

Foundation Facts Concerning Spiritualism as a Religion

pleasure, even delight - all free for the taking. We must learn first to desire and then to help ourselves to these conditions. We must learn to provide from materials at hand, - all we need for sustenance, clothing, homes, furniture. The soul meets former friends as well as teachers. To the progressive soul, all things which are desired shall be attained when they are earned.

Necessary Preparation For Progress.

Spiritual education is a most important preparation for spiritual progress, the progress which leads to happiness here and hereafter. For the spiritual evolution of our own soul, we must practice self-control, self-reliance, as well as reliance upon the instructions of our teachers. We must acquire the perfect faith which leads to knowledge; faith and knowledge lead to serenity, to peace of mind. If we know what we believe, then under all trials, tests and sorrowful conditions, we will be at peace, serene in our faith in the wisdom and protective power of our faithful but invisible friends.

Heaven Or Hell:

Our own conduct leads to our rewards or negative situations and produces our own heaven or hell. In this sense, heaven being a state of contentment, of satisfaction with results attained. Hell is a state of ignorance of possibilities, sometimes called darkness, a state of dissatisfaction, of restlessness, of continued obstinate refusal to desire improvement, and often distinct unhappiness or even mental and spiritual agony caused by the results of our own conduct.

Therefore, they say, Prepare; "There is no death of aught that lives." We proclaim in words of light, Prepare to live evermore: Prepare to live well, in happiness and joy, both on Earth and on the Etheric Plane. This plane is neither heaven or hell except as each soul makes it so for themselves, which is also true of Earth and the homes there. Every degree of pleasure or of sorrow is dependent upon the individuals in the home and according to their conduct, your Earth life is happy or unhappy.

On The Etheric Plane:

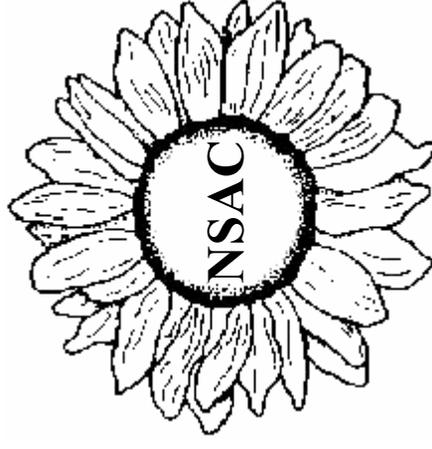
Here the soul is stripped of all physical conditions and is free to make its own conditions. Helpers and teachers are near by to catch your faintest cry for help and to respond immediately with all you can receive. They teach us, help us to help ourselves, lead us to think, to find our own talents, to develop them and to strengthen our soul qualities.

Living Conditions On The Etheric Plane:

The Etheric Plane furnishes all conditions which any soul may require for its comfort,

The basics of the religion of Spiritualism...

**National Spiritualist
Association of Churches**



“As the sunflower turns its face toward to the light of the sun, so Spiritualism turns the face of humanity toward the light of Truth.”

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Spiritualism as a Religion:

Spiritualism receives authority for its statements from the progressed souls of the etheric planes who, through mediums, bring their knowledge to earth in order to free humanity from out-dated creeds and superstitions. They give us a religion by which we may live each day; in fact, they say, -Religion is right living. Right living is comprehended in its entirety in the "Golden Rule", as declared by Jesus, the great teacher. Living one's religion, as taught by etheric teachers, involves "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you". Loving one another, tolerance of the thoughts, opinions and conduct of those about us, charity for all, these are the leading thoughts concerning our relations with humanity in general.

Other teachings of Spiritualism concern the facts of communication between Earth and the Etheric Planes via Mediumship. Spiritualism teaches that, under certain conditions, there can be interchange of thought between souls of Earth and those of Etheric Planes. This communication is usually carried on by means of sensitives called mediums whose nervous system is sufficiently refined and harmonized with souls of similar conditions of the Etheric Planes, that individuals may receive proof of the continuation of life after so-called death. Teachers from the Etheric Planes, speaking through mediums, bring to us many facts concerning the continuity of life.

- They answer the questions of mortals who ask; "Where are the friends who have left us? Are they contented and happy? What is their new home like? How did they reach it? How do they live?"
- They tell us that earth life is a preparatory school for a happy entrance into the continued life. This preparation involves the knowledge:

- That we are responsible for our own soul life and are not saved from everlasting torment by the sacrifice of another's life.

- That temptations do not come from a devil but from one's innermost being; no one succumbs to temptation unless we, ourselves, desire to do so.

- Thus we learn that, - if by our own desires we yield to temptation - that is, if we tempt ourselves and carry out our own unfortunate desires, by those very acts will we create our own negative situation.

Whatever our conduct may be, it will bring its own reward or regret for, "As ye sow, so shall ye also reap."

Evolution, A Universal law:

Evolution is one of the universal laws. Humanity and all of manifested life are the product of evolution, not of individual creation. All creation contains intelligence, the difference being in the degree of expression. The planets and stars scattered throughout the cosmos are not the result of creation, but of evolution carried out through more eons of time than mortal mind can conceive. The planet Earth is now and ever will be, as long as it continues to exist, undergoing the process of evolution.

Evolution Of The God-Idea:

It seems probable that acting under Natural Laws which were not understood by humanity at an early period, but whose results we now call clairvoyance or clear-seeing, clairaudience or clear-hearing and physical demonstrations, communications were carried on between souls of the Etheric Planes and souls of Earth. Not being understood, these demonstrations caused fears and superstitions in the minds of people and from these arose the God-Idea.

As etheric beings appeared to clairvoyants in the form of people like themselves, spoke naturally,

yet seemed to possess powers and attributes far beyond their own, humanity created mental images of gods to whom they might look to for advice and assistance. In this way arose the idea of a Supreme Being which had created humanity in its own image. Humanity created for themselves out of their own observations of etheric beings, ideal gods possessing power to create or to destroy, and having authority over all. Thus, through ignorance of Natural Laws and misunderstandings of the results of the action of these laws, there arose fears and superstitions and finally, varied and perverted religious conditions.

Many of the ancient nations worshipped a multitude of gods, a god for every phase of nature, and of every condition of life. In their efforts to please these gods, they made laws which were given out and were intended to control every act of life and which only increased ignorance and superstitions. It remained for one race of people to recognize Jehovah, as their own leader, and they were taught to consider Jehovah as possessed of all power, all knowledge and all wisdom. They recognized the gods of other nations as powerful, but quite inferior to their own God.

Origin Of Creation As Taught In The Bible:

From this conception of Jehovah, and influenced by the mythical stories as told by nations much older than themselves, arose the conception of Creation Of All Things, as handed down by word of mouth through many generations, and finally embodied by written word. We have the Bible story of the creation of the Earth and all that pertains to it. This story bears no relation whatever to scientific facts; yet, the scientific facts are ignored by many religions even at the present time.

Values Of The Instructions Given To Humanity By The Etheric Teachers:

The instructions of the etheric teachers are valuable for the conduct of Earth life and for the preparation for the continued life. They stress the fact that Earth life may be almost unbelievably improved in all its conditions by the acceptance and