

# **Declaration of Principles, Interpretation, and Definitions**

## **DEFINITIONS**

Adopted October 1914, 1919, 1930, 1950, 1993

1. **Spiritualism** is the Science, Philosophy and Religion of a continuous life, based upon the demonstrated fact of communication, by means of Mediumship, with those who live in the Spirit World.
2. 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 mould his or her character and conduct in accordance with the highest teaching derived from such communication.
3. A **Medium** is one whose organism is sensitive to vibrations from the Spirit World and through whose instrumentality intelligence in that world are able to convey messages and produce the phenomena of Spiritualism.
4. 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.
5. **The Phenomena of Spiritualism** consists of Prophecy, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, Gift of Tongues, Laying on of Hands, Healing, Visions, Trance, Apparitions, 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 man.

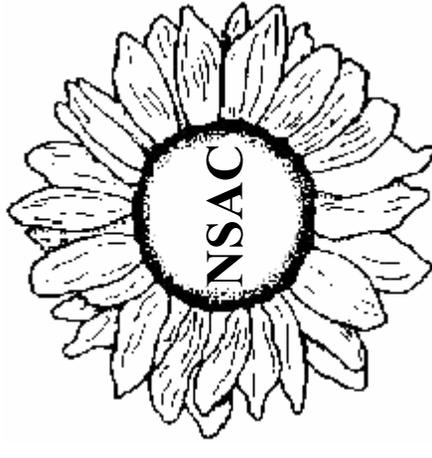
**Spiritualism Is a Science** because it investigates, analyzes and classifies facts and manifestations demonstrated from the Spirit side of life.

**Spiritualism Is a Philosophy** because it studies the Law 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.

The foundation of Spiritualism...

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“As the sunflower turns its face toward to the light of the sun, so Spiritualism turns the face of humanity toward the light of Truth.”

# Declaration of Principles, Interpretation and Definitions

The foundation of Spiritualism...

## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND INTERPRETATIONS

Originally Adopted by the  
NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION

Sec. 1-6 – Chicago, Illinois, 1899

Sec. 7-8 – Rochester, New York, 1909

Sec. 9 – St. Louis, Missouri, 1944

Sec. 8 – Rochester, New York, 2001

### 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 matter we express our belief in 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 changed called death.

“Life here and hereafter is all one life whose continuity of consciousness is unbroken by the mere change in form whose process we call death.”  
-Lillian 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 amply recorded in both sacred and profane literature of all ages. Orthodoxy has accepted these manifestations and has interpreted them in 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, "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye also unto them."

This precept we believe to be true. It points the way to harmony, peace and happiness. Wherever tried, it has proven successful, and when fully understood and practiced, 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. If we are to obtain Heaven upon Earth, we must learn to make that Heaven for ourselves and for others. Individuals are responsible for their own spiritual

growth and welfare. Errors and wrong doing 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. Each one must carry their own load in the overcoming of wrongdoing and replacing it with the right.

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

We discard entirely the terribly wrong and illogical teachings of eternal damnation, 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.

It is a natural life. The opportunities for growth and progress toward more spiritual conditions are open to all, as they are here on the Earth Plane. We accept no such teaching as a damnation. We do teach that wrong doing will necessarily bring remorse and suffering that would be difficult to describe in words and which 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 that 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 truths of prophecy and healing. Being associated with the spiritual aspects of humanity, we assert that the practice of the two are not unique nor of recent occurrence alone, but that they are universal and everlasting, and have been witnessed and observed in all ages of the world.