

# Unmasking Spiritualism: Helping You to Protect Yourself

Bro. Graham F. Watts, Sr.

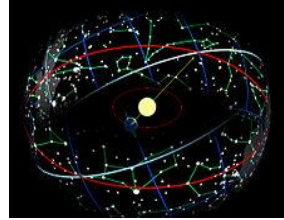
# Study Primer

- Fortune Telling: “The practice of predicting information about a person’s life” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortune-telling>). “...The urge to know one’s future... involves [many] complicated systems.... [For example], Astrology, palmistry and numerology were known in the Middle Ages. ...Playing-cards, ...reading tea leaves and coffee grounds [were known in the 18<sup>th</sup> century]. ...Tarot and crystal-gazing [were known in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century], and the... I Ching..., fanciful cards, runic symbols and so forth [were known in the 20<sup>th</sup> century]. Since the 1960s, interest in such things has greatly increased (<http://www.answers.com/topic/fortune-telling-1> in Davies, 1999a: 130-42, 246-70).

# Study Primer

- Astrology: “[It is] the study of the positions... of celestial bodies in the belief that they... influence... human affairs. ...[It] ...divides [the heavens] according to the 12 constellations of the zodiac”  
(<http://www.answers.com/topic/astrology>) [and this work traces back to “...Median/Neo-Babylonian times, 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE....  
(<http://www.astrology.com.au/astrology/12-signs-of-the-zodiac/>). It is also defined as “...a doctrine about [the] influence of both stars and planets on character and destiny of... human beings”  
(<http://www.gotohoroscope.com/article-the-astrology.html>). “The aim of... Astrology is to help one to become the master of his [or her] destiny” (<http://www.astrologyweekly.com/dictionary/destiny.php>).

# Study Primer



- Zodiac: It is the “...celestial [or ecliptic] coordinate system...” shown in red in the diagram above (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zodiac>), “[in] space surrounding the Earth, ...about 15 degrees wide, in which the planets travel... [...‘from west to east, going through... [the Signs of the Zodiac] from Aries to Pisces’” (<http://www.llewellyn.com/encyclopedia/term/signs%2Bof%2Bthe%2Bzodiac>).
- Zodiacal Circle: It has 12 parts; each part has 30 degrees of space/celestial longitude called the Signs of the Zodiac.... Depending on the time of year, as the earth moves around the Sun, the Sun appears to pass through one of the 12 signs each month and a configuration appears as a creature during the night (<http://www.llewellyn.com/encyclopedia/term/signs%2Bof%2Bthe%2Bzodiac>, (<http://www.astrology.com.au/astrology/12-signs-of-the-zodiac/>).

# Study Primer

## 12 Signs of the Zodiac: Celestial Bodies Configurations

<http://www.astrology.com.au/astrology/12-signs-of-the-zodiac/>; <http://www.llewellyn.com/encyclopedia/term/signs%2Bof%2Bthe%2Bzodiac>



1. Aries  
(Ram)



2. Taurus  
(Bull)



3. Gemini  
(Twins)



4. Cancer  
(Crab)



5. Leo  
(Lion)



6. Virgo  
(Virgin)



7. Libra  
(Scales)



8. Scorpio  
(Scorpion)



9. Sagittarius  
(Archer)



10. Capricorn  
(Goat)



11. Aquarius  
(Water-Beaver)



12. Pisces  
(Fishes)

“...Date of birth determines [your Zodiac sign]” (<http://www.astrology-online.com/persn.htm>).

For example, “Virgo... spans the zodiac between the 150<sup>th</sup> and 179<sup>th</sup> degrees of celestial longitude [and] the Sun transits this area... between August 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup> each year...” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgo\\_\(astrology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgo_(astrology))). “...The twelve signs are held to represent twelve basic personality types or characteristic modes of expression”

“...are divided into three categories of four signs [called Quaternaries, which make up] the Cardinal signs, the Fixed signs and the Mutable signs” (<http://www.astrology.com.au/astrology/12-signs-of-the-zodiac/>). A discussion follows.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astrological\\_sign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astrological_sign)) and “...are divided into three categories of four signs [called Quaternaries, which make up] the Cardinal signs, the Fixed signs and the Mutable signs” (<http://www.astrology.com.au/astrology/12-signs-of-the-zodiac/>). A discussion follows.

