

THE SPIRITIST DOCTRINE

Basic Knowledge

Objectives:

- ✓ To demonstrate the purpose and the importance of the Spiritist Doctrine and what this knowledge should change in us.
- ✓ To present Allan Kardec's biography.

Themes:

1. The prediction of Jesus;
2. Spiritism;
3. The mission of Spiritism;
4. Biography of Allan Kardec.

“I still have a lot of things to tell you, but presently you cannot withstand them. When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will teach you all the truth, because he won't speak about himself, but he will say everything that he has heard and he will announce the things to come. He will glorify me, because he will receive what is in me and he will announce it.”

John, 16:7-11

1 - THE PREDICTION OF JESUS

“If you love me, keep my commandments; and I will pray to the Father and He shall give another Comforter that he may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of Truth ; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, nor knows him; but you shall know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. But the comforter, who is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all the things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John, 14:15-17

“However, I tell you the truth. It is better that I leave, because if I do not go, the Consoler will not come to you; I, therefore, will leave and I will send it to you. And, when he comes, it will convince the world with respect to sin, to justice and to the judgement; with respect to justice, because I am going to my Father and you will see me no more; with respect to judgement, the prince of this world is already judged.”

John 16:7-11

2 - SPIRITISM

Spiritism is the new science, which has come to reveal to mankind, by means of irrefutable proofs, the existence and nature of the spiritual world, and its relationship with the physical world. It appears not as something supernatural, but on the contrary, as one

of the living and active forces of Nature, source of a immense number of phenomenon, which still today are not fully understood, and because of this they are relegated to the world of fantasy and miracles. Christ alluded to this situation on several occasions, and it is the reason why much of what He said remained unintelligible or has been wrongly interpreted. Spiritism offers the key by which all can easily be explained.

The law of the Old Testament was personified in Moses; that of the New Testament in Christ; Spiritism is then the third revelation of God's Law. But it is not personified by any one because it represents the teaching given, not by Man, but by the Spirits who are the voices of Heaven, to all parts of the world through the co-operation of innumerable intermediaries. In a manner of speaking, it is the collective work formed by all the Spirits who bring enlightenment to all mankind by offering the means of understanding their world and the destiny that awaits each individual on their return to the spiritual world."

(Allan Kardec - The Gospel According to Spiritism - chap. I, items 5 & 6)

3 - MISSION OF SPIRITISM

Spiritism accomplishes all the conditions of the CONSOLER promised by Jesus. It is not an individual doctrine, a human conception; nobody can say that it was its creator. It is the product of the collective teachings of the Spirits, a teaching over which the Spirit of the Truth presides.

(Allan Kardec - Genesis - Cap. XVII - item 40)

The Spiritism is, above all, the liberator process of the consciences, so that man's vision reaches higher horizons.

(Emmanuel - Roteiro - lesson 38)

Just as Christ said: "I have not come to destroy the Law but to fulfil it," so Spiritism says: We have not come to destroy the Christian Law but to carry it out. It teaches nothing contrary to what was taught by Christ. Rather, it develops it, explains it in a manner that can be understood by all and completes that which had previously been known only in allegoric form. Spiritism has come at the predicted time to fulfil what Christ announced and to prepare for the achievement of future things. It is then, the work of Christ Who, as He also announced, presides over the regeneration which is now taking place and which will prepare the reign of the Kingdom of God here on Earth.

(Allan Kardec – The Gospel According to Spiritism - Cap. I, item 7)

Spiritism in the current panorama of the world, is really the Comforter promised by Jesus to Humanity, because as many approach with honesty and with

Devotion to the truth, find resources for intimate resistance against any disturbance...

... A renovation is arriving for everybody on Earth, like an explosion; explosion of sentiments, of thoughts, of words, of actions; and without the explanation of the Evangelical Spiritism, that places in our heart and in our thought the terms of the destiny and of the suffering in its proper place, we sincerely would have many difficulties in harmonizing our own individual intimate world.

