

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

SPIRITUALISM

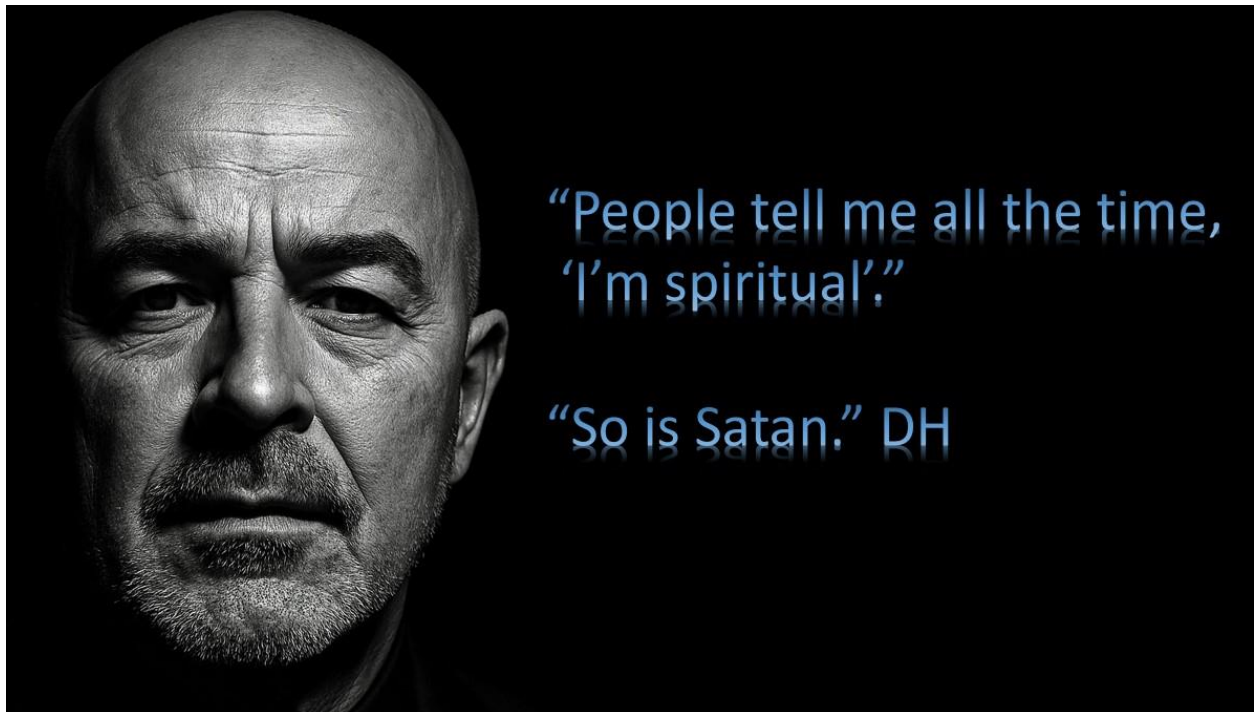


KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



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The R.U.S.H. Bible Study Position on Spiritualism

Spiritualism: noun:

1. A system of belief or religious practice based on supposed communication with the spirits of the dead, especially through **mediums**.
2. **Philosophy:**
The doctrine that the spirit exists as distinct from matter, or that spirit is the only reality. The earliest recorded use of the word is 1796 and it was used by the prominent 18th-century spiritualist Emanuel Swedenborg. However it originated as far as we can tell in Mesopotamia around 3000 BC and spread to India and China from there. Its western roots developed in Greek civilization during the Hellenistic period.
3. **Ideology:**
Spiritualism is the belief that the spirits of the departed can communicate with the living. This is usually done through a medium, which is a person who is able to contact the spirit world.

Spiritualism traces its modern beginnings to a series of apparently supernatural events at a farmhouse in Hydesville, N.Y., in 1848. The owner and his family, as well as the previous occupants of the house, had been disturbed by unexplained raps at night. After a severe disturbance, the owner's youngest daughter, Kate Fox, was said to have successfully challenged the supposed spirit to repeat in raps the number of times she flipped her fingers. Once communication had apparently been established, a code was agreed upon by which the raps given could answer questions, and the spirit was said to have identified himself as a man who had been murdered in the house.

The practice of having sittings for communication with spirits spread rapidly from that time, and in the 1860s it was particularly popular in England and France. Kate Fox (afterward Mrs. Fox-Jencken) and one of her sisters, Maggie Fox, devoted much of their later lives to acting as mediums in the United States and England. Many other mediums gave similar sittings, and the attempt to communicate with spirits by table turning (in which participants place their hands on a table and wait for it to vibrate or rotate) became a popular pastime in Victorian drawing rooms.

As this religious type of movement has died considerably in the west, primarily due to the new "gen. z crowds" worship of science, I won't beat this subject to death. However you don't have to drive very far in our city to find palm readers, psychics and horoscope lovers. Here are some scriptures that should help as witnessing tools.

"Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God". Leviticus 19:31 (ESV)

"And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?" Isaiah 8:19 (ESV)

"A man or a woman who is a medium or a necromancer shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them." Leviticus 20:27 (ESV)

"If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people." Leviticus 20:6 (ESV)

"So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse." 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 (ESV)

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1 (ESV)

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons," 1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)

*“And he burned his son as an offering and used **fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers**. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.” 2 Kings 21:16 (ESV)*

*“And the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out, and I will confound their counsel; and they will **inquire of the idols and the sorcerers, and the mediums and the necromancers**,” Isaiah 19:3*

*“And I **will cut off sorceries** from your hand, and you shall have **no more tellers of fortunes**,” Micah 5:12 (ESV)*

*“For **they are demonic spirits, performing signs**, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.” Revelation 16:14 (ESV)*

“You shall not permit a sorceress to live.” Exodus 22:18 (ESV)

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,” 1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

*“There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who **practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD**. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God, for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to **fortune-tellers and to diviners**. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.” Deuteronomy 18:10-14 (ESV)*

*“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and **false signs** and wonders,” 2 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV)*

*“As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a **spirit of divination** and brought her owners much gain by **fortune-telling**. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.” Acts 16:16-18 (ESV)*

*“And he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and used **fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers**. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger”. 2 Chronicles 33:6*

*“You are powerless in spite of the advice you get. Let your **astrologers** come forward and save you—**those people who study the stars, who map out the zones of the heavens and tell you from month to month what is going to happen to you**. “They will be like bits of straw, and a fire will burn them up! They will not even be able to save themselves—the flames will be too hot for them,” Isaiah 47:13-14 (GNT)*

Beware that both Hinduism and Chinese culture use astrology as part of everyday life, as well as a strong belief in reincarnation.

So if the Christian desires information, where is he or she to go?

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him”

James 1:5 (ESV)

“Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock. ⁹ Would any of you who are fathers give your son a stone when he asks for bread? ¹⁰ Or would you give him a snake when he asks for a fish? ¹¹ As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:7-11.