# Study Primer

## Zodiac & Date of Birth When the Sun Transits Through the Zodiacal Circle

- “Aries - March 21 - April 20
- Taurus - April 21 - May 21
- Gemini - May 22 - June 21
- Cancer - June 22 - July 22
- Leo - July 23 -August 21
- Virgo - August 22 - September 23
- Libra - September 24 - October 23
- Scorpio - October 24 - November 22
- Sagittarius - November 23 - December 22
- Capricorn - December 23 - January 20
- Aquarius - January 21 - February 19
- Pisces - February 20- March 20” (<http://www.astrology-online.com/persn.htm>).

# Study Primer

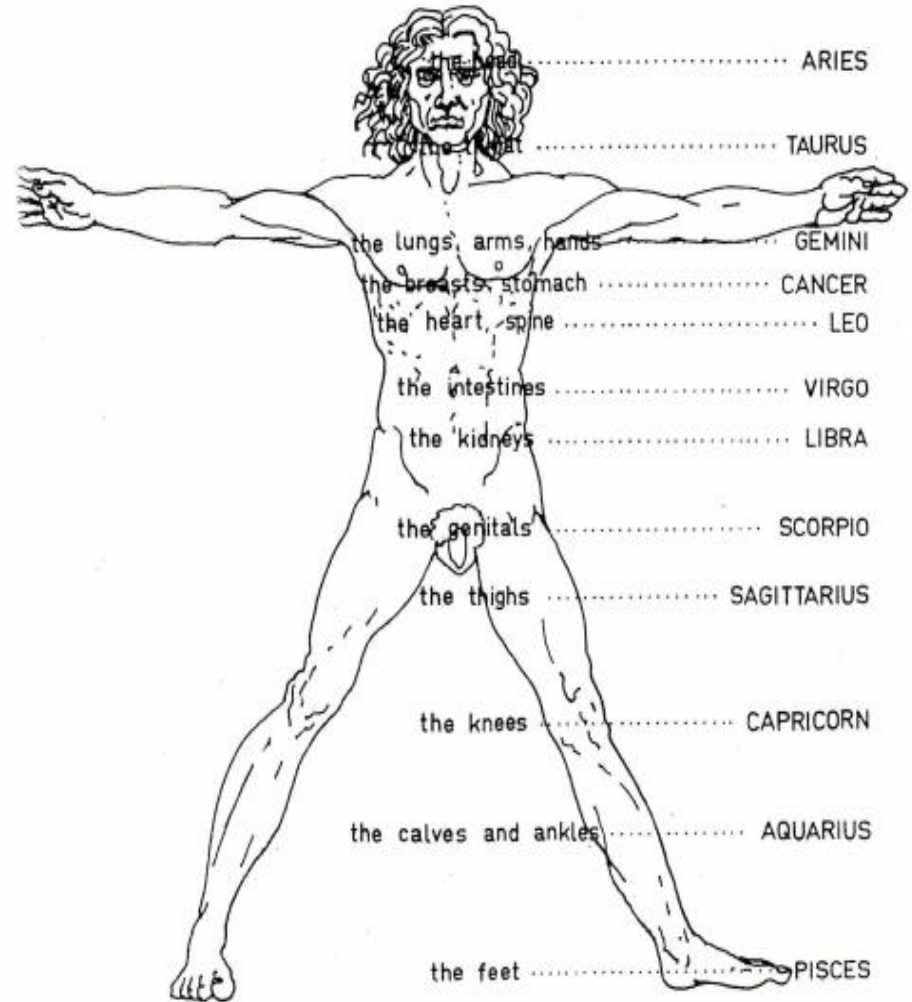
## Groupings of the 12 Signs of the Zodiac

