just hogwash, but that doesn't change the fact that there are parts of the Bible which seem to imply this possibility. Additionally, in this life we all have to decide what evidence we will accept as proof for truth. Others will tell you and me that we have to accept their truth, and/or they will make fun at, and sometimes even attack, us for disagreeing with them. I do not accept someone's truth just because they argue that it is true. I have to make up my own mind. For example, I don't believe that we (the earth) is spinning at 1000 miles per hour. I have yet to see real proof, other than just some human's argument, that this is real. And then they argue that we are circling the sun at 67,000 miles per hour. Come on, give me a break! And, to top it off, that we are speeding at 500,000 miles per hour around the "Milky Way," and we can't even feel at least the slightest motion. Talk about distinguishing fact from imagination. And, the only answer "they" have is just more words to try to convince us that it is true. See, we all have questions. Finally, I have two other questions for you, "Why are you so concerned and interested in all these questions?" I mean, besides the fact that you are a human and can think. And, "What are you going to do with the answer?"



Billy Campbell @billycampbell27 Jun 13, 2017, 7:13:27 AM

Conversing with Billy

Look those are some very great points. I see where you are coming from. I think that the way we are raised and how we are raised really disabled our free thinking ideologies as kids. It's not until you reach a certain point in your life that you try to question why you believe and in a way reject some ideas that you were raised with and accept some of the concepts that actually make sense. Just a quick reply to your "earth spinning" concept. Due to space being so massive and the fact that there is really nothing beside the earth that is fixed in a point, much like an aeroplane flying in the sky, it's hard to tell the real speed of the earth's rotation. It is rotating though. We can see that through telescopes. People once believed that the earth was flat and some actually still do despite photographic evidence. I do believe the earth is rotating on an axis going around the sun as it just makes sense to me. There are certain parts of religion that can make sense but I, as a person raised in a completely different setting than you, have developed my own understanding, picking parts of science and some parts of religious beliefs. The history of religion isn't the best. With many people trying to force a certain religion upon others in extremely brutal ways but to me the very fact that we have so many religions kind of rules out that there is just "ONE TRUE" religion. For instance if there was a person that discovered that Buddhism is in fact the correct religion and he/she has proof of their findings then would we all convert to Buddhism and try to eradicate all our sins? I don't know. To answer your first question, I'm asking these questions because I'm extremely curious in the way humans interact with one another in a seemingly controversial topic and for the pure curiosity of why people believe what they believe. I for one consider myself not just an atheist or agnostic. I believe in part science and but part of anything other than religion. I do not pray or practice a religion in a church therefore I am not religious nor atheist. To answer your second question, I may change some of my stances and how I communicate with those who are more likely to be a little more sensitive to the topic. Right now this is the most civil conversation I've had with another person. But in the end we all have different beliefs and no one man or woman will truly have the correct answer no matter how we discuss. I now have a couple questions for you. For starters Do you believe that your religion is the correct religion in a sense of comparing to other religions, not necessarily on the way things are created or play out but in the way of how much sense it makes? Second question. Is it hard for you to change your stances on certain religious topics such as the way the earth moves or any scientific theory?



PastorJuan @PastorJuan Jun 13, 2017, 4:52:30 PM

Good points as well. First of all, regarding the "spinning" of the earth you said, "It is rotating though. We can see that through telescopes." I can't. I remember once sitting out in the country with friends, and we watched the stars. The fact that the stars move is an obvious one. But, nothing in that movement proves without question the rotation of the earth. NASA itself has yet to provide any evidence (which cannot be replicated by Photoshop or CG) that the earth is spinning. Just like religion, we have to take someone's word or controlled "evidence" as "proof." For example, over the last 20 years, NASA has offered several "official" photos of the earth, in which the land masses seemed to change sizes, and not always in the same place. If you are wrong about one thing, regarding a specific subject, that calls into question other similar arguments. After 5 years of personal

