

# WHAT IS SPIRITUALISM?



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## WHAT IS SPIRITUALISM? A MEDIUM? A HEALER?

Spiritualism is the science, philosophy and religion of continuous life, based upon the demonstrated fact of communication by means of mediumship, with those who live in the spirit world.

Spiritualism is a science because it investigates, analyzes and classifies facts and manifestations demonstrated from the spirit side of life.

Spiritualism is a philosophy because it studies the laws of nature both on the seen and unseen sides of life and bases its conclusions upon present observed facts. It accepts statements when sustained by reason and by results of observed facts of the present day.

Spiritualism is a religion because it strives to understand and to comply with the physical, mental and spiritual laws of nature, "which are the laws of God."

**A SPIRITUALIST** is one who believes, as the basis of his or her religion, in the communication between this and the spirit world by means of mediumship, and who endeavors to mold his or her character and conduct in accordance with the highest teachings derived from such communion.

A Medium is one whose organism is sensitive to vibrations from the spirit world, and through whose instrumentality, intelligences in that world are able to convey messages and produce the phenomena of Spiritualism.

A Spiritualist Healer is one who either through his own inherent powers or through his mediumship, is able to impart vital, curative forces to pathological conditions.

## TELLS RESULTS OF SPIRITUAL HEALING

The results of Spiritual Healing are produced in several ways to wit:

1. By the spiritual influences working through the body of the medium and thus infusing curative, stimulating and vitalizing fluids and energies into the diseased parts of the patient's body.
2. By the spiritual influences illuminating the brain of the healing medium and thereby intensifying the perception of the medium so that the cause, nature and seat of the disease in the patient become known to the medium.
3. Through the application of absent treatments whereby spiritual beings combine their own healing forces with the magnetism and vitalizing energy of the medium and convey them to the patient who is distant from the medium and cause them to be absorbed by the system of the patient.

**SPIRITUAL HEALING** is recognized by the New Testament. It has been a tenet of ancient and modern religions and is now a tenet of Modern Spiritualism practiced by our healers.

In accordance with the Bible statement that "life and death are in the power of the tongue", Spiritualists use affirmations knowing they register on the subconscious mind and produce after their kind.

Every spoken word of a constructive nature assists in changing the patient's thought polarity, from thoughts that repel healing power to thoughts that attract this need.

Broadcasting affirmations voices our needs to the spirit world where they are received by those qualified to assist us. Affirmations transfer the patient's thoughts from the material to the spiritual, thus preparing the way for assistance from spirit helpers.

Spiritualists believe affirmations or suggestions play an important role in our lives. Every thought we think has its effect on every cell of the human body, either for health or disease. Anger, fear, hatred, jealousy, and despair depress the vital action. Faith, hope, happiness, and kindness stimulate the life forces and promote nutrition. Depressing thoughts create disease and can kill.

Spiritualism believes an agent like this is worth reckoning with. Through suggestion or the control of the mind, the most wonderful results can be achieved morally, intellectually and psychically. Under proper conditions of life and health thoughts, man possesses within his own body all essential antitoxins to restore and maintain perfect health.

Spiritualism does not deny that physicians and surgeons are quite necessary. We cooperate with them at all times.

**MEDIUMSHIP** does not depend upon belief or goodness. It has been manifested in all ages, to men of all faiths, to the good, the bad and the indifferent. Goodness and character are the result of individual effort, self-control and earnest desire.

The truths of Spiritualism have been established after much questioning, much examination, much comparison and much testing. They have come for many centuries through mediums all over the globe and from many spiritual sources, with wonderful unanimity; and they satisfy our reason and our sense of justice.

## **SPIRITS CAN MAKE VISUAL APPEARANCE**

The inhabitants of the spirit world, under proper conditions, have the power to—and many do—return to this world and manifest themselves in various ways, from a mental impression or suggestion to a visual appearance. The extent to which this can be done depends upon the knowledge of the controlling spirit and the kind and degree of mediumistic qualities possessed by the sensitive.

Communications from the spirit world are not necessarily infallible truths, but may partake of the imperfections of the mind from which they emanate and of the misinterpretation by those to whom they are given.

