

The Seven Principles of Spiritualism

by
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The Spiritualist movement in England today has two primary organizations. The Spiritualists' National Union (SNU), being one, and the other is The Greater World Christian Spiritualist Association, founded in 1931.

As a member of the SNU, I subscribe to, and accept, The Seven Principles, which are the basis for Spiritualist philosophy - our teachings. Below you will find a brief outline of these principles as provided by the SNU.

- 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 the Good or Evil Deeds done on Earth**
- 7. Eternal Progress Open to every Human Soul**

The Fatherhood of God

Looking at the world around us, and the universe, we cannot deny that there is a force which has created life in all its varying forms. This force keeps the whole of existence in a state of balance, giving room for expansion, transformation and creation. This creative force we term God. "God has created life so we speak of Fatherhood". By acknowledging The Fatherhood of God we accept mankind's inherent divinity as Children of God, each individual person containing within them a spark of that eternal life force.

The Brotherhood of Man

It follows then that each of us are in the same relationship to that Fatherhood, just as we are in a human family. A Brotherhood is a community for mutual support and comfort. As we learn to give to others in this relationship, so we must also learn to receive, so achieving the necessary balance for our lives. To live up to the principle 'The Brotherhood of Man', ensures that we look not just to the material needs of our fellow creatures, but also to the spiritual needs.

The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels

The key principle of the religion of Spiritualism is the Communion of Spirit. When this principle is put into action, as it is constantly in Spiritualist Churches by mediums, Spiritualism gives substance to it's teaching of eternal life by demonstrating it's reality.

Energy does not die, it cannot be destroyed. It can only change it's form. Spirit, which is energy, cannot be destroyed either, but its manifestation can and does alter. The creative force, which is the source of all life, is eternal, and so the individual is eternal, and death cannot sever the bonds of love and friendship. It is natural then, that those who have 'died' would wish to come back and minister to their family and friends through communication via a medium or sensitive.

Continuous Existence of the Human Soul

Spirit is indestructible. When the physical body dies, the spirit continues as an integral part of a world which interpenetrates ours, but which is in a different dimension. We refer to this world as the Spirit World. When living in the Spirit World we are the same individuals in every way, with the same personalities and characteristics. We change only by progression, or otherwise, as a result of our own efforts.

Personal Responsibility

Through acceptance of our immortality through the Fatherhood of God, and acknowledgment of our responsibilities to others through the Brotherhood of Man, we are also asserting our individuality, and in that assertion must be the recognition of the effects created by everything we are responsible for - our words, our actions and even our unspoken thoughts.

Our spiritual progression is wholly dependent upon ourselves, and it is very important therefore, that as full an understanding as possible of all the implications of this principle is achieved. It is only by service to others that we can serve ourselves.

Compensation and Retribution

As with all the other principles, the natural laws apply, and this one echoes The Law of Cause and Effect - 'as you sow, so shall you reap'. You cannot be cruel and vindictive towards others and expect love and popularity in return. Personal Responsibility asks you to 'do as you would be done by'. Compensation and Retribution says 'be done by as you did'.

Eternal Progress open to every Human Soul

Accepting Personal Responsibility implies that within the context of this principle, our spiritual progression is wholly within our hands, and it is only by developing our individual spiritual qualities that we can progress. Progress is never easy, and great progress demands sacrifice. Our spiritual blessings are in proportion to the efforts we make, stimulating finer vibrations within our soul which raise us ever higher in the great divine spiral of spiritual progression, in eternal duration.