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"IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD." COL. 3. 1.

Spiritism.

An Address (revised) at

at 242 Bishopsgate

May 31st 1912

by

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Correspondence welcome:

Scriptural literature for Believers

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Notes of an address by Mr P.W Heward at 242 Bishopsgate on Friday evening May 31st 1912

Spiritism.

- 1 Its claims & attraction in General.
- 2 Scriptures Unveiling & Forewarning.
Ex:22.18. Deut. 18:9,14. Isa. 8.19.20.
- 3 Names, Varieties, Methods, ~~and~~ Results.
- 4 Should we Investigate?
Consideration of 2Cor.2-11. Rev.2.24.
- 5 Of what is Spiritism a Satanic Counterfeit?
Notes on Acts 2. 1Cor.14 etc.

In the first point the wicked claim of Spiritism as a "religion"- for it is not merely a "scientific" curiosity - was shown, and its attractiveness to the unwary by its promise of fellowship with departed friends, ~~and~~ its intruding into the unseen. A religion without atonement is oft popular among men. We now pass to our second point. "Scripture Unveiling and Forewarning". This is all-important. Scripture deals largely with the spirit world. It tells us throughout that there are good angels and evil angels. It presents to us sometimes in mysterious language but always definitely that there are myriads, legions of beings which we cannot see, all originally created by God, though many of them now entirely out of harmony with Him, and no longer in subjection to His laws. Even before the flood there was a spiritism. Gen.6 speaks of the "sons of God" in a way which the context and Job 38 alike shew must have reference to angels: and Jude the apostle makes this clear. Yet still further: the evil angels who were the "sons of God" as to their existence amalgamated themselves, united themselves with the descendants of Adam; and the result was the race of giants full of violence and wickedness, those who became glorified in mythology as the semi-gods. A large amount of heathenism deals with mistaken traditions and confused traditions of the time of the flood. At the time of the flood there was a world of terrible confusion. These giants were mighty men "men of renown" they had a name. To explain Gen. 6 without allowing that evil spirits in some way were intermarried with those of earth is to explain Gen 6 away. Moreover this dark chapter in earth's history seems to have an illustration of the theory of spiritual marriage so-called which has produced endless confusion in spiritualism even in the last century. Furthermore, the unnamable wickedness of the East in connection with marriage to an Eastern god, in the Eastern temple with their prostitution and wickedness which Gen.5 brings before us. We pass on to Ex 22 and there we find in the 18th verse the definite statement:- "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" - Implying the existence of such and shewing that witchcraft was not mere trickery to be punished by scourging, but infamous wickedness to be treated as idolatry and blasphemy. You recollect in this connection how that Saul was told that rebellion was the sin of witchcraft. The iniquity of witchcraft is therefore in Scripture regarded as a very real thing. The present day tendency to believe that witches are only a medieval superstition is only to blind the eyes to the real fact that in all ages there have been those in union and communion with evil spirits. Sometimes there is a more refined form of this iniquity as in modern spiritualism: but that of a "medium" in a civilised land is on the level of the witch of ancient and medieval times. Satan can change his form but he never changes his real object. It is remarkable that not only in Exodus 22 but still more definitely in Deut. 18 the sins of idolatry and witchcraft are dealt with. For this is a form of idolatry as we shall shortly see. Verse 9 reads thus:- When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. v.10. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son of his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter or a witch, or a charmer or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. For these nations which thou shalt possess hearken unto observers of times and unto diviners, but as for thee the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. You will notice here that God declares that one of Canaan's great sins was seeking unto familiar spirits. Now we know that Genesis 6 tells us that there were giants in the earth in those days and also afterwards. We know moreover that in the land of Canaan there were the remnant of the giants and that the Canaanitish idolatries were