(Chico/Emmanuel - Interviews, item 81)

The Consoler's mission has to be evidenced within the soul and not emphasized in short lived glories of material triumphs. Illuminating the religious error, wherever it occurs, and revealing the true light, through the actions and the teachings. The sincere spiritualist, enriching the values of the faith, represents the worker of the regeneration of the Temple of the Lord, where the men assemble in several departments face several altars, but where only one Master exists, that is Jesus Christ.

(Chico/Emmanuel - Consoler, question 353)

Besides, if we considered the powerful moralizing effect of Spiritism, which alludes to all actions in life, the consequences of good and of evil and the moral power, the courage and consolation that it brings to the afflicted, by instilling in us trust in the future; allowing us to sense the presence at our side of those souls whom we have loved; the certainty of seeing them once again, and the possibility of conversing once again; the certainty that all that we have acquired in intelligence, wisdom and morality until the last moment of our life will not be lost, but rather, retained for our own progress. There is no doubt that Spiritism accomplishes all the promises of Christ with regards to the Consoler that he announced.

(Allan Kardec - Genesis - Chap. I item 42)

4 - BIOGRAPHY OF ALLAN KARDEC

The true name of that “codifier of the Spiritist Doctrine” is HIPPOLITE LÉON DENIZARD RIVAIL. A descendent of Catholic parents, he was born on October 3, 1804,

In the city of Lyon, France, having been educated in Switzerland, in the celebrated Pestalozzi School, in a Protestant atmosphere. Achieved a doctorate in medicine, also felt great affinity for philosophical, religious and pedagogic studies, publishing several books in mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, anatomy, physiology, etc.... His works achieved many prizes in several scientific societies. He was already at a mature age when Europe was thrilled by the phenomenon of the so-called “turning tables.”

As if it were fate, Dr. Rivail devoted himself with zeal to the study of those phenomena, presenting, later, as fruits of his brilliant intelligence the fundamental basis of the Doctrine that was denominated “Spiritism”. He published the well known “The Gospel According to Spiritism” and several other illuminating works of the Doctrine, which gave him the title “The Codifier of Spiritism.” A humble studious person, Dr. Rivail classified and investigated the phenomenon under a rigorously scientific approach, using the pseudonym of Allan Kardec, for which, at present, he is known worldwide.

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GOD

Objectives:

- To enlarge the notion of God, recognizing Him as the Father of infinite kindness;
- To propitiate man's clearer understanding of the existence of God, for a greater acceptance of his Law.

Themes:

1. Existence of God;
2. Attributes of God;
3. Law of God;
4. Conclusion.

"And Jesus answering them: the first of all the commandments is: Hear, Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord." (Mark 12:29)

1. EXISTENCE OF GOD

1.1 What is God?

God is the Supreme Intelligence, primary cause of all things.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 01)

To summarize, as best as we can, everything that we have thought regarding God, we will reiterate: that He is Life, Reason, Conscience in its fullness. He is the eternal propelling cause in everything that exists. He is the universal communion where each being will sip the existence, so that, afterward, each can compete, according to his developing abilities and his own evolvement for the harmony of the group.

(Leon Denis - After the Death - Chap. IX - 2nd Part).

2. ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

God is eternal, unchangeable, immaterial, unique, all-powerful, sovereignly just and good.

(Allan Kardec – Posthumous Work – 1st part – item 2)

You must understand that there are things which transcend the intelligence of the most intelligent man, and for which your language, limited to your ideas and sensations, has no expressions. Your reason tells you that God must possess those perfections in the supreme degree; for, if one of them were lacking, or were not possessed by Him in an infinite degree, He would not be superior to all, and consequently would not be God.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 13)

Eternal – God is eternal, that is, He didn't have a beginning and He won't have an end. If he had had a beginning, He would have sprung from nothing. Well, nothingness is nothing, therefore, it produces nothing. If some being prior to God could have created Him, then, that being would be God.

