Definitions

Spiritualism is a 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.

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 teaching derived from such communication.

A Medium is one whose organism is sensitive to vibration from the Spirit World and through whose instrumentality, intelligences in that world are able to convey messages and produce the phenomena of Spiritualism.

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.

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 humanity.

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.

Declaration of Principles

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Declaration of Principles

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Secs. 7–8 - Rochester, New York, 1909
Sec. 9 - St. Louis, Missouri, 1944

Interpretation by
The Reverend Joseph P. Whitwell

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.

By this we express our belief in a supreme Impersonal Power, everywhere present, manifesting as life, through all forms of organized matter, called by some; God, by others, Spirit; and by Spiritualists, Infinite Intelligence. Though this power is impersonal, our understanding can only be gained by our personal perception of this creative force.

2. We believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.

In this manner we express our belief to the immanence of Spirit and that all forms of life are manifestations of Spirit or Infinite Intelligence, and thus, all of humanity are children of God.

3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion.

A correct understanding of the Laws of Nature on the physical, mental, and spiritual planes of life and living in accordance therewith will unfold the highest aspirations and attributes of the soul, which is the correct function of true religion.

4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.

"Life here and hereafter is all one life whose continuity of consciousness is unbroken by that mere change in form whose process we call death." –Lilian Whiting.

5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.

Spirit communication has been in evidence in all ages of the world and is simply recorded in both sacred and profane literature of all ages. Orthodoxy has accepted these manifestations and has interpreted them as dogma and creed in terms of the supernatural. Spiritualism accepts and recognizes these manifestations and interprets them in the understanding and light of Natural Law.

6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We believe this precept be true. It points the way to harmony, peace, and happiness. Whenever tried, it has proven successful, and when fully understood and perceived, will bring peace and happiness to all of humanity.

7. We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.

Individuals are responsible for the welfare of the world in which they live; for its welfare or its misery, for its happiness or unhappiness, and if we are to obtain heaven upon earth, we must learn to make heaven for ourselves and for others. Individuals are responsible for their own spiritual growth and welfare. Errors and wrongdoing must be outgrown and overcome. Virtue and love of good must take their place. Spiritual growth and advancement must be attained by aspiration and personal striving. Vicarious atonement has no place in the philosophy of Spiritualism. Individuals must bear their own burdens in overcoming of wrongdoings and replacing them in the right action.

8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul, here or hereafter.

We discard entirely the terrible wrong and illogical teachings of eternal domination, and in place thereof, we accept and present for consideration of thinking people the thought of the continuity of life beyond the change called death.

A natural life, where the opportunities for growth and progress to better, higher, and more spiritual conditions are open to all, even as they are here on the earth plane of life. We accept no such teaching as a "hellfire," but we do teach that transgression of Natural Law and wrongdoing will necessarily bring remorse and suffering that would be difficult to describe in words and that can only be relieved by the individual's own efforts, if not here, then in the hereafter. If we make our own lives better while here, and the lives of our neighbors happier, we shall unfold that happiness or Heaven on Earth, which we shall carry with us into the Spirit World.

9. We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy and Healing are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.

We thus affirm our belief in and acceptance of the truth that Prophecy, Mediumship, and Healing are not unique, but are universal everlasting and have been witnessed and observed in all ages.