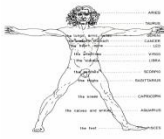
- Masculine signs: odd numbers - 1. Aries, 3. Gemini, 5. Leo, 7. Libra, 9. Sagittarius & 11. Aquarius
  - Feminine signs: even numbers - 2. Taurus, 4. Cancer, 6. Virgo, 8. Scorpio, 10. Capricorn & 12. Pisces
  - Cardinal signs (of dynamic change, movement and great vitality): 1, 4, 7 & 10
  - Fixed signs (of stability, earthiness and fixity, [which] expresses itself in... great willpower): 2, 5, 8 & 11
  - Mutable signs (the adaptable and interchangeable, capable of... molding and modifying circumstances...): 3, 6, 9 & 12 (<http://www.astrology.com.au/astrology/12-signs-of-the-zodiac/>).
- 
- The descriptions associated with each quaternary indicate “personality, [which] is the collection of qualities and traits that are observed... in character or behavior, distinguishing one person from another. [For example, ‘Virgo is... associated with... end of summer and... onset of autumn.... Because its period indicates a change of season, it is known as a mutable sign, which indicates an... ability to let go of past situations...’] ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgo\\_\(astrology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgo_(astrology))). [Knowing one’s Zodiac Sign is key to] understanding... personality, [which] helps... [a person] discover... purpose in life [and] ...learn... strengths and weaknesses...” (<http://www.ask-oracle.com/personality-descriptions-of-the-zodiac-signs/>).

# Study Primer

Each zodiac sign [is assigned meaning] over certain parts and organs of the body: the first sign, Aries, signifying the head, through the 12<sup>th</sup> sign, Pisces, for the feet”  
(<http://www.answers.com/topic/astrology>).

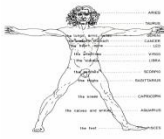
“...Planets... rule the signs [of the Zodiac]  
(<http://members.bitstream.net/~bunlion/bpi/Sign.html>) and the... areas of life experience... associated with them...”  
(<http://www.astrologicalpsychology.org/articlezodiac.html>) and “...the signs are... major determinants of the personality...”  
(<http://members.bitstream.net/~bunlion/bpi/Sign.html>).





# Study Primer

Building on the idea that planets rule the signs of the Zodiac and the... areas of life associated with them, a few examples follow. Mars, the god of war, rules Aries (the ram associated with the head) and typical Aries traits include “aggression, leadership, enterprise, warfare...,” etc. Venus, the goddess of love, rules Taurus (the bull) and typical Taurus traits include “stability..., beauty, pleasure..., love... and stubbornness.” Mercury, the trickster/messenger god, rules Virgo (the virgin) and typical Virgo traits include “...analysis, cleverness, trickery... and changeability.” A complete description of the meaning of the Zodiac signs is available at <http://www.gryphonastrology.com/zodiacsigns.html> and a table follows that links each Zodiac Sign to personality traits.



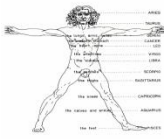
# Study Primer

Zodiac Sign	Some Positive Traits	Some Negative Traits
Capricorn	Practical, ambitious, careful, humorous & reserved	Pessimistic, fatalistic, miserly, grudging, rigid
Aquarius	Friendly, honest, loyal, inventive, independent,	Perverse & unpredictable, unemotional, detached
Pisces	Imaginative, sensitive, compassionate, sympathetic	Idealistic, secretive, weak-willed & easily led
Aries	Adventurous, courageous, confident, quick-witted	Selfish, quick-tempered, impulsive, impatient
Taurus	Patient, reliable, loving, persistent, placid	Jealous, possessive, resentful, inflexible, greedy
Gemini	Adaptable, communicative, eloquent, lively	Nervous and tense, superficial, inconsistent, cunning
Cancer	Loving, intuitive, imaginative, cautious, protective	Moody, over-emotional, touch, clinging
Leo	Generous, warm-hearted, creative, faithful, loving	Patronizing, bossy, dogmatic, intolerant
Virgo	Meticulous, reliable, practical, diligent, analytical	Fussy, over-critical, perfectionist, conservative
Libra	Diplomatic, romantic, easy-going, idealistic	Indecisive, gullible, flirtatious & self-indulgent
Scorpio	Forceful, emotional, intuitive, passionate, exciting	Jealous, resentful, compulsive, obsessive, secretive
Sagittarius	Optimistic, jovial, honest, intellectual philosophical	Careless, irresponsible, superficial and tactless

# Study Primer

- “The signs of the Zodiac can give us great insights into our day to day living as well as the many talents and special qualities we possess. You can discover a great deal of relevant information about yourself through reading about your Zodiac sign”  
([http://www.psychicguild.com/horoscopes\\_explained.php](http://www.psychicguild.com/horoscopes_explained.php)). “...By understanding your astrology you can use that information to transform yourself and space to the best it can be”  
(<http://thehealingjournal.com/node/1962>).