If we supposed a beginning or an end to God, we could conceive of an entity existing before Him, or capable of surviving Him and so on, to infinity.

(Allan Kardec –Genesis – chap. II)

Unchangeable – If He were subject to change, the laws which rule the Universe would have no stability.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 13)

Immaterial – God is immaterial and, His nature differs from everything that we refer to as matter, otherwise He would not be immutable because He would be subject to the transformations of matter.

God's form is inappreciable to our senses, otherwise He would be matter. We say: the hand of God, the eye of God, the mouth of God, because man knowing nothing other than himself uses himself as a comparison for everything that he does not understand. Those images depicted of God in which He is represented, as an old man with a long beard and wrapped in a mantle are ridiculous. It lowers the dignity of the Supreme Entity to our short-sighted human passions. From there to transform Him into an irritable God is going a step beyond.

(Allan Kardec –Genesis – chap. II)

Unique – God is unique. If there were several gods, there would be neither unity of plan nor unity of power in the ordaining of the universe.

(Allan Kardec – Posthumous Work – 1st part – item II)

All-Powerful – He is all-powerful because He is unique. If He did not possess sovereign power, there would be something more powerful than Himself. He would not have created all things, and those which He had not created would be the work of another God.

(Allan Kardec – Posthumous Work – 1st part – item II)

Sovereignly Just and Good – The providential wisdom of the Divine laws is revealed as clearly in the smallest things as in the greatest. This wisdom renders it impossible to doubt either His justice or His goodness.

(Allan Kardec – Posthumous Work – 1st part – item II)

God, they will say, had been represented under such strange aspects, sometimes as hateful by certain sects, that the modern spirit deviated from him. But this wondering by the sectarians matters not. To imply that God's image can be diminished by men's intent is comparable to the suggestion that Mont Blanc and the Himalayas can be shaken by the breath of a mosquito.

(Leon Dénis – The Reason of Life - Chap. IV).

The highest conception of God that we can arrive at in the sanctuary of the Spirit is the one that Jesus presented us, revealing Him as a loving and just Father awaiting our testimonies of understanding and love.

(Emmanuel – Our Daily Bread, lesson 107)

3. THE LAW OF GOD

3.1 What is to be understood by natural law?

The law of nature is the law of God. It is the only rule that insures man's happiness, for it shows him what he should or should not do, and he only suffers because he disobeys it.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 614)

The Law of Nature is eternal and unchangeable as God Himself.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 615)

3.2 Where is the law of God inscribed?

In man's conscience.

Since man carries the law of God in his conscience, where was the need of revealing the Law to him?

He had forgotten and misunderstood it. God willed that it should be recalled to his memory.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 621)

3.3 Has god given some person the mission of revealing His law?

Yes, certainly. In every age there have been men who have received this mission. They were spirits of higher degree, who have incarnated for the purpose of advancing human progress.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 622)

3.4 What is the most perfect type that God has offered to man as guide and model?

Jesus.

(Allan Kardec – The Spirits' Book, question 625)

Up to the present, humanity received the great revelation in three essential forms. Moses brought the mission of Justice. The Gospel brought the undeniable revelation of Love. Spiritism in its teaching of Christianity revived brings forth the sublime task of Truth.

(Francisco C. Xavier / Emmanuel - The Consoler, question 271)

4. CONCLUSION

It is not given to man to explore the intimate nature of God. To understand God we still lack the sense that cannot be acquired without first achieving complete purification of our spirit. God is not visible to us but He is affirmed by means of His works.

The existence of God is, therefore, a fact, not only demonstrated in the revelation, but also by the material evidence of His works. The early savages did not have any revelation and, nevertheless, they believed, instinctively, in the existence of a superhuman power. The crudest of them had elements of reasoning and could conclude logically that they come from a being superior to humanity. Don't they reason with more logic than those that insist that they were made by themselves?

(Allan Kardec –Genesis – chap. II – items 6, 7 & 8)

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