Conversing with Billy

research, I can present an opposing argument and some obvious evidence to counter any assertion that the earth is spinning. The real proof is going outside and paying attention to lots of the evidence first hand. That is, unless we are to completely ignore our senses and play dumb, thereby accepting everything someone says, "Because it makes sense." There is no absolute proof that the earth is spinning, the science behind the argument is called, "inference," (A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning). They conclude that because this is true, and that is true, then the result, even if it cannot be proven directly, must also be true. Which, by the way, is also how belief in God works. I was raised in a setting of violence. My father left when I was 3 years old, my mother abandoned us when I was 5, later when she returned she was abusive and hateful toward us. We (siblings) grew up angry people who later on endured broken relationships, alcoholism, drug addictions, abusive relationships, and most of us ended marriages in divorce. I learned to hate my mother and father very early in my life. I grew up hating "God" and all that religion represented, because "He" allowed us to suffer all that abuse at the hands of those who were supposed to love us. I never did believe that any religion could be any help in any fashion. And, I still feel about religion much the same way, 35 years after my salvation through Christ Jesus. Religion, for the most part, is worthless, but, on the other hand, what I do have is a relationship with the Lord, and that has truly been of benefit to my life. I was a college educated, intelligent and knowledgeable man before I gave my life to Christ, and have not lost any of my intelligence since then. I say all of this to make the point that nothing in my young life, specifically, pointed me to, or necessarily drew me to, religion. By the way, on the lighter side, when I say the word "religion" I want to spit. The taste is nasty. ♪ Yes, you are right, "religious" people do tend to try to make others agree with them. I don't. I believe that all people must make their own personal decision about whether to accept the reality of God or not, without my added coercion. Heaven is not for everyone. I am not "religious" according to the average definition. I, instead, want to have a relationship with God. Keep in mind, that many persons who call themselves Christians, are no more Christian, than I would be an astronaut just because I call myself one. Please don't allow yourself to be caught in the falsehood of lumping all of us in the same basket. Not that I am saying that you have. Great point about "Buddhism." Billy. Uh, let me see? Not only, "No," but, "Heck NO!" Anyway, I can't figure out how anyone, including me, could "prove" that their "religion" was the one true one. Proof is in the mind of the person. As mentioned above, each person must make their own conclusions, and to do that, they must decide with what evidence they will agree. For example, our discussion, yours and mine, you aren't trying to make me agree with you and I am not doing that to you either. We both know that we are hearing a differing point of view, and that makes life exciting. Well, if someone wants to offer "proof" that their religion is the one true religion, I would intelligently and with enthusiasm want to hear them out. But, having said that, they had better be prepared to answer the many questions I would have, or I would walk out on the discussion. You have the right to call yourself what you believe to be the truth. But, according to the definition of the word, "agnostic" (in the dictionary), you seem to fit in quite well, as it includes "skeptic" (which means: not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations). From the content of your responses, you impress me as someone who is not easily swayed and convinced. Actually, someone after my own heart. My personal motto: "Question everything, and don't accept quick and convenient answers." That's why do not believe

Conversing with Billy

that the earth is spinning. I need hard evidence (at least, as much as possible). I have counseled professionally (as a Christian) for over thirty years. I have come to the conclusion that people do what they do because they believe what they believe. That includes you and me. As we grow, mature, accept new evidences, and learn how to use inference, we will change in what we believe, and then also in what we do. Some people learn half-truths, and make them their whole truths, and live life in an unhealthy manner. You said, "But in the end we all have different beliefs and no one man or woman will truly have the correct answer no matter how we discuss." Maybe, but then, that is also why the human mind asks questions. And, we want answers. Or, at least I do. And, since I don't have all the answers I choose to search outside myself and seek them. By inference (even scientific inference) I have come to some conclusions which offer real-world solutions. I have learned that if I apply certain Biblical principles in how I live life, I get actual real-world results that are to my benefit. No, I don't mean just some esoteric (emotional) answers which make me FEEL good, or necessarily agree with my already established point of view. On top of that, I have counseled with hundreds of persons for thousands of hours for over 30 years, and have seen the same results in the lives of those who also applied the same principles. To me, that is evidence I can work with. Not just words (which many times are useless drivels of questionable meaning), but real life results which can be tested and repeated. By the way, I do appreciate the civility you have shown through this discussion. Your points have been clear and respectful. To answer your questions, I offer this: 1. At the risk of beating a dead horse, I do not agree with "religion" at all. But, to offer a sensible answer, let's go at it this way: the Christian Bible teaches Jesus is THE WAY the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father but by Him. I have only two options as a response. I accept what it clearly means (that only those who believe on Jesus Christ will go to heaven) or I refuse to believe that way. And, keep in mind that from a Christian perspective, this is THE pivotal argument. If one cannot accept that only those who believe in Jesus will go to heaven then they are not Christian, no matter what they call themselves. That is not my opinion, or perspective, it is the "truth" IF you accept the Christian Bible as THE Word of God. I do accept that the Bible teaches this, and I believe the Bible is the Word of God. So, is "Christianity" the correct religion? NO! There are no "correct" religions. But, according to what the Bible implies, there seems to be only ONE way to heaven, a personal relationship with Jesus. 2. You asked, "Is it hard for you to change your stances on certain religious topics such as the way the earth moves or any scientific theory?" No, changing my stances can easily be done on the spur of the moment. The question should be more like, "WOULD you change your stances?" As I mentioned above, I am willing to hear any differing point of view or argument. I am a person who continues to grow and mature (even though I am 65 years old), and I continue to educate myself further as I am able. The evidence I usually look for, which might prompt me to change my "stance" on a subject are: First of all, hard evidence that does not just depend on someone SAYING something is true and that there is "proof" (for example that the earth is spinning), but that the "proof" will not stand up to scrutiny. And, secondly, inference. Not just one or the other, but a mixture of both. Your comments stirred up a couple more questions for you. 1. What was it about your upbringing that you think lead you to reach the "religious" points of view which you have? For example, what turned you off to them way back when? 2. What evidence, which you personally tested and can be tested by others with the same results, do you use to convince yourself that the earth is