← things their attractiveness is I believe the indwelling power of Satan's angels who seek ever to attract worship unto themselves as well as to go through the world seeking those in whom they may dwell. Scripture is fairly plain that evil spirits go about with this object. "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man he walketh through dry places seeking rest and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return unto my house from whence I came out: and when he is come he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished, then goeth he and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there." Moreover we have brought before us that the Lord had cast seven demons from Mary Magdalene. and that a legion (thousands) inhabited one poor man among the Gadarenes. Then we have demons having spheres and influences. There is Abaddon the prince of the bottomless pit: the prince of Persia a demon spoken of in Daniel who strove to animate the kings of Persia against the will of the Lord; the prince of Grecia at the end of the same chapter- another evil angel, and his claim to the kingdom. All those solemn passages shew the work of the evil angels . We have the words of Eph. 2 "Ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" Evil angels have special spheres of influence as to individuals and seek to work in them to lead them to all kinds of iniquity. The view is terrible. We can well understand how with all the evil powers about who personate the dead and who lead to worship, that spiritism has plenty of opportunity of doing miracles, and thus of securing attention and leading on many to its paths which are the paths to hell. We find among the works of the flesh which God condemns in Gal. 5.20 , "witchcraft" a word which renders one of the Hebrew words for demonology. We find moreover in the Book of Revelation the exclusion from God's presence of those who indulge in demonology. Thus we see Scripture gives no uncertain sound. It shows that those there are demons and that they are everywhere; that they are seeking to dwell in men and work in men; and to attract men's worship towards themselves; that they will even dwell in things and idols that they may attract people. Scripture is perfectly clear that any association with this form of iniquity is both wicked and dangerous before God and it warns us that we should not tamper with it, that we should have nothing to do with it. God unveils to us not that we may deny the phenomena but that we may be forewarned. We now approach the third part, Spiritism at the Present time. Its revived form, its modern outburst, as it has been well called- dates from 1848 and strange enough it began in connection with two children. Two girls were the first to come into contact with the evil spirits, and through that, spiritism has spread until its adherents are millions.

Question - Millions?

Mr H. - Yes - particularly in America. Theosophy in another form of it- professing to be the wisdom of God, but really being the wisdom of the serpent. Moreover the various Eastern religions which are working their way in this country are linked with forms of Spiritism. I will instance Buddhism. But when we go back to history we shall find that Spiritism had many outbursts before that which dates from the middle of the last century. Heathenism was, as has already partly been shown, largely spiritism. We are told of Manasseh that he made his son pass through the fire and observed times and used enchantments and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards, and this in connection with his worship of idols. Idolatry outwardly was only a grosser form of spiritism. Moreover the hidden mysteries of Greece with their surprising revelations into which men were initiated those hidden mysteries of heathenism were a form of spiritism: and there are grosser forms of this at the present time in distant lands where men are initiated into the service of the devil, taken out into the forest after a preparation in a certain way by certain food, in order that the evil spirit may come and possess them; and then they return as those who have been initiated into the hidden mysteries. Truly there are "depths of Satan" But it is solemn to realise that Spiritism has often dressed itself up in a religious form. Romanism is largely Spiritism. Its real miracles which cannot always be counterfeits are evidence of supernatural working. and the so-called 'real presence' in connection with the Lord's Supper or the travesty of it may be more often than not the real presence of an evil spirit. for the priests of Romanism are by apostolic succession from an "apostle Peter"- not the apostle of the Lord Jesus, but an apostle or priest of Babylonism. The orders in the church of Rome go right back to Babylonism with its spiritism and worship of demons. Romanism, as it is the preparation for Antichrist, has also been a preparation for the present day development of spiritism- Furthermore many adherents of mystic religions have doubtless been led unto some forms of spiritism. I refer to the 17th century Quakerism which was for a while numerically the strongest religious body in England. It increased in large numbers and undoubtedly had claims of supernatural power. There was with some of those linked with it, the setting aside of the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus- a sure mark of the work of the evil one. Swedenborgianism in the 18th century, still developed, was another form of spiritism. So that death is but an introduction to life; and Swedenborg claimed revelations from the unseen world, which were probably revelations from the unseen world, which were probably revelations but demoniacal. One may go a step further and find in the present isms of today, which claim supernatural power and which develop into pantheism- such as Christian Science and which have marks of healing which cannot be gainsaid; one may find the working of spiritism. Moreover some forms of present day revivalism which have revelations and

emotional excitability are not natural. They are beyond explanation from the standpoint of mere earthly and human enthusiasm. They are marked with supernatural power. I do not know how we can otherwise account for various forms of that which is called the "Pentecostal Movement" in which children (as in spiritism at first) have a prominent position. The next point we have to consider is "Should we investigate?"

