

7 BIG IDEAS about



NOVICES' GATHERING

Johnny C. Go SJ
MATER CARMELI
18 April 2018

God *never*
wills EVIL.

**Greater
Good**

or

Good

Evil

**GOD'S
WILL**

God could **never** be calling us to something evil.
Discernment is finding out
the **GREATHER GOOD**

**BIG
IDEA # 1** in a given situation for an individual.

“Should I...?”

“What would I like to...?”

“What do I want...?”



“What does God want...?”

“What would God like me to...?”

“What is God’s Will?”

MY WILL? GOD'S WILL?

Change Your Question

BIG IDEA #2

WORLDVIEW

GOD'S WILL

DESTINY | **PRE**
MEANING OF LIFE | **DESTINATION**

I have a purpose in life
* which is greater than myself
* which will make my life matter, and
* which I have yet to discover and fulfill.

Everything has already been determined by God or some higher force or the universe.

GOD'S WILL | **DESTINY**
MEANING OF LIFE

WORLDVIEW
in discernment

What images of life do we need so that **discernment** is possible?

God is a puppet master.
EVERYTHING is God's Will.

ALL the events in our lives have been predetermined. We are like puppets under the control of the universe or God.

Life is like a PUPPET SHOW.





Life is like an EMPTY PAGE that we are completely free to write on.

God is a watchmaker.
CHANCE + CHOICES

We are left to our own devices. We simply need to fend for ourselves.

Life is an ONGOING DANCE

Our lives are shaped by choices and chance, but there is a higher force that guides us.



God is a dance partner.
God's Will + Our Freedom + Nature



The need for SILENCE



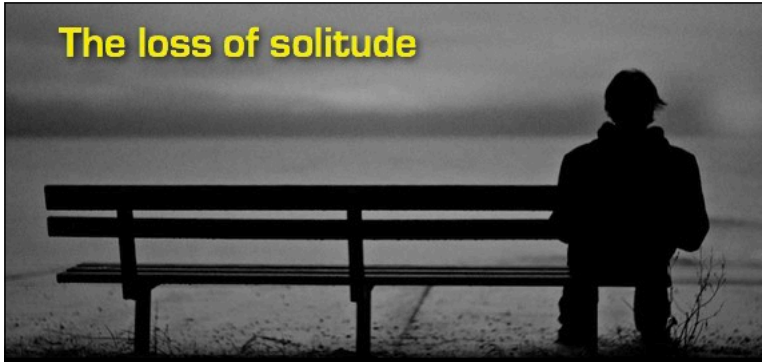
HORROR VACUI

- * The Internet has created a fear of empty spaces.
- * We can get an addiction to information, entertainment, and every form of stimulus.



Silence as an endangered species

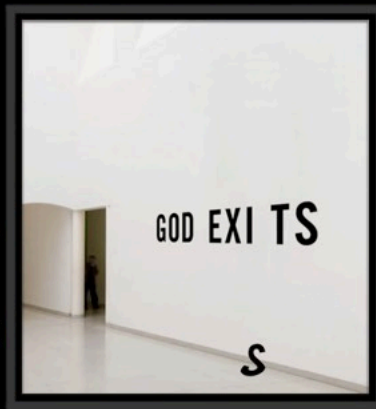
The loss of solitude



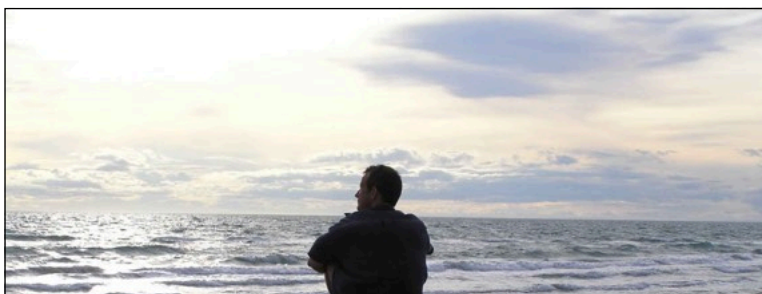
Feeling my feelings alone,
by myself and with myself.
Being alone with my feelings
without instant distraction
or digital support

The loss of our sense of the sacred

“The reason we live in a culture increasingly without faith is **not** because science has somehow disproved the unprovable, but **because the white noise of secularism has removed the very stillness in which faith might endure or be reborn.**”



Andrew Sullivan (2016)



**BIG
IDEA #5**

**SILENCE + PRAYER
= GREATER FAMILIARITY
WITH SELF + GOD**

GLAD **GOOD**

MEANING of life

GET MEANS of livelihood **GIVE**

BIG IDEA #7 **MEANING of life**

GOD'S WILL
is actually
our deepest
desires.

questions for reflection

- * Of the 7 Big Ideas, which one **CLARIFIED/PUZZLED/DISTURBED** you? Why?
- * About **GOD**:
"I used to think... Now I..."
- * About **DISCERNMENT**:
"I used to think... Now I..."