Conversing with Billy

spinning? 3. Does "free-thinking" mean that someone does not have established beliefs, or does it mean they must continually be searching for truths?



Billy Campbell @billycampbell27 Jun 14, 2017, 12:55:43 AM

Just because I'm sick of writing long, boring paragraphs I will answer the questions accordingly but I will acknowledge that the questions I asked were answered to my satisfaction. 1. As of writing this I am 18 years and 6 months old. I do have a lot of years to come to reach your life experience (as you said you are 65 years old), I was born to a mother and father who were two completely different people. My father was the abusive alcoholic who neglected his kids (he has had 4 kids, one of whom died long before my sister and brother were born) I am the youngest of 3. I was always told to believe what I want as long as it makes sense to me. So I did what most kids wouldn't, I explored many avenues of belief and came to my current day beliefs. As the youngest child I was spoilt so I was quite happy with life. It wasn't until I was around 14-15 where I was very unhappy with how my life was turning out so I started to question what I believed. I tried to fill a sort of void with religion. I just didn't feel it was full and to this day still don't believe the void has been completely filled. I guess what brought me to this was looking back to see how my mother got away from my father by moving interstate (we live in Australia) and I thought to myself "I want to have the strength to try and relieve any doubt in my mind that I chose the right path" so here I am. Don't know if that answers your question or not but I'm rolling with that. 2. It is clear that scientists are very knowledgeable and have been studying the universe for many years, researching, sending out satellites and building their understanding of how everything works long before I was born so I do have some trust in what they publish. You can't "test" if the Earth is spinning. You can send a satellite up into orbit and watch the earth spin slowly. Otherwise how would we have day and night on both sides of the earth? If the earth didn't spin then there would only be one side of the earth facing the sun while we orbit around the sun. The only reason we have Seasons is because of the axis tilt of the earth and the earth is stabilized by the moon which is why our seasons are frequent. Both the moon and sun control our waters so if the moon wasn't orbiting the earth then the sun would be the main contributor to our tides. I've gone off topic. There is no way for a human to test if the earth is spinning on the earth. 3. Free thinking allows someone to be open about what they believe and isn't influenced easily by the majority of people around them. For instance if the large majority of an island population believed in Islam then you would expect another person who was raised by them to also be Islamic but if there were to be an outsider coming into the island then they may "try out" the culture they are witnessing and possibly convert if it satisfies them or leave if they please.



PastorJuan @PastorJuan Jun 14, 2017, 1:51:22 PM

You are right about the long answers, but short answers leave one with too many questions. I see that we had similar upbringing. I'm sorry that you have gone through what

Conversing with Billy

you have, but you also sound like you are on your way to finding real answers. I am NOT Flat Earth believer, but their argument is one possible answers to dark on one side of the earth and light on the other. Take a look at this Youtube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nam90gorcPs>) this guy is trying to prove NOTHING. His goal is simply to do a time lapse of the stars. Notice that the stars travel in a circle above us at night, not straight across the sky if we were spinning. And, think about this, if every night we see the same stars above us, then what stars are the people on the “other side” looking at? By the way, that is a good point on the free thinking example of the island.