Yes, we should investigate. First, what the Scripture says on the subject. "The word of God is our text book and it will deal with all circumstances in which we are placed. But as to every investigation I would suggest that curiosity is a dangerous factor and that we are all weaker than we imagine. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall". One cannot take hot coals in his bosom and not be burned, nor can he stand upon them without his feet being burned as Prov.6 shows. If one touches pitch one is defiled and if one looks into this phenomena nominally to investigate he will find that through mixing with iniquity he has become less on his guard against iniquity. Even of those who are called to the appointed work of rescuing some, Scripture gives very clear warning- they are to consider themselves lest they should be tempted; they are to snatch out of the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh, ^{saving} them with fear. Moreover Scripture says that it is a blessing not to know the deep things of Satan. "To you I say and to the rest in Thyatira, those who have not known the deep things of Satan". It is a blessing to be ignorant of some things, to be ignorant of the power of the wicked one. Some of our knowledge that we have we would fain lose but it cannot be undone.

Of what is Spiritism a Satanic counterfeit? I believe it is a counterfeit of the working of God's Holy Spirit and particularly so in the present dispensation. When the Holy Spirit came down in mighty power to form the church at Pentecost there were supernatural gifts and they spake with tongues and worked miracles. 1 Cor.12 shows us that this was an entire contrast with demonism. "Ye know", says verse 2, "that ye were Gentiles carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led" - led by evil spirits- but now God has given you His Spirit. Spiritism in its present outburst is a counterfeit of God's arrangements in the present dispensation- It is historically true that when the Lord's people were losing power, there became the tendency not to be bowed down before God and to confess their ruin but on the other hand to seek by iniquitous means to remain that power. Hence the miracles of an earthly Christendom of which there is very little doubt. There were the prophets so-called of the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and right on through the ages all of these signs are connected with the absence of realising that God has withdrawn some of His manifest power as a chastisement for men's misuse of it. Spiritism is thus a counterfeit of the work of God's Holy Spirit even as socialism is a counterfeit of God's unity. All these things are a deliberate attack upon God's arrangements. But you will say, how does that refer to the ancient spiritism before the Church was formed at Pentecost? Did not the Holy Spirit come down upon some individuals of old and clothe them with power and therefore Satan had his counterfeit? But, may we not go back further? All along

at the very beginning- God had communion with men, we find God's fellowship with Adam, and afterwards with His ransomed people. Is it surprising that Satan with the fellowship of God withdrawn because of iniquity- that Satan produced something which men would accept but which was really demonism? We pass now to a few difficult passages- The witch of Endor is one- The Holy Scriptures there show that the woman really did have a familiar spirit, but that she was surprised when Samuel came up. Scripture declares that Saul's death was linked to his seeking to a familiar spirit- Chron:10.13 that was the climax of his sin. Can we not draw an inference that the woman would have brought up a demon personating Samuel? She was surprised when God in His infinite power sent a real Samuel. We must not explain away Scripture. Then we have another remarkable passage in 2Thess.2. A letter was sent to the Thessalonians saying that the day of the Lord had secretly commenced and moreover there were some who rose up in the assembly and declared that the day of the Lord had set in. The apostle says "We beseech you brethren that ye be not soon shaken in mind, neither by a spirit". He does not say it is only imagination or men's fancy. A real evil spirit had got up in that assembly and had declared a secret coming of the Lord; and in some of the Pentecostal movements of today we find the same stress with glib reference to the coming again of Jesus in secret suddenness as distinguished from that revelation which is promised in the Word of God in its due Scriptural position. In 1Tim. 4 we find a passage which though primarily it may refer to Romanism cannot be exhausted by Romanism. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron. forbidding to marry". Spiritism often dealt with marriage "and commanding to abstain from meats". Spiritism often demands vegetarianism and condemns that which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth". I believe that Romanism's arrangements to its priests are partly ruled by Satan to bring about a partial fulfilment of this "forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats" and I believe it was arranged by the devil that they might be in measure spiritistic mediums. Thus we see that spiritism is not so narrow as some would think, but wide in its workings, and we need to be wary even of the attractive introductions to it which disguise themselves under the name of Scientific research, or which attract in their pleasantness those who have no interest in the word of God, such as "table turning". One more passage from the Scripture 1 John 4. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because man

they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of Antichrist" The doctrine of Irvingism which was linked with spiritual manifestations was in error as to the humanity of the Lord Jesus, setting aside its absolute perfectness and linked such false doctrine as teaching of 2Thess.2 condemning concerning a secret coming in of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now we notice here that the Holy Spirit does not deny that there were false prophets. It is evident that there were prophets but false evil prophets who would rise up in the assemblies in those days to counterfeit the word of God. So it has been all along the ages. "This is the spirit of Antichrist" Here we have a solemn lesson, - we see, that spiritism shows much craft and claims to be a great medium. Scripture declared that Antichrist will be a great medium. We rejoice to see the contrast to the demoniacal workings which are brought before us. Oh that God may give us sorrow for the souls in sin and earnest hearts that we may hate and leave everything that grieves Him, or that borders on that mysterious existence of demons which has ruined the lives of so many and will lead on to an eternal hell.