No inspired communication, in this or past age, whatever claims may be or have been set up as to its source, is authoritative beyond the truth it expresses to the person to whom it is given. Truth is the standard by which all inspired and all spiritual teachings must be tested. There were false as well as true prophets in Old Testament times, as well as in the present age.

Inspiration, or the influx of ideas and promptings from the spirit world, is not a miracle of a past age, but a perpetual fact, the ceaseless method of Infinite Intelligence for human elevation.

## FOUNDATION OF BELIEF OUTLINED

Spiritualism does not subscribe to creed or dogma but has, as the foundation of its belief, a declaration of principles:

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence. By this we express our belief in a supreme Impersonal Power, everywhere present, manifesting as life, through all forms of organized matter, called by some, God, by others, Spirit, and by Spiritualists, Infinite Intelligence.

2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expressions of Infinite Intelligence.

In this manner we express our belief in the immanence of Spirit and that all forms of life are manifestations of Spirit or Infinite Intelligence and thus that all men are children of God.

3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion.

A correct understanding of the laws of nature, on the physical, mental and spiritual planes of life, and living in accordance therewith will unfold the highest aspirations and attributes of the soul, which is the correct function of true religion.

4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continues after the change called death.

We accept death as a transitional state, believing life here and life hereafter is all one life whose continuity of consciousness is unbroken by the discarding of the physical body.

5. **WE AFFIRM** that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.

Spirit communication has been in evidence in all ages of the world and is amply recorded in both sacred and profane literature of all ages. Orthodoxy has accepted these manifestations and has interpreted them in dogma and creed in terms as supernatural. Spiritualism accepts and recognizes these manifestations as merely supernormal and interprets them in the understanding and light of natural law.

6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye also unto them."

This precept we believe to be true. It points the way to harmony, peace and happiness. Wherever tried it has proven successful, and when fully understood and practiced, will bring peace and happiness to man on earth.

7. **WE AFFIRM** the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys nature's physical and spiritual laws.

Man himself is responsible for the welfare of the world in which he lives; for its welfare or its misery, for its happiness or unhappiness and if he is to obtain heaven upon earth, he must learn to make that heaven, for himself and for others.

Individually, man is responsible for his own spiritual growth and welfare. Sins and wrong doing must be outgrown

and overcome. Virtue and love of good must take their place. Spiritual growth and advancement must be attained by aspiration and personal striving. Vicarious atonement has no place in the philosophy of Spiritualism.

Each one must carry his own cross to Calvary's heights in the overcoming of wrong-doing and replacing such with right.

8. **WE AFFIRM** that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul, here or hereafter.

We discard entirely the terrible wrong and illogical teachings of eternal damnation, and in place thereof we accept and present for consideration of thinking people the thought of the continuity of life beyond the change called death.

A natural life is where the opportunity for growth and progress to better, higher and more spiritual conditions are open to all, even as they are here on the earth plane of life.

We reject such teachings as a "hell fire", but we do teach that sin and wrong-doing will necessarily bring remorse and suffering that would be relieved by the individual's own efforts, if not here, then in the hereafter.

If we make our own lives better while here, and that of our neighbors happier, we shall unfold that happiness or heaven on earth which we shall carry with us into the spirit world.

9. We affirm that the precepts of prophecy contained in the Bible is a divine attribute proven through mediumship.

## SPIRITUALISM STARTED IN 1848

Mediumistic phenomena have always existed, or at least have existed since our primitive ancestors became distinctly observant, as note the countless instances in the Bible, in the classical literature of the Greeks and Romans, in the traditions of the saints, in oriental myths, in traditions of the American Indians, and in folklore the world over.

But these phenomena did not make modern Spiritualism until men realized what they meant. Fossils did not make palentology until men knew what the fossils meant.

Through the Hydesville Rappings, on March 31, 1848, and the weeks following, men realized for the first time in the history of the world that those who have left the earth plane through the avenue of transition (or death) retain the consciousness they held at that moment. They can under proper conditions and in conformity with the immutable operations of natural law communicate through mediumship. When men realized that, that was Spiritualism, — and that God again had worked in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.

**MODERN** Spiritualism was born March 31, 1848, in a humble cottage at Hydesville, N. Y., occupied by the Fox family, the tenant to be disturbed by mysterious raps.

