

Stephen's second interview

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2 **Interviewer:** Is there anything you'd like to say about the experience of being
3 interviewed and keeping a journal about your relationship with
4 God?

5 **Stephen:** It's been a pretty good thing to do because I've never actually
6 sat down and thought extensively on my beliefs and values,
7 y'know. I found it quite interesting like on behalf of myself
8 especially reading over the interview that a lot of stuff I forgot
9 that I said there I've remembered and sort of realised that was
10 coming from my heart like I've never thought of it in depth that
11 much.

12 **Interviewer:** Good. In the interview and in the journal you were reflecting on
13 how your faith has changed as you have been growing up. Is
14 there anything further that you would like to add about the
15 experience of your faith changing?

16 **Stephen:** Ah, there's not really any significant thing that I haven't
17 mentioned in that, so – not really.

18 **Interviewer:** Now, one of the things we started off with is how you image
19 God. Is there anything you would like to add about how your
20 image of God has changed from when you were a child to the
21 present?

22 **Stephen:** When I was a child I saw God as probably a man, but now I see
23 God as like everything, how he is in everything. He's not just
24 like one person prompting all of – like events that are going to
25 happen, but he is always there. It's not as if he does it, like "Do
26 that, do that." Like, it's through him that everything happens.

27 **Interviewer:** You said, "through him". Would you like to reflect on that a bit
28 more?

29 **Stephen:** How he does it? How I believe he does it?

30 **Interviewer:** Yeah.

31 **Stephen:** Everything from – anything growing is a miracle and I believe he
32 starts it from like the very first – even like with a child, like first
33 conception, trees, the seeds, everything just – If you look
34 outside, it's pretty amazing what's actually going on. I was
35 speaking to someone about two weeks ago and we were talking
36 about does the chicken or the egg come first. And that got me
37 thinking like how does everything know what to do, and how to
38 give birth and – It's pretty amazing. It's been happening for
39 years and years, but how did the first beings evolve like that?
40 That got me thinking a lot. We had a big discussion on that and
41 even, yeah, the last month I've thought a bit more what God is to
42 me.

43 **Interviewer:** Good. What about your image of Jesus?

44 **Stephen:** That hasn't greatly changed because Jesus was form – he was
45 like a natural thing you could see. He worked through God I still
46 believe, so he hasn't greatly changed, but he might be up in
47 heaven, he might help God like do certain acts.

48 **Interviewer:** Okay. Good. What about the image of the Holy Spirit?

49 **Stephen:** I've never really though – this is not good. Last time I said that it
50 was the – I can't remember. The Holy Spirit hasn't changed not
51 greatly because I haven't thought about it enough for it to
52 evolve.

53 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about people in your life, such as parents, brothers,
54 sisters, friends, others and events? Is there anything further you
55 would like to add about how they might have influenced you in
56 your relationship with God?

57 **Stephen:** Well, my Dad being a practising Catholic which led me to going
58 to Church which like my faith evolved from that.

59 **Interviewer:** Where did you get your knowledge of your faith?

60 **Stephen:** From my Dad and then through him from the Church.

61 **Interviewer:** What about prayer and your relationship with God?

62 **Stephen:** I suppose this had degraded as I got older. I used to pray every
63 night. Now I pray probably on, once, maybe twice a week, but
64 the prayers are more in depth. Like as a child I just prayed like
65 the same prayer every night. But now I actually thank God for
66 certain things, ask him favours and so I suppose I look at God
67 as a mate more so than someone you're just repetitive towards.
68 So although it's decreased, it has also become – um – more
69 personal. Do you know what I mean?

70 **Interviewer:** Yes. When you say "more personal", how does that show? If
71 you had to analyse the sort of prayers you say, what is it about
72 them that leads you to say they're more personal?

73 **Stephen:** The fact that I'm thanking him for stuff I'm not – like I don't say
74 written prayers, like the Our Father, but I make my own prayers
75 up which I believe is more in depth because I'm thanking him.
76 It's like thanking a friend for doing certain deeds.

77 **Interviewer:** You've been using the statement "I believe". What does that
78 mean for you?

79 **Stephen:** Not everyone has to have the same beliefs. You can get a
80 number of things out of religion and your faith and if you get the
81 things that you enjoy and use them to your advantage, then your
82 faith is going to be reinforced. So when I say that "I believe" I
83 don't object to another people's opinions. I – yeah, it's just good
84 that we've all got our own faith.

85 **Interviewer:** Okay. And you said "your religion and your faith"?

- 86 **Stephen:** My religion is Catholicism, but my faith – like I said before, I
87 have many beliefs of different religions, like Buddhism,
88 reincarnation, so therefore I use them differently.
- 89 **Interviewer:** Okay. Is there anything that occurs to you about your
90 experience of school, RE classes, teachers, or peers, that you
91 haven't said up to this point?
- 92 **Stephen:** This is pretty bad, like in Year 10, I caught a fly and tied a bit of
93 hair around it and Miss Scott said, "It's got as much right to live
94 as you do." And I've never done it since. So that's one small
95 thing. But Mr Jones' class last year would a been one of the
96 biggest RE things. But, yeah, just that one thing Miss Scott said,
97 like it has as much right as you just – But that's what the
98 Buddhists also believe. Like they don't, they don't kill flies, or
99 anything. I've spoken to a – like someone that follows Buddhism
100 only last month and they don't own fly spray. Like they treat
101 their animals with respect 'cause they believe that it could be like
102 your grandmother or your grandfather that's done something
103 bad that have to learn a lesson, so you treat them with respect
104 'cause you never know who they are.
- 105 **Interviewer:** Because not to treat them with respect brings bad karma?
- 106 **Stephen:** Yeah, which could lead to you being a dog and also you treating
107 one of your family members bad.
- 108 **Interviewer:** So you can think of it selfishly, can't you? I'll avoid coming back
109 as a fly by treating a fly with respect.
- 110 **Stephen:** They also believe that you have to be really bad to go back like
111 the humans are the – like, the pinnacle.
- 112 **Interviewer:** Yeah.
- 113 **Stephen:** We're doing the RE assignment at the moment on marriage and
114 beliefs.
- 115 **Interviewer:** So you've chosen Buddhism for that?
- 116 **Stephen:** Nope. I know a bit about Buddhism, but I wanted to do Judaism
117 because I don't know anything, so I wanted to extend my
118 knowledge.
- 119 **Interviewer:** Is there anything further that you would like to add that you think
120 we haven't covered either through the first interview or the
121 journal.
- 122 **Stephen:** No. It's been pretty broad so you can bring in a lot of factors,
123 but I've answered pretty much most of my thoughts.
- 124 **Interviewer:** Alright. Good. I think we'll finish here. Thank you, Stephen.