Q. Satan would not have the power to call up a disembodied spirit without Divine permission?

Mr. H. 1 Kings 22 shows that evil spirits are subject to the Lord's over-control and explains how that one went into flattering prophets. So we can well understand the power of evil spirits at the present time. When men prophesy smooth things may it not be that there is an evil power with them. "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran".

Q. The 17th century Quakerism you have been referring to. are the "Friends" of today their descendants?

Mr. H. The present day denomination of "Friends" historically descend from it, but it is somewhat different in its doctrine. At the present time its tendency is not so much prophetic revelation but a lowering of the value of the Scripture. It has passed from the one iniquity of fresh revelations which were evidently demoniacal to become a worldly and broad organisation which is not standing as a whole for the truth of Scripture. The way in which Baptism and the Lord's Supper were set on one side was of course a considerable aid to the introduction of demonism. Quakerism like most isms has had within it those which have not known its history and who have shown marks of children of God. But the system in its early development was far sadder than any of us realise.

Q. What about the "Quietists"?

Mr. H. I should not like suddenly to say all about them, but I believe that there was a tendency toward mysticism, which was used in the case of some to lead to demoniacal revelations. We have the stern and solemn passage in James 1, that if a man goes seeking from the Lord and does not wait on the Lord in the right way, he will not receive anything from the Lord - implying that he will receive from the evil spirit.

Q. Do you say Mr. Heward that demons can enter into the redeemed of the Lord? That having once been saved, demons can re-enter and dwell for any length of time?

Mr. H. I have no Scripture to say so. Q. How do you account then for some in the old dispensation going over to idolatry if they were not under the control of demons-like Solomon and others, offering sacrifices to idols.

Mr. H. There are many strange mysteries in Scripture but I can find no scripture to show that an evil spirit can take up his residence "within" a child of God, in the present dispensation.

Q. You think it would be impossible for an evil spirit to enter a child of God?

Mr. H. I think the indwelling Spirit of God is the answer to that. I cannot imagine one being indwelt by the spirit of Anti-christ and being a child of God.

Q. The Lord's reply to Peter for instance "Get thee behind me Satan" presents a difficulty.

Mr. H. That passage is a very wonderful one. I think it shows first of all that the Lord Jesus viewed Peter as doing Satan's work for the word Satan means an "adversary". "Thou art an adversary to me". Furthermore I believe that an evil spirit can suggest to us to do certain things and cause us to do certain things but "indwelling" is totally different, "Thou savourest not the things of God" is "Thou thinkest" and Peter's thoughts were wrong. Those who know the depths of Satan are viewed as reserved to judgment.

Q. Music and so forth.

Mr. H. Music has a certain relation to evil spirits. I do not say always but it can be used as the case of Saul shows. Men talk about the inspired poets and I have no doubt that all clever writings and all clever workings of those who are lost may be operated by Satan. Satan is undoubtedly leading men on to cleverness in all spheres of life.

Q. What about the passage you mentioned towards the last?

Mr. H. 1 John 4. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God and every spirit that confesseth that Jesus

Christ is not come in the flesh is not of God. Well, I have of late been about with people claiming supernatural gifts, and I must say this, that, if ever a body of people as a body has confessed that Jesus is the Christ they have.

Mr H. I think there are four tests definitely given. This is one test. 2John gives the second test - the coming of Jesus in the flesh (Greek) 1Cor 14 gives the third test. It says "If any one is inspired let him acknowledge what I am writing. Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak". I think you would agree that would test a great many in the so called pentecostal movement. The Holy Spirit particularly mentions this and says "If any one is inspired let him acknowledge it" It is as much a test as Jesus Christ coming in the flesh: and then in 2Thess 2 there is a fourth test. There, the evil spirit declared that Christ's coming was a secret one. Those who believe in a secret coming of Christ are misguided ones, but, if any claim to be inspired and announce the secret coming I should say that it is demonism according to the word of God - and you will find that with the Pentecostal movement there is a good deal of stress upon the secret coming of the Lord Jesus.

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