

# SPIRITISM

What is spiritism? Who are the spirits in spiritism? Is it possible for the living to commune with the dead? There are a host of people who believe that the spirits of the dead are floating around about us, are in our houses, and ever in close communion with us. It is a common belief in all countries, and in most religions that the spirits of the dead are active and present with us. Very adequate provision is made for the future life. Precious possessions are buried with the deceased, as it is thought they will need them. This is particularly true of the heathen religions. They kill the favorite animals; yes, and even the wives of the one who has died so they will not be lonely in the spirit world. But, Friends, this is a false doctrine. It has no basis at all in the Bible.

Dr. James Hyslop says: "Ancestor-worship, in most cases simply the Spiritualism of the East, survives as the exponent of immortality." **Contact With the Other Worlds**, p. 14. There is a great deal of superstition in the religions of heathen lands, particularly Africa and India. American Indians believe in the spirits and in their return. Many of the religions of heathenism are actually spirit worship in various forms, to appease or to frighten away the evil spirits, as the case may be.

It is quite unfortunate that Christian people believe in the same sort of thing. Ernest W. Oalin, a world leader in Spiritualism, says: "Just think of it! Ten thousand families in their own homes are convinced that they are talking to their own deceased relatives every week . . . that they have bridged the gulf dividing this world from the next and are indulging in heart-to-heart talks with people who live in the next world." *London Daily Mail*, June 16, 1932. Such a fatal deception! While it is true that there are spirit manifestations on numerous occasions, we should know who these spirits are. Are they really the spirits of our loved ones who have died?

We all know that Satan is a great deceiver, a very clever fellow. While he and his angels never appear in person, they have devised ways and means to reach men and women through the so-called spirits. So we have "SPIRITISM: the theory that mediumistic phenomena are caused by spirits of the dead." Webster. Satan has succeeded in making people believe that the dead are responsible for all the phenomena of spiritism.

But let us learn what the Bible says of Satan. In Eze. 28:12, 14 we read: ". . . Thus saith the Lord God: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth . . ." God says that Satan is full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. One time he was the leader of all the angels of heaven, one of the covering cherubs. He stood next to the throne of God.

Let us continue the description in Eze. 28:15, 17: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason

of thy brightness: . . ." Because of his great beauty Satan became very proud. In fact, he decided that he should be as God Himself.

Isaiah tells us more of Satan's fall in the 14th chapter and the 12th verse: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" The entrance of sin into this universe through Lucifer, son of the morning, caused much sadness in heaven among the angels who were not deceived by him.

Then in verses 13 and 14 we read: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Notice that Satan says I, I, I, I, I. The spirit of boastfulness and pride are very evident in these words. He says: "I am going to be like the Most High God." This is truly conceit beyond anything we have ever known.

Again he boasts: "I am going to establish MY THRONE ABOVE the throne of God." Satan thought he could establish his throne above God's throne. He began to spread the spirit of rebellion against God among the angels in heaven. He tried to cause them to become dissatisfied with God and His government, and he promised them all kinds of pleasures and freedom, if they would follow him. Of course he could not fulfill these promises, but it was a part of his great deception.

This rebellion of Satan led to war in heaven. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." Rev. 12:7, 8. Just think of it! WAR IN HEAVEN! It startles us when we hear of wars on this earth among the nations, but to think of a great war in heaven!

In Rev. 12:9 it gives the outcome of this great war: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." This war was between Christ and the angels of God, and Satan and the angels that followed him. Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven.

Peace again reigned above the throne of God, for in verse 10 we read: "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." It was through Christ that Satan was overcome in heaven, and it is through Christ that we can overcome Satan today.

In Rev. 12:11 it tells how Christians will be able to overcome: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." This is referring to the martyrs of the

Dark Ages who overcame Satan and his snare by giving their lives for their belief in Christ.

As Satan and his angels were cast out of the pearly gates, he hissed his wrath and vengeance back to God, and made it known that he was determined to fight God to the bitter end. Satan hates God, and everything that pertains to God. He hates God's truth, and endeavors in every way to pervert it. He works through all possible means to corrupt the truth of God, and to corrupt those who have been created by God in the image of Himself.

Satan and his angels were cast out into this earth, and the Bible says in Rev. 12:12: "... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Many and varied are his deceptions. Because he has such a short time, he is working as never before to deceive all who will listen to him.

