

Spiritualism

Spiritualism is a religious movement based on the belief that the spirits of the dead exist and have both the ability and the inclination to communicate with the living. The **spirit world**, according to Spiritualism, is the world or realm inhabited by spirits, both good or evil of various spiritual manifestations. **Whereas religion regards an inner life**, the spirit world is regarded as an external environment for spirits. *The two beliefs—that contact with spirits is possible, and that spirits are more advanced than humans*—lead spiritualists to a third belief: that spirits are capable of providing useful knowledge about moral and ethical issues, as well as about the nature of God. *Some spiritualists will speak of a concept which they refer to as "spirit guides"*—specific spirits, often contacted, who are relied upon for spiritual guidance. Many early Spirit guides were described as American Indians. Several prominent mediums were found in early African-American churches in the 1800s. Spiritualism developed and reached its peak growth in membership from the 1840s to the 1920s, especially in English-speaking countries. Spiritualism holds a common ground in the startup of their organization as using the year 1848 through the mediumship of the Fox Sisters at Hydesville, New York and Emanuel Swedenborg mentioned last month. They were early pioneers that were instrumental in the creation of Spiritism.

Beliefs or Declaration of Principles

Spiritualists believe in the possibility of communication with the spirits of dead people, whom they regard as "discarnate humans". They believe that spirit mediums are gifted to carry on such communication. According to Spiritualists, anyone may receive spirit messages, but formal communication sessions (séances) are held by mediums, who claim thereby to receive information about the afterlife.

Spiritualism does not have a defined set of rules, but various Spiritualist organizations within the USA have adopted variations on some or all of a "Declaration of Principles" developed between 1899 and 1944 and revised as recently as 2004. In October 1899, a six article "Declaration of Principles" was adopted by the National Spiritualist Association (NSA) at a convention in Chicago, Illinois. Three other articles were added at a later date.

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence;
2. We believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence;
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion;
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death;
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism;
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws;
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter;
9. We affirm that the precept of Prophecy and Healing are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.

Spiritualist author and medium E.W. Wallis wrote a book in 1912 on the subject called Spirit Mediumship and How to Develop it. An excerpt shows his intentions to instruct were with a good heart. See below:

The wisest and best people of the spirit world, and all high-minded Spiritualists demand a mediumship embodying the highest morality and the greatest aspirations for the good, the beautiful, the intellectual, the true and the spiritual. While looking for these blessed attributes we should not forget the truth of the words attributed to Jesus of Nazareth: "None are perfect; no, not one." Also: "Be ye perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect." The last is a beautiful ideal though it may be impossible of attainment; and yet, if we aspire for good we must improve; such is the law. Then let us give to the spirit-friends the very best we can in thought, in aspiration, and in deed.

Hope, prayerful aspiration, earnest effort and cheerfulness must fill our thoughts and lives if we would develop rapidly.

He believed that the act of mediumship was a helpful tool to those left behind after a loved one pass on. The book was an introduction on how to learn how to communicate with the deceased. He also writes that communication with the spirit world is true based on the bible and every religion. This was necessary as the belief of "spirits". Finally, he believed that being a medium was an inherent talent like being a musician, inventor, artist or poet. This ability could be trained and enhanced.

Definition of Beliefs

Over the years, other statements have been adopted on "What Spiritualism Is and Does" and "Spiritual Healing." A set of "Definitions" has also been approved. The two issues of "reincarnation" and the relation of Spiritualism to Christianity have been the major questions dividing Spiritualists.

- 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. (1919)
- 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 of observed facts of past ages and conclusions drawn therefrom, 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 communication. (1914, Rev. 1938)
- 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. (1914)
- A Spiritualist Healer is one who, either through one's own inherent powers or through mediumship, is able to impart vital, curative force to pathologic conditions. (1930, 1993)
- The Phenomena of Spiritualism consists of Prophecy, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, Gift of Tongues, Laying on of Hands, Healing, Visions, Trance, Apports, Levitation, Raps, Automatic and Independent Writings and Paintings, Voice, Materialization, Photography, Psychometry and any other manifestation proving the continuity of life as demonstrated through the Physical and Spiritual senses and faculties of man. (1950)

Reincarnation, gaining popularity through theosophy, began to find favor among some mediums in the early twentieth century, but was specifically condemned by the NSAC in 1930.

"Are Spiritualists also Christians?" was debated by the NSAC and generally decided in the negative.

Currently

There are loosely organized state associations and an annual national convention. Among Spiritualists, the association has the highest standards for ordination. The NSAC is noteworthy as the only Spiritualist body to attempt to develop work among youth. The NSAC has two educational auxiliaries, the Morris Pratt Institute in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and The Center for Spiritualist Studies (CSS) in Lily Dale, New York. National Spiritualist Association of Churches NSAC is the most current organization associated with Spiritualism. This is from their website: *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.*

To read more about this topic click on this link: <https://nsac.org/>

Spiritualism and its belief system became protected characteristics under Law in the U.K. in 2009 by Alan Power at the UKEAT (Appeal Court), London, England.