The family was greatly disturbed by constant rappings at all hours. At first it was considered just a case of another haunted house. The two youngest girls, Margaret and Katie, remained unafraid even though on this particular night the raps increased in intensity, followed by noises as of moving furniture.

Katie noticed that, when her father was testing the rattling of the windows to see if the wind was the cause of the noises, raps corresponded to the number of times he shook the windows. Playfully, Katie snapped her fingers only to find the raps again corresponded; and correctly answered her questions. A code was thus suggested and by this means their first communication was established.

**IT WAS** revealed that the raps were made by a peddler who had been murdered in that cottage and whose body had been placed in the basement. Later, proof of this fact was forthcoming. His untiring efforts through the raps, etc., proved he still lived and had retained his consciousness and memory. It answered the age-old question of Job, revealing—"There is no death!" "There are no dead!"

Immediately after the rapping experiences of the Fox sisters, many all over the land acknowledged they were mediumistic and had received phenomena. These phenomena kept increasing in number and complexity up to the present time.

All are really mental of course, in the sense that all show intelligence and purpose, but those which take place apart from the medium's body, or in which the medium's mind plays no part, are classed as physical.

## PHENOMENA STUDIED TELL CONCLUSIONS

Competent students and qualified scientists have studied the vast array of mediumistic phenomena in private consultation, circles, seances, laboratories, and on the public platform. They have listened to the more advanced spirit people evidencing through the more highly developed mediums, and have come to certain conclusions.

They learned:

1. Spirits teach that every mortal, regardless of race, color, clime or age, is destined to continue their life after death, not as a matter of faith, nor due to any creed, not through the mercy of God, not through the offices of saint or savior, but by the orderly processes of natural law.

2. That the spirit world into which we enter after shedding the physical body is a natural world, separated from this world by rate of vibration.

3. That there is no judgment, with crowns for believers and places of torment for unbelievers, but that, at death, each soul automatically gravitates to the plane of spiritual consciousness for which its earth existence prepared it.

4. That the goal of life is the unfolding and development of the individual soul and the faculties it houses, a process continuing throughout eternity. As we progress on the other side and our spirit bodies become more refined, they become more finely attuned, vibrating on a higher key, permitting exercising of senses that were unable to express while the soul manifested through the physical body. This enables spirit people to enjoy colors, music, flowers, beauty, etc., in the spirit world—that are far beyond the comprehension of mortal man.

Spiritualism accepts and teaches the philosophy of Jesus, and endeavors to emulate his demonstrations of mediumship, since He states "Greater things than these shall ye do"; "Go thou and do likewise". His psychic disciples obeyed these admonitions. Spiritualism wonders why the Christian church of today ignores them, and some even deny their possibility.

## SPREADS TO 41 NATIONS IN 100 YEARS

It is through mediumship that Modern Spiritualism accomplished the unique in the annals of religion. In short one hundred years, following the Raps at Hydesville, it entered 41 nations without one cent of missionary money being spent.

Spiritualism proved it found its own missionaries. Whenever and wherever humans sensitized to the spirit rates of vibration existed, they were used as missionaries.

Spiritualism is not built around the life or works of any one individual in any one era of time, nor does it accept but one Bible. It is eclectic in nature, accepting truth wherever it is found.

It believes the Infinite has ever and always been interested in the welfare and advancement of the human race, not just that section of humanity that has lived in the past two thousand years, completely oblivious of all who existed prior to that time, hence our objection to vicarious atonement, which we consider contrary to and inconsistent with the operations of universal, immutable, eternal natural law.

**TO TEACH** the science, philosophy and religion of Spiritualism to all who seek such knowledge; and to prepare students for ordination and the Degree of National Spiritualist Teacher—our seminary, The Morris Pratt Institute, with a

library of 2,300 volumes is located at 11811 Watertown Plank Rd., on the west side of the city of Milwaukee.

In studying religions one is impressed by the pattern of how frequently revelations occurred, after which the people clamored for a sign to prove the revelation. In this respect Spiritualism conformed to the pattern.

In 1847 America's great philosopher, Andrew Jackson Davis, the Poughkeepsie Seer, foretold the coming of this great truth. The following year, in 1848, the sign was forthcoming in the Raps at Hydesville; also demonstrating the Scriptural texts: "And a little child shall lead them"; "Out of the mouths of babes shall issue wisdom."

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