We read in Rev. 12:9: "SATAN, which deceiveth THE WHOLE WORLD." Almost every important truth taught in the Bible has been counterfeited by the devil. His counterfeits are very clever, so clever that he can deceive the whole world. Can't you see, Friends, how it behooves us to study God's Word with great diligence, to know the true and genuine from the false and counterfeited?

Now Satan has no scruples against using the lowest forms of deception to lead men astray. Jesus warns us: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44. Here Christ tells us that Satan is a MURDERER and a LIAR.

Some people think that the devil is just a joke. A song was once written called, "The Devil is a Sissy." Satan would like to have us believe that he is a great joke. But, dear Friends, HE IS NOT FUNNY. Some get the idea that he is a strange looking monstrosity, a horned creature with a tail, and with a pitchfork in his hand. Satan is not an ugly creature. At least God did not create him that way. He was perfect in beauty, not a clown, and he is a real being, full of wisdom, shrewdness, and cleverness.

We are told that Satan goes about as a roaring lion. He is the master of deception. He does not hesitate to destroy, for he is a murderer. We know that he must be a clever fellow, for in Rev. 12:4 we are told that he drew one-third of the angels of heaven with him in his rebellion. If he could deceive the angels dwelling in the presence of God, think how he must be able to deceive the people of this fallen planet.

Can the devil perform miracles to deceive men? In Rev. 16:13, 14 it says: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." In the 16th verse it says

that this battle will be at Armageddon. So at the time of Armageddon, near the end of this world's history, these spirits of devils will be working miracles, deceiving the whole world.

Satan is performing many astounding miracles in our day. In II Cor. 11:14, 15 we read: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." Satan and his ministers can appear very righteous. Jesus warned of great wonders or miracles in these last days, deceiving many. Unfortunately many people are persuaded more by miracles than by the plain truths of God's word. In Rev. 13:14 it says: "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the mans of those miracles which he had power to do..." We should be careful to test the ones who claim such miracle working powers, by the Bible test. God says that the best way to test such individuals is to see if they speak according to His law and the testimony of His prophets. May God help us to be careful that we may not be swept off our feet by great signs and wonders.

Satan has misled some of the outstanding characters of this world's history through spiritism and astrology. Edwin C. Hill says: "Major and minor league fuehrers of Europe went plumb crazy over astrology during the 16th century. The continent was torn to pieces by dynastic, religious, and economic wars." "Chicago American," Nov. 16, 1938. Satan is interested in deceiving the world, and leading it on to destruction. He would love to destroy all men, for he hates God and it gives him an opportunity to hurt God by destroying those who were created in His image.

In the same magazine, "Chicago American," Mr. Hill continues: "Even in such civilized countries as Holland and Italy, court astrologers called their shots like a pool shark and projected ships and armies into decades of war and pillage." Not only in the 16th century but in the 20th century the battles of the world have been led by the spirits of devils.

Kaiser Wilhelm was led by the greatest spiritist medium on the European continent, Madam Schoen. Practically all the battles of World War I, that he inspired were the influence of this outstanding medium. The spirits of the devils truly led nations to war. It is a shame that men will turn to those who are clairvoyant instead of turning to God and the Bible. The sorcerers can never save our country or the world. God is our only hope.

Hitler is another good example of this. It is a known fact that Adolph Hitler was largely influenced in his decisions by the members of occultism. God says that it will be these spirits of devils that will lead the nations on to their final ruin. Through the centuries Satan led these mighty warriors from battle to battle in their struggle for world power. The devil has no particular love for the Communists, and will probably trick them as he has the Kaiser, Hitler, and the others. Recently it was announced over television that President Eisenhower and others have felt the presence of

former presidents at the White House—especially Abraham Lincoln.

The first great lie was told in the Garden of Eden. The Bible says: "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Gen. 3:1. Satan knew what God had told them, and tried to create a bit of doubt by this question.

Gen. 3:2 and 3 says: "And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, GOD HATH SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF IT, neither shall ye touch it, LEST YE DIE." God had carefully instructed Adam and Eve, and they well knew what the result of disobedience would be.

Verse 4 of Gen. 3 says: "And the serpent said unto the woman, YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE." God had plainly told Adam and Eve that they were not to touch the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for if they did, they would die. But what did Satan say? "YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE." God said that if man disobeyed, he would die. Satan said, "No, ye shall not die."

