

Philosophy of Spiritualism, a General Overview by Peter Plett



Spiritualism first of all is not just a religion: it is a way of living your life. Some might say it is a concerted effort to try and emulate the life of Jesus the Nazarene. Others might say it typifies the golden rule; treat others, as you would like others to treat you. Still others might say it is a combination of these two things plus being of service to others in both physical and spiritual ways. “Service”, as

Silver Birch said, “is the coin of the realm.” The spiritual realm that is!

The basic element that separates a Spiritualist church or society from other more traditional religions is that we know communication between the world of spirit (or heaven) and our physical human world exists. We live and breathe it. We see it every week and learn more about it with each development circle we sit in. Traditional religions believe this communication stopped some 2000 or so years ago, and today often call us heretics or devil worshipers. Yet this communication brings, or should bring with it, the truth that its origin is from our loved ones in the world of spirit. Confirming to us that when we pass over, service to others does not stop but continues on.

Why anyone would want to believe this communication stopped after Jesus’ lifetime is very far fetched to me, so much so I cannot understand the thinking. Did all of us from that time forward become suddenly inept or brain dead? Did the people in the world of spirit suddenly decide to go on strike? What rational could one use to make this idea palatable?

Well, thank goodness, we know it didn’t happen that way. We know communication has continued to and will continue to flow between the earth and spirit plane, but if people choose to disregard this fact then it’s their decision to make.

On occasion when people come to me for a reading I’ve had them say, “Yes I know all that but...” and I know that this time they haven’t come to me for proof of survival but for the teachings of Spiritualism. I haven’t got all the answers, nor have I read all the books but I do know what my beliefs are and where they come from. I’m then able to guide them to find their own answers.

Recently I’ve had reason to give some thought to my beliefs and tonight I’d like to share those thoughts with you.

What if you got backed into a corner during a discussion on Spiritualism, and someone said to you, “Ok then prove it to me.” Are you ready? If your answer is not a positive yes, then maybe you need a little more proof so you’re able to answer whatever questions are directed to you.

Then you can either provide the proof needed or refer them to someone who can. On many occasions I’ve been able to share times when I was given undeniable proof of survival that only spirit would know.

But what if your experiences aren’t enough for that person even though they are still very interested? Then you must be willing and able to refer them to a person you feel will be able to help them.

This is what sets us apart, proof that the world of spirit does exist. We do not have to take anything as being fact on faith alone. Just because it’s in a book, on television or spoken about from a pulpit doesn’t make it so. But proof of survival is undeniable, unchangeable and true.

Some 100 years or so ago Spirit through the mediumship of Emma Harding Britten gave early Spiritualists seven principles to live their lives by:

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

In very simple terms what these principles boil down to is:

- There is only one God (by whatever name you use), therefore we are all brothers and sisters in this family. Our family includes all those here on earth and all those in the spirit realm. All you need to be able to speak to anyone on either side of the veil is to know the language. Our soul is everlasting.
- We must also realize that we are responsible for our actions and will be rewarded accordingly.
- But we also have the opportunity to improve our being and our actions and our service to others whether it’s here on earth or on the spirit side of life.

It is really a very simple way of life. There is no self-aggrandizement; just one of dedication and service to others. There are many who do not have the knowledge of spiritual ways. Ours is not the way of proselytization, trying to convert others to our beliefs, or of saying do as this book says or that clergy says, or else you will burn in eternal “fire”.

Ours is the way of living a life of example that has peace and kindness and love shining in our faces and our actions. Living a life that others may notice and learn to appreciate and even try themselves. A life that holds no fear of “death” because we know we do not die but only move on to another plane of existence.

The more we learn to give service and help others the better our circumstances when we get to the other side.

Now whenever God decides it is my turn to cross over, I want to assure you that I am not done giving service. Actually I'm not quite done here yet and I will stand at a podium once again to speak to you in person another time. For now know that I have no fear of crossing over, it is a small bridge. Furthermore know that when I do cross over you will, through another's work, recognize my style.

In the words of Silver Birch, "You should not grieve when death comes, unless you are grieving for yourself because you will miss a familiar face or figure. The spiritual verities should be the foundation of your existence. They should shine through your lives as radiant indexes to everything you do.

"We, all of us, the seen and unseen, where ever we may dwell, are included in a vast spiritual family, with the Great Spirit as our Father and each of us His children. The tie of the divine spirit binds us together and makes us one. Thus we feel we are richly blessed because so many of the barriers between the two states have been overcome. There is, as a result, a procession of enlightened beings who are able to make their beneficent impact on so many in the world of matter today."

FOREVER by Peter Plett

There is only one forever,
And reach it you will one day.
The way that you live when you get
there,
Depends on the things you do say.

It depends on the gifts you offer,

It depends on the deeds you do.
Retribution for those who were cruel.

This law is a very strict rule.

Come; join all in a peaceful living,
Be kind to a neighbour or friend.
Lend a hand to the poor and
downtrodden,
On life's road show love round each
bend.

And how you treat all the others,
And the love that you show counts too.

All the pain that you see is rewarded,
In heaven's forever land.
Whether suffered or dealt out to others,
Determines on which side you stand.

Reward is for those who have suffered,

Where will you stand when you get
there?

Be kind to those who are helpless,
Betray not those without hope.
Give food to those who are hungry,
Assistance to those who can't cope.

Then, when we get to forever,
Whichever of us gets there first.
Will prepare a toast for the other,
Of which we will drink with great
thirst.