



# The Seven Principles of Spiritualism: A Reflection

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The following explanations of the Seven Principles of Spiritualism come from the reflections of the Spiritualism New Zealand Board members in 2020.

## **1. Universal Acceptance of an Ultimate Divine Source**

This principle acknowledges that there is a force which has created life in all its forms and the Universe itself, and this force also keeps existence in a state of balance, allowing expansion, transformation and creation to take place. This creative force is called by many names of which God, Great Spirit, Infinite Spirit, Divine Creator, Infinite Intelligence, Universal Source, Divine Energy, are just a few. Creation is ongoing and never-ending, and all of sentient life contributes to the continual unfolding and co-creation of all that is. This creative force manifests directly and indirectly in all things, and sustains all that is.

## **2. Unity and Equality of All**

This principle expresses our belief in the immanence of Infinite Spirit and that all forms of life are manifestations of this Spirit. It follows that because we all come from the same universal life source we are, in effect, all part of the one whole, interconnecting on every level of existence. The idea of one spiritual family confers upon us a dual responsibility – to our Divine Creator and to each other. We sum this up in one word – service. Spiritualists celebrate and acknowledge diversity and inclusiveness, and are respectful and welcoming to all people.

Spiritualists hold a deep understanding that we are all part of the one source. Therefore Spiritualism is inclusive of diversity, whether we are people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, diverse gender choices or sexual orientation, diverse ages, or diverse abilities / disabilities, etc. Being one family we are all equal. Inherent in this principle is also the notion that as we learn to give so must we also learn to receive, thereby achieving the necessary balance for our life.

## **3. Communion of Spirits and Ministry of Angels**

This is the key principle of Spiritualism as we not only teach life eternal but also, through the working of this principle, give substance to those teachings. The main purpose of communication with those in the Spirit World is to provide the evidence of survival after so-called death and to answer the question 'What happens to me when I die?'. This communication brings consolation to the bereaved, comfort to the troubled, hope to the despairing, and inspiration for anyone looking to bring spirituality into their daily life.



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Spirit communication has been evident throughout human history and is recorded in both the religious and non-religious literature of all ages. Other religions have accepted these manifestations and have interpreted them in terms of the supernatural and the miraculous. Spiritualism accepts and recognises these manifestations, and understands them in the light of Natural Law.

Healing is also central to Spiritualism, whether physical, mental, social, emotional or spiritual. Since every person is one with Infinite Spirit or Source, healing and wholeness is available to all and through all. Healing restores balance and harmony, and helps us to be free of obstructions to our utmost well-being. The guidance and healing from angelic energies brings enhanced wisdom to enlighten the individual, society and the world in which we live. This includes those who are dedicated to the welfare and service of humanity, bringing inspiration, guidance and healing.

This principle helps us to understand the continuity and evolutionary aspects of all life, and its practical expression leads us to draw ever nearer towards complete unity. It teaches us to serve in harmony with the Supreme Spirit which expresses itself in us and gives us life. No religion has ever revealed such a clear relationship between our individual lives and their divine source.

## **4. Continuous Existence of the Soul**

This principle asserts that we have a continuous spiritual existence which extends beyond our physical life into eternity. We are all part of the Supreme Cosmic Spirit, which is the life principle of the universe and we are indestructible parts of the eternal whole. Energy cannot be destroyed; it can only change its form. After physical death, the soul continues to exist in a different dimension that we call the Spirit World. The individual personality also continues uninterrupted by the event we call 'death'. Those who have entered the Spirit World remain united with those of us who are still on the earth plane. It is only the mode of existence that has changed. We are the same individuals in a way, with the same personalities and characteristics, and we change only by progression or otherwise as a result of our own efforts - our personal responsibilities do not stop at death.

Energy cannot be destroyed; it can only change its form. Equally, Spirit cannot be destroyed though its manifestation can, and does alter. The creative force is eternal and so the individual is eternal, and death cannot sever the bonds of love and friendship. Those who die in this material world continue their life without break or interruption in another world, another dimension which intermingles with our own.



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Thus, our strategy of life must be determined by the broader conception of an eternal destiny. As spirits we incarnate into this material world, using a suitable vehicle – a physical body – which makes us aware of our physical environment and gives us expression. We incarnate in order to be of service to God and to gain self-experience. We give in service and receive in spiritual progress and by so doing bring ever greater powers and virtues within the orbit of our expanding influence. At physical death when the material vehicle which houses the soul decays and dies our dynamic spirit, an infinitesimal part of the Supreme Spirit, automatically uses another vehicle more suitable for its expression in the next level of existence.

As the spirit evolves, its vibrations become finer and it automatically 'dies' to live again on yet another level, another dimension. In each succeeding level of its existence it will be housed in a vehicle which is suitable for its needs at that level. The indwelling spirit becomes aware of its environment and can express itself only through the body which houses it. We progress then from one level to another in eternal duration, assuming ever-greater responsibilities in the supreme plan of evolution and progress.

### **5. Personal Responsibility**

This principle places responsibility for every aspect of our lives where it belongs - with the individual - and is the major doctrinal difference between spiritualism and other religions. We alone are responsible for improving our behaviour and for putting right our wrongdoings. We have been given enormous potential that we can use to enhance our own lives and to help others enhance theirs. We have the ability to make decisions throughout our lives as we see fit. This potential is our personal responsibility that no one else can override. We are each responsible for contributing to the welfare of the world and the attainment of a higher consciousness.

By raising our own consciousness we also help to raise the consciousness of others. Our spiritual journey challenges us to transform those aspects of our personality that do not serve us well into those which uplift and edify us, those around us and the whole human family. Our spiritual growth is attained by aspiration and striving and, for this, we are personally responsible.

### **6. Justice for Actions on Earth will be Reconciled in the Hereafter**

This principle expresses the natural law of cause and effect. This law operates on Earth as well as in the Spirit World. Choices, thoughts, actions and words have consequences, either immediately or at a later time. These consequences inevitably affect our lives and soul growth. Our souls are forged in the fire of experience, but



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none of us is called upon to accomplish the impossible. We each have our appropriate part to play in the Universal Plan and all is in accordance with the nature of universal justice which in its perfect operation ensures there is equal opportunity for spiritual progress and happiness.

Life is one continuous unfoldment of spirit in which there is action and reaction, compensation and retribution, both here and hereafter. From this a philosophy emerges which reveals a purpose in life, and gives a satisfactory explanation of our existence. When we leave this earthly life there is no divine judgement. Rather, we ourselves will have the opportunity to assess, take stock and decide what might have been done differently.

### **7. Eternal Progress Open to Every Soul**

This principle acknowledges that eternity does not begin at death. Progress is open to all now. In every heart there exists the desire for progress, and to every Human Spirit there belongs the power to progress in wisdom and love. Any action or intent to change, or to promote soul growth and progression, creates a positive reaction. There will always be the opportunity to develop and move forward, because no one is ever deprived of the all-embracing, unconditional love of Infinite Goodness.

We accept that life continues after so-called 'death' for every soul, without exception. The opportunity for evolving and progressing to better, higher, and more spiritual conditions is open to all. These opportunities continue even after our transition from the earth plane. The rate of progress is directly proportional to the desire for mental and spiritual understanding. Upon transition, the Spirit goes to the level to which it has evolved in order to progress to even higher planes of existence.