We might call this the first seance because Satan used a medium. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle says: "The thing itself (Spiritism), in one form or another, is as old as history." *The Vital Message*, p. 30. How true this statement is. Satan appeared to Eve through the most beautiful creature in the garden, the serpent with beautiful wings. Eve was fascinated by the beauty and wisdom of the serpent, and believed that he was telling the truth, that perhaps if she ate of the fruit her eyes would be opened, and that she would not die.

This is the first time that the immortality of the soul is taught in the Bible. But notice that it is not taught by God. In the *Spiritualist Manual* it says: "Spiritualism is the science, philosophy and religion OF CONTINUOUS LIFE." God says that man is mortal, and that the results of sin are suffering and death. But Satan says: "No, ye shall not die but have continuous life." Strange though it may seem, there are more people who believe the devil's lie than what God says.

Let us read a statement by an outstanding spiritualist, E. W. Sprague: "Spiritualism says that the dead know more than the living. 'And the serpent said unto the woman, YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE.' Gen. 3:4. In this as in many other Bible passages, THE DEVIL TOLD THE TRUTH, and THE LORD IS IN ERROR." Now what do the spiritualists say? They claim that the devil told the truth back in the Garden of Eden and that God told a lie. In other words, the devil was right and God was wrong.

Going back to ancient times we find that the nations of old believed in the immortality of the soul. The Greeks, the Persians, and the Romans all believed this. But this is not just a doctrine of the ancient times. William E. Gladstone, an intellectual giant of his day, has said: "The pagan doctrine of the immortality of the human soul crept into the back door of the church in the early centuries." (Quoted in the "Watchman,"

April 1940.) And it is also becoming a very prominent doctrine of modern times.

Large numbers of Christian people believe that the dead are not dead, that there really isn't any death. They believe that what we call death is not death at all but the entrance into a better, fuller life. It is strange, but true, that more people believe Satan than God. There are many who do not realize that they are being deceived by the devil. But Satan is working as he has never worked before. He has now succeeded in getting practically all the religions of this earth to believe that there is no real death.

It seems to make no difference that there is death all about us in this world. There are millions of graveyards. Everything decays, rusts, or waxes old. Even in nature we see death constantly before us—the flowers dying, the trees shedding their leaves, and the grass losing its color. God said that this earth would suffer death as a result of sin. Satan said that it would not. If men really believe that death is just the laying down of the body and taking on of a new life, why would not men all wish to die as soon as possible in order to be ushered into this better life? My Friends, BE NOT DECEIVED.

Remember, we are fighting a super-human adversary, and only by the help of God can we expect to overcome this enemy. God tells us in Eph. 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We are actually struggling against evil spirits, the spirits of the devils. It is impossible for us to overcome them in human strength. Only in the strength of God can we be victorious.

Spiritualism is one of Satan's greatest deceptions of our day. Sir William E. Barrett says: "The foundation of religious life . . . is seriously imperilled when the seen is substituted for the unseen, the phantasms of the Spiritualistic seance for the realities of the Kingdom of Heaven . . . This . . . is a distinct warning against making a religion of Spiritualism." The religions of the world have left themselves wide open to this deception because of popular belief in the immortality of the soul.

Where did modern Spiritualism have its beginning? In the United States of America it had its beginning back in 1848 in Hydesville, New York, in the home of the Fox family. This family rented a house and moved into it and soon noticed that there were unusual noises, such as rappings and knockings and other unusual sounds. There were two daughters in the family, sleeping together in one room. When the noises awoke them at night, they would call their parents, and the father would check the windows, and everything else. When he returned to bed the noises would begin all over again.

One night Kathryn, the older girl, after listening to a persistent knocking cried out, "Here, split-foot, do this." She snapped her fingers twice, and immediately there were two sharp and distinct knocks in answer to hers. She then asked

him to knock again, and she would indicate how many times, and the answer would always come as she indicated. Finally the girls worked out a code to transmit messages back and forth. They then received the message that there was a man buried down in the basement of their house who had been murdered there. When they had dug in the basement where they were told to, they found the skeleton of a man. The Fox sisters had stirred up quite an interest in what they were doing. People started coming from everywhere to see their demonstrations.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 25, p. 705, says: "The 'SPIRITUALISTIC MOVEMENT' spread like an epidemic." The Fox sisters had so much success that they finally made it a profitable business. They even traveled out of the United States to demonstrate. Public appearances were made in a number of places. They continued putting on these demonstrations until the last years of their lives. This was the beginning of Spiritualism in North America. The *Encyclopedia Americana*, Vol. 25, p. 422, says: "A wave of interest in spiritualism spread . . . and the number of adherents . . . mounted above the ten million mark."

