



South Auckland Spiritualist Church

What is Spiritualism?

SPIRITUALISM is a way of life. It combines philosophy, science and religion. It covers a very wide field and therefore you cannot expect to understand it without a certain amount of study. Spiritualists mainly agree on seven principles:-

- (1) The fatherhood of God.
- (2) The brotherhood of man.
- (3) The communion of spirits and the ministry of angels.
- (4) The continuous existence of the human soul.
- (5) Personal responsibility.
- (6) Compensation and retribution hereafter for all good and evil deeds done on earth.
- (7) Eternal progress open to every human soul.

The primary object of Spiritualism today is to prove the survival of human personality after death. Death is the doorway to a new and wider life. From the day of our birth we each have two bodies, the material or earthy body, which can be seen, and the spiritual body, which is unseen during life but is a counterpart of our earthly body. These two bodies are linked by a cord. In a similar fashion, before birth a baby is joined to its mother by a cord. When it is born the cord must be cut.

When we die, the cord linking our two bodies is severed. The material body returns to the earth whence it came and the spiritual body becomes the vehicle of our spirit. We are spirit here and now—we don't have to wait until death to become spirit. Death, as a rule seems like sleep—there is no pain. When we awake, conditions seem much the same to us before we "died". We take with us into the beyond no material possessions, such as clothes or money—they are no longer needed. But we take our character and our individuality. In every way we are the same individuals immediately after death as before, with all our faults and virtues.

The home that awaits us in the spirit world depends upon the life we have led on earth. If we have honestly tried to do the best we can, then we need no fear of death. We have fitted ourselves for the result which is automatic, a better, happier life where we are reunited with our loved ones and friends.

If on the other hand, there has been more selfishness than goodness and service our lives, we will automatically have

to pay the price. This is part of the law of sowing and reaping which is only another way of saying the effect must follow cause. It is perfectly summarised in the sixth principle, which says that hereafter there are compensation and retribution for all the good and evil done on earth.

Acts of service that we have performed will naturally increase our spiritual status. Sins of omission or commission will just as naturally retard it. There is however, no hell in which its inhabitants are condemned for eternity. Once self-realisation dawns and the soul is ready to advance, there are enlightened spiritual beings who will show the way to progress.

The practical application of Spiritualism is the supreme necessity for all of us to lead the best kind of life we can on earth, to practise qualities of compassion and kindness and to give service wherever we can.

Heaven and hell are really states of mind, not geographical locations. Even here we can live in heaven or in hell, the choice is ours. The world we inhabit after death is not far away up in the sky. It is round and about us, interpenetrating the world in which we now live. Those we have "loved and lost awhile" are not in some far-off, inaccessible place seated on pink clouds at the right hand of God and playing golden harps. Very often, they are close by our side striving to help and guide us and loving us just as they did before passing.

The evidence reveals that love, like life is stronger than death. It is love that proves to be the compelling force, striving to break down the barriers which man in his ignorance has created, between this world and what is called the next, in order to achieve spirit communication. Often there is grief on both sides of the veil. There are the tears shed over loved ones who have died and the grief they experience when they try to reach us but fail to make their presence known.

There are many spheres of existence that are invisible to us because they function in a different manner from earth. Millions of vibrations of sound are lost to us because they are outside the range of our hearing. And millions of vibrations of sight fail to be registered because they are beyond the scope of our eyes.

Microphones and radio receivers enable us to hear what is normally beyond the range of our ears. The telescope and television will bring into focus what is beyond our vision.

Taken from the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain "For those New to Spiritualism" Series.

The inhabitants of the spirit world are very real even though we cannot see or hear them.

There are however highly sensitive individuals who have developed their innate natural psychic faculties with the result that they can tune in to the spirit world and its denizens. These human television and radio sets are mediums. They become the agents through whom spirit communication is achieved.

There is nothing *supernatural* about this happening, though it is *supernormal*. Everything in the universe is in accordance with natural laws. They were devised by God and God is perfect. If it was Gods will that we should be ignorant about his natural laws then we would know nothing about them.

God is not only perfect but all-powerful. God is spirit. He is not an old man with a long white beard who sits on a throne in heaven. To picture God as a human being is to impose limitations. Were he human he could not be in all places at once, neither could he hear every prayer.

God is not a person but the creative universal spirit. Wherever there is life there is spirit; and wherever there is spirit there is life. We exist because a spark of divinity is within each one of us. This is a divine relationship in which God is our father and we are all his children.

We can by our lives, fan the spark into a flame so that a greater expression of divinity is made known through us. The result will be to sustain, uplift and help us in our spiritual development. And we have the free will to reject and ignore the spark of divinity. The result is that we fail to make the progress we should and deny ourselves the beauty that life has to offer.

We do not believe in a vicarious atonement as preached in some orthodox religions. We regard Jesus as an exemplar, not a saviour. Man has no saviour but himself.

We are each personally responsible for our sins and must atone for them here or hereafter. It is far more moral to acknowledge our sins and try to make amends than to try to place them on the shoulders of another. We believe that Jesus was divine, but only in the sense that we all divine. There is a difference of degree but not of kind.

We also believe, as the bible states, that Jesus developed his psychic faculties and was a supreme master of spiritual law. Moreover he was in close touch with the spirit world and demonstrated his survival after his death. His teaching of brotherhood, love, humility and service is the basis of spiritualism, as we know it today.

We do not claim to know everything-no one does. Knowledge is infinite and we shall always be learning. What we do maintain is that we have caught a glimmer of truth. It inspires us to search for more, rejecting anything that does not appeal to our God given reason and accepting, that which is logical and uplifting.

What makes spiritualism unique is the evidence of survival after death that is obtainable through medium ship. Whereas most religions preach an after-life as a hope, faith or belief we maintain that any reasonable person can prove it for themselves. We do not ask you to believe what we say. What we do suggest is that you study the literature and then make your own inquiry.

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