



South Auckland Spiritualist Church

Learn about Spiritualism

Spiritualism is no new –fangled cult but a movement embodying an insight into reality which man has had since the very beginning of time despite occasional relapses into the darkness of ignorance. Its antiquity is indisputable but this does not mean that it is a mere relic of discarded beliefs and practices.

On the contrary, what it embodies is not superstition, as its opponents so often and foolishly assert, but knowledge. Its purpose is to help modern man to regain his lost knowledge of other worlds and what happens after death.

Every living thing is subject to death but man seems to be the only creature who is aware of mortality in the sense that he knows death to be inevitable and foresees its coming in the future. His concern with death makes him concerned with finding an explanation of this event and its possible sequel.

Invisible Principle

The physical consequences of death are no mystery. The body disintegrates and the environment absorbs its components. But an organism consists in being more than a material body. It is animated by an invisible principle which in the case of human beings and some higher animals is called the psyche or soul.

The soul is the true self but does it survive death? What happens when one dies? Does the soul shed the body and continue its own existence as a separate entity or does it perish with the body? These are perennial questions. They are often asked but seldom answered satisfactorily.

Neither religion nor science has provided an adequate answer. On the one hand, theology has produced a succession of doctrines declaring the existence of heaven and hell. On the other hand, equally dogmatic thinking of a different sort has denied the very possibility of an afterlife. In neither instance has any evidence been offered for the validity of what is asserted.

In man there is a deeply rooted need for more certain knowledge of what lies beyond the grave. The purpose of Spiritualism is to satisfy this human yearning. Its object is to prove that the soul survives death. Such proof clearly shows that our physical existence does not exhaust the possibilities of life.

Birth and Death

Nothing can be properly understood unless it is seen as part of something greater than itself. Life on earth does not reveal its meaning unless it is recognized to be a phase of a much greater life, which is not confined to the period of existence between birth and death.

By making man aware of this truth Spiritualism helps him to arrive at a better understanding of his situation and removes the mood of uncertainty as to what life is all about which he so often feels and which, if it is not resolutely and convincingly challenged, leaves him in a state of despair.

Spiritualism provides such a challenge by showing that alone among the religious and philosophies of the world it can offer more than speculation and hope in answering the question—does man survive after death as a fully conscious being? It shows that the study of psychic phenomena not only provides evidence for survival but also opens the way to a more profound insight into the meaning of existence.

There are several ways in which the dead can manifest themselves and show that death is but a transition from one mode of being to another. It is often said that seeing is believing. Certainly nothing is more likely to convince us that the dead still live than their appearance before our very eyes.

Psychic phenomena

This represents the type of psychic phenomenon known as materialization, but there are other more subtle ways in which those who have departed from this life can make us aware of their presence. In quiet moments they can appear to our inner vision and communicate with us through supersensory channels. This type of psychic phenomenon embraces telepathy, clairvoyance and clairaudience.

Psychic perceptivity is the property of all human beings but in some it is more fully developed than in others. Those who are highly endowed with this quality and employ it for the benefit and enlightenment of others in whom it is merely latent are called mediums or sensitives.

The practice of mediumship is indispensable to Spiritualism and enables it to effect its chief purpose, which is to demonstrate that we continue to exist after death.

An increasingly important aspect of Spiritualism is healing.

Health should be our normal condition and therefore, healing may be defined as the restoration of this state of normality.

We do not really know how healing is affected but it is reasonable to assume that it is brought about through a flow of regenerative energy emanating from a divine source and infusing the human organism. The healer himself is but the channel for the transmission of this energy.

Let us consider again the primary object of Spiritualism. Modern man is steeped in skepticism. In his revolt against doctrines which claim divine authority he has examined the traditional belief in an immortal soul, questioned its validity and more often than not, ended by rejecting the whole conception of a life after death as illogical.

The Philosophy

Yet deep within him there is an intense desire for everlasting life. This desire may be regarded as irrational but its genuineness cannot be denied. It springs from the very core of its being. The response of Spiritualism is not only to prove that the soul survives death but to affirm that it continues to unfold in a series of other worlds through which it progresses until the final goal is reached.

The philosophy of Spiritualism is expressed in the following nine propositions:

1. Man is essentially a spiritual being.
2. Man's spirit or soul, his indwelling or animating principle, survives the dissolution of his body and persists in a superphysical state of consciousness.
3. Man's posthumous existence is that of a self-conscious entity functioning in an objective world. (*After Death*)
4. Man retains his personal identity after death and therefore the transition from incarnate to discarnate existence does not alter his character.
5. The physical and superphysical worlds interpenetrate and consequently those in the flesh and those out of the flesh are able to communicate with each other through the channel of mediumship.
6. God the Ultimate Reality is Spirit. Since the intrinsic nature of man is spiritual all men are really individualized incarnations of the Divine Spirit and therefore created equal. (*Basic*)
7. The end of human life is union with God and the attainment of perfection. It is therefore the destiny of man to progress until he becomes a spiritually and morally perfect human being.
8. Man cannot evade personal responsibility for his actions. He must reap what he has sown.
9. Evil is the product of ignorance and imperfection. The Universe in its totality is intrinsically good. (*Basically*)

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