But it was not long until it had also spread to England and other European countries. Seances became very popular, particularly in London. There are literally millions of people who are followers of Spiritualism in England. The seances are usually held in darkness or semi-darkness. Voices are heard that are said to be the voices of loved ones of those who are gathered at the seance. Sometimes there are rappings, and other unusual phenomena taking place. Even apparitions appear that have the likeness of deceased loved ones of those who are present.

Spiritualism has now become a religion. It denies: Authenticity of the Bible, Personality of God, Diety of Jesus Christ, Blood Atonement of Jesus, Resurrection of Jesus, Second Coming of Christ, and Resurrection of the Dead. God said to Eve, "Thou shalt surely die," but Spiritualism teaches that there is no death, that all who have passed on still live.

Not only do they deny the necessity of worshipping God and His Son, but they actually pray to the devil. Prof. W. Chaney, a Spiritualist medium, in a debate with a Christian minister in San Jose, Calif., prayed thus before beginning the debate: "O devil, prince of demons . . . I beseech thee to hear my prayer . . . Bless thy servant in his labors before thee . . . Enable him to defend thee . . . so that this audience may realize that thou art a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering DEVIL." We are truly warring against the prince of the powers of darkness.

From an official Spiritualist publication we quote: "Spiritualism is God's message to mortals, declaring that 'There is no death,' that all who have passed on still live, that there is hope in the life beyond for the most sinful." "The Progressive Thinker," May 18, 1929. God says, "Thou shalt surely die," but Spiritualism says, "There is no death." While a good deal of what is done in the Spiritualist meetings may be branded as trickery,

the fact remains that when you have substracted all of the tricks and deceptions there is still a great deal that is unaccountable. Some of the keenest and most critical minds such as Sir Oliver Lodge of England, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, and Sir William Crookes have pronounced these manifestations to be genuine demonstrations of the supernatural.

This does not mean that science in general accepts spiritualism, but some members of the scientific groups have tested it, such as Sir David Brewster and Lord Broughman of England. They were amazed at what they discovered. Sir David Brewster after attending a seance given by the medium Home, one of the most outstanding spiritualists, revealed that he saw tables rise into the air; and that efforts to grab them and pull them down were futile. Musical instruments were seen floating around in the air and unseen hands played them. Handkerchiefs would float through the air and knots would be tied in them without hands.

Perhaps the greatest miracle that was performed by Spiritist Home in the presence of Sir David Brewster and others, and even written up in the "Reader's Digest" was his ability to float through the air. Home was actually seen floating through the air, out a window, and back through another window. The scientists present did everything possible to discover if there was anything beneath him, or above him, that kept him suspended; but nothing was found. His clothes were checked for any substance that would make him float. Nothing could be found. The conclusion of the best of scientific minds was that it was an unexplained phenomenon.

One of the tricks of the spirits is to appear on photographs. I have seen a number of photographs that were taken of people, and when they were developed, a face or faces of deceased loved ones would appear on the pictures. The only explanation is that it is one of the devil's tricks. It is always a dangerous thing for people to play around with the devil and his tricks.

Unfortunately there are people in some lands who are devil worshippers. Missionaries from India tell of miracles that people do under the influence of the devil. It is an absolute truth that people have been known to walk on red hot coals of fire or put their feet and hands into the flames of a fire without getting burned. Devil worshippers have been known to lie on beds of razor-sharp spikes and not be injured.

When the devil worshippers turn to Christ, they are often attacked by unseen adversaries, beaten, and at times bones have been broken. Jesus tells us of people in His day who were possessed with demons. When the Lord saw that there was a desire to be released, He would command the demons to leave. The Bible records how people would be torn or thrown violently to the ground by the devil before he would give them up. (Mark 1:26; 9:20, 26)

Many claim to have seen ghosts of their deceased loved ones. Sometime ago a colporteur selling religious books encountered a woman whose son had been lost in World War I. The woman, a

widow living alone, told the colporteur of the wonderful experiences that she has when her son appears to her from time to time. The colporteur advised her that the next time she has this experience she should challenge this spirit in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to tell her who he is. She was reluctant, but to prove that it was really her son, she consented to do it.

Six weeks later when the colporteur returned to deliver a book the lady had ordered, the first thing she wanted to talk about was her experience challenging the spirit supposed to be her son. She said: "I found it very difficult to question him, but finally I asked him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to tell me who he was. A horrible look came over his face, and he literally flung himself out of the room. But as he left my presence, I heard the words flung back at me, 'The devil!'"

One outstanding religious leader in the Protestant world wrote an article in the "Reader's Digest" not long ago telling us that our loved ones are living in a spirit world, and that they can appear to us again. But I say in a spirit of love, the devil is the one who is actually doing these deceitful things. Satan and his angels can appear in the likeness of our dear ones. Truly, as the Bible says, he is deceiving the whole world. It is logical that people should be attracted to this false theory that they can communicate with the dead when they are taught in the churches that the dead are really alive.

Please, dear Friends, test the spirit that may be appearing to you, and if you are having such an experience challenge that spirit in the name of Jesus to tell you who he is. You may get an answer that will really surprise you. The Lord counsels us to try the spirits. I want to say further that it is not wise for Christians to dabble in anything that borders on the occult. Some go to fortune tellers and phrenologists and soothsayers of various types. Some play with ouija boards and other things of that nature. But, dear Friends, don't play with the devil.

As a lad I remember some friends of the family, a mother and daughter, who were spiritists. Strange things used to happen at their home. They communicated with spirits, all right, but they were not the spirits of loved ones. They could make tables rise so that no human could push them back down. They used to play with ouija boards. Later they became fortune tellers in a gypsy tea garden in New York City. Little did those who had their tea leaves read realize that they were playing with individuals who were in very close connection with the devil and his angels.

A minister friend of mine moved into a home which he later learned had been the home of a spiritualist medium. One night, answering a knock at the door, the family were surprised to find no one there, and no footprints in the snow on the porch. This happened again and again. One night they heard footsteps going up the outside stairway to the room above. On investigation, they found no footsteps in the snow on the stairs, but the bed clothes had been torn off, and the bed was all muddy.

The minister and his family made it a vital matter in their prayers that God would keep the spirits of devils away. Soon such strange happenings ceased. Satan cannot molest God's children when they pray. It is not my purpose to frighten you with such stories, but we do need to recognize that the devil is real, and that he is working to deceive men. Many will not believe the truth regarding his deceptions. The editor of "These Times" once printed an article entitled, "Are There Ghosts?" He mentioned the fact that the so-called ghosts are actually spirits of the devils, evil angels impersonating men. One woman wrote the editor saying: "I don't believe what you said in the article. I have a sister who appears to me, smiles, and goes away. I do not believe this is an evil spirit." See how willing people are to be deceived?

While attending college I happened into a room one night and found a group of boys with a Bible. They had a string running through it and they were dangling it in the air. They would ask questions and if it would turn to the left it meant "yes," to the right it meant "no." The boys were all fascinated with their experiment, but I left that room as quickly as I could. I thought it was sacrilegious to handle God's Word as they were doing. And, furthermore, I do not believe that God answers our questions in that way. Such practices should be left strictly alone.

Mr. J. W. Daniel verifies this story: "Mr. William B. Lanning of Trenton, New Jersey, not being really satisfied concerning the real character of the spirits, held the following colloquy with one through a writing medium. The spirit said that folks would be happier and better to consult the spirits, that he died an unconverted man, but that he was happy now. He also said that the departed Christians were among them, that there was to be no resurrection of the dead, no future punishment, and no day of judgment.

Being cross examined by Mr. Lanning, the spirit became very angry, but when he demanded answers in the name of the Lord, the spirit quailed, answering very unwillingly.

"Is the Bible true?" "Yes."

"Why did you tell me it was right to consult spirits?" "To deceive you."

"Are you happy?" "No, I am miserable."

"Is there a hell?" "No, not yet."

"Do you expect to go there?" "Yes."

"When?" "At the day of judgment."

"Is there a resurrection of the dead?" "Yes."

"Have you any prospects of happiness?" "I have no hope."

"Is there a good spirit among you?" "No, not one."

"Why did you tell my brother that there was?" "I wanted to deceive him."

"Could you deceive him?" "Yes."

"Why?" "Because he is a fool."

"Why is he a fool?" "Because he does not believe the Bible."

"Can you deceive me?" "No."

"Why?" "Because you believe the Bible."

"I want to hear no more, Good-bye forever."  
"Good-bye forever."

Without a doubt these are the spirits of devils trying to trick us.

What about King Saul and the Witch of Endor? Did he actually see a likeness of Samuel in that seance? No, he did not, the witch had told him an old man came up; but if Samuel were in heaven he would have received the knowledge of youth. Neither would he have been brought up, as this spirit was, but would have been brought down. Saul went to this witch because God refused to communicate with him any longer. God was so displeased that Saul consulted with a wicked woman, that he slew him.

"Rudyard Kipling, with his robust common sense, has warned intruders who seek to establish a traffic with disembodied beings that they were entering on a dangerous path.

'Oh the road to Endor is the oldest road

And the craziest road of all.

Straight it runs to the Witch's abode.

As it did in the days of Saul.

And nothing has changed of the sorrow in store

For such as go down on the road to En-dor!

That old road has never been more crowded than it is today." (The Case Against Spiritualism, Jane Stoddard, preface.)

In Lev. 19:31 it says: "Hearken not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God." If God says not to seek after such things, that is good enough for me. God certainly knows what He is talking about. When King Saul made the mistake of consulting a witch, he was rejected of God. It was an unpardonable sin.

In Deut. 18:10-18 God says: "There shall not be found among you any one that . . . useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch . . . or a necromancer (one claiming to consult with the dead). For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: . . . Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God." It is a sin in the sight of God for anyone to consult with one who is clairvoyant. They are considered to be servants of the devil, and in God's sight one becomes defiled by contact with such people.

God says that these things are an abomination to Him. Webster defines ABOMINATION as: "The feeling of extreme disgust and hatred; abhorrence; detestation; loathing. If God detests spiritism, if He loathes it and abhors it, then I don't want to have anything to do with it, do you? If God says that spiritualism is an abomination, then we had better leave it alone.

God says in Lev. 20:6: "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I WILL EVEN SET MY FACE AGAINST THAT SOUL, and will cut him off from among his people." Spiritualism today is the same as was practiced among the heathen nations around the children of Israel. We surely do not want to be cut off from among God's people.

God pronounces even more punishment on the followers of Spiritualism: "A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, SHALL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH: they shall

stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them." Lev. 20:27. Personally, I cannot believe that the spirits that come into darkened rooms and carry on with so many strange monkey shins and tricks can be the spirits of our departed loved ones. They are the works of the devil. God makes it clear that those who delve into this spirit business are worthy of death.

Can Spiritualism call itself true Christianity? Is it Christianity at all? Frankly, dear Friends, it is not. Of Spiritism it has been said: "The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits deny the deity of Christ, and place even the Creator on a level with themselves." The Great Controversy, p. 552. Spiritualism denies the blood atonement of Jesus Christ. It denies that man is mortal, as God says he is. It denies many parts of the Bible.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle hails spiritualism as a new revelation, and yet he admits that it is an unreliable one. He says: "Apart from all these limitations we have, unhappily, to deal with absolute, COLD-BLOODED LYING on the part of wicked or mischievous intelligences . . . There is nothing more puzzling than the fact that one may get a long connected description with every detail given, and that it may prove entirely to be a concoction." The New Revelation, p. 123. So the so-called spirits lie. Sometimes they tell BIG LIES. Can you believe that your loved one would appear to you and then lie to you? How can true Christians believe in such deceptions!

Dr. A. B. Childs says: "The lower spirits seek to undo the good work of the higher, and to harass and to annoy . . . They will deceive us for their amusement . . . But wise spirits, who are to us the revelators and executors of the divine will, DESIGNEDLY DECEIVE US FOR OUR GOOD." The Banner of Light, Oct. 26, 1864. What kind of religion is this? Dr. Childs admits that all the spirits lie, so which would you dare believe of what they tell you?

Sir Oliver Lodge, a devoted Spiritualist, kept a very complete record of the communications with his dead son Raymond. What glorious revelation of the life beyond does he bring? Raymond says that there are trees and flowers, streets and brick houses in heaven. He did not want to wear white robes, so they allowed him to have a suit, wool worsted, he thought. He said that the dead from the battlefields were given whiskey, soda, and cigars. Can a Christian believe such things, that the heavenly beings are using whiskey, soda, and cigars?

Dr. L. S. Winslow, a lecturer on mental diseases, once wrote: "I could quote many . . . instances where men of the highest ability have, so to speak, neglected all, and followed the doctrines of spiritualism, ONLY TO END THEIR DAYS IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM." Spiritualistic Madness, p. 29. It is generally conceded by many authorities that the mind is weakened by spiritualistic practices. It is actually the giving over of one's mind to a higher power, and that power is of the devil. It is a very dangerous thing to allow anyone except God to rule the mind.

J. Godfrey Raupert, K.S.G., Catholic Specialist on Spiritualism, says: "Let it once be clearly and fully known that these 'dear ones' on the other side of life RUIN AND DESOLATE HOMES, that they drive men and women to destruction and to the madhouse, that they UNDERMINE RELIGIOUS FAITH AND CONFIDENCE, and . . . bring about an utter weariness and detestation of the duties of the present life." (Quoted in *God Speaks*, p. 519.) The so-called "dear ones" on the other side that ruin and desolate homes, could not possibly be our dead loved ones, or holy angels. Surely they would not want to drive us to destruction and madness. The fact that the spirits in spiritism lie and deceive those who consult them, is evidence that they are the spirits of devils.

What does actually happen to a man when he dies? Job 16:22 says: "When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I SHALL NOT RETURN." Job surely did not intend to come back and visit with his loved ones. In the recent Bridey Murphy escapade we find a distinct contradiction between the re-incarnation theory of this deceptive experience, and the Bible truth. According to the young woman who claimed, in the state of hypnotism, that she was once a person called Bridey Murphy, she had returned to her house after she died. This is a direct contradiction of the Bible.

Again Job says: "The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more . . . He that goeth down to the grave SHALL COME UP NO MORE. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more." Job. 7:8-10. God revealed many things about the dead to His trusted servant Job. Many believe that the spirits of the dead return to haunt their former houses. This is just another trick of the devil. He and his angels love to play tricks on gullible human beings. But God says that the dead do not return.

When David lost his little son he said: "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." David made it clear that the dead do not return. Some day we shall go to them, but they do not come to us now. David knew that it was impossible to return once a person is dead. Anyone of intelligence should know that our loved ones would not be party to such silly tricks as the spirits play in the haunted houses, or in the spiritist seance. The spirits act like monkeys and clowns in such cases, which is evidence enough that they are the mad demons of hell.

The Bible tells us that the dead are not able to communicate with the living because they are not conscious of anything that is going on in this world. In Eccl. 9:5, 10 God tells us: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything . . . Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

There are many who are putting their trust in their departed loved ones. But God says: "His breath goes forth . . . In that very day his thoughts perish . . ." Ps. 146:4. In the 115th Psalm, the 17th verse, it says: "The dead praise not the Lord . . ."

And in Job 14:21 we read: "His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not . . ." If the dead cannot think, they certainly cannot influence us or have anything whatever to do with us. The dead cannot return to any kind of seance. In fact, they cannot even praise the Lord, for they know not anything.

Dear Friends, the dead are not in heaven, or in hell, or in paradise, or in purgatory, or in any other place but the grave. Jesus said: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

Paul tells us that the dead are asleep. In I Thess. 4:16, 17 it says: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." So if the dead are sleeping in their graves until the end of the world, it is absolutely impossible for the living to communicate with the dead. The Lord has warned us against these great deceptions of Satan.

Remember, there is a great controversy going on between good and evil. While we are surrounded with evil angels, we are also surrounded by good angels of God. Satan is particularly anxious to keep us from obeying God's commandments. He is still in rebellion against God's government of law and order. He will try to get you and me to disobey God even in one point, if possible. When he succeeds, there must be a leering look of glee upon his face, for he knows that he has another soul on the downward road to destruction, one who will burn with him in the lake of fire in the end.

Jesus is standing at the door of your heart tonight. Dear Friend, won't you let Him in? If you submit to Satan's authority long enough, your conscience will finally become seared as with a red hot iron. The Bible says that many will believe a lie rather than the truth of God. Who is the ruler of your life tonight? Jesus Christ, or Satan? To whom will you yield your allegiance? If you have not made a complete surrender of your will to God, Satan will know that, and he will do everything in his power to weaken your will so that you will not desire to do what is right.

Friends, I hope that you will realize your utter dependence upon Jesus and the holy angels of God. If you do not, then Satan will rob you of eternal life. Christ died to redeem us from the slavery of sin and the power of the devil. May God help us to cling to Him. Jesus is the only one who can deliver us. We must refuse to adhere to Satan's deceptions in any way, shape, or form. We are nearing the end, and Satan, knowing that his time is short, is working as never before. More than ever we need Jesus. May God help us to surrender our lives to Him. Then He can and will save us.