# Study Primer



## Ancient Theory of Elements, Humors/Vital Body Fluids & Temperaments/Personality

<u>Elements</u>	<u>Seasons</u>	<u>Qualities</u>	<u>Humors</u>	<u>Illness/Symptoms</u>	<u>Temperaments</u>
Air	Spring	Hot-moist	Blood	Dysentery/Nose bleeds	Sanguine
Water	Winter	Cold-moist	Phlegm	Sneezing/colds	Phlegmatic
Fire	Summer	Hot-dry	Yellow bile	Fever, vomiting, yellow skin	Choleric
Earth	Autumn	Cold-dry	Black bile	Dry skin, vomiting	Melancholy

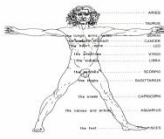
How are these ancient patterns of four connected? A discussion follows!

# Study Primer

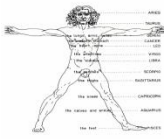


“Empedocles, ...a Sicilian philosopher, poet and physician..., [and] Pythagoras... invented the four-element theory of matter (earth, air, fire, and water) that Hippocrates, [...an ancient Greek physician<sup>2</sup>], ...[used] to develop his humor theory of bodily functions”<sup>1</sup> “Empedocles... called [the] four elements ‘roots’ and associated each with Greek gods—Zeus, Hera, Nestis and Aidoneus. Weather, temperature and seasons were thought to influence the balance of humors and in so doing caused different kinds of illnesses. ...Winter lowered body heat, causing [additional] phlegm [that] resulted in colds and coughs. ...[In contrast], Summer [raised body heat, causing additional bile that resulted] in... diarrhea and vomiting. Mania, [mood changes], also occurred in summers and was seen as... bile boiling in the brain. Blood makes the body hot and wet. [In contrast], Phlegm... [makes the body] cold and wet.... Hippocrates theorized that humors... traveled through the veins... [and that] ...each individual... [has] a unique... makeup of humors and qualities [and], a person whose temperament [or personality] is based on blood is filled with energy; the result is a sanguine personality. [In contrast, a person whose temperament is based on] yellow bile... shows a predilection toward anger; [the result is a] ...choleric... [personality].”<sup>3</sup>

# Study Primer



“Galen, [a] Greek physician, ...developed many of [Hippocrates] teaching..., [and] devised a... typology of temperaments in his dissertation - Die Temperamentis...” ([http://www.thecolourworks.com/pdfs/Hippocrates the Four Humours 2.pdf](http://www.thecolourworks.com/pdfs/Hippocrates%20the%20Four%20Humours%202.pdf)). “...[And before] the advent of medical research in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, [the now discredited theory of the... workings of the human body... {claimed that} ...excess or deficiency of four... body fluids—liquids... from inside... living people {[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodily\\_fluid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodily_fluid)}, ...directly influenced... temperament, that is personality and health]” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humorism>). In Greek thought, “...the Humors..., [present in the bloodstream, were] ...not just... physical substances, they... [were] also... vapors... [that affected] the mind, thoughts and emotions ([http://www.greekmedicine.net/b\\_p/Four\\_Humors.html](http://www.greekmedicine.net/b_p/Four_Humors.html)); and “each of the Humors... could... be combined for... classification of types of personality” ([http://www.kheper.net/topics/typology/four\\_humours.html](http://www.kheper.net/topics/typology/four_humours.html)).

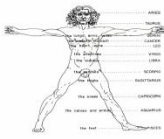


# Study Primer

“The Four Temperaments..., [which trace back to Egypt and Mesopotamia and ancient Greek medicine (<http://www.odportal.com/personality/four-temperaments.htm>)], provided much inspiration and historical reference for [Psychologist] Carl Jung's work [that ‘categorized people... [using] pairs of cognitive functions: ...thinking and feeling; ...sensing and intuition...’ ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological\\_type](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_type))], which in turn provided the... [the foundation] and theory for the development of Myers Briggs and David Keirsey's modern-day personality assessment systems, which correlate with the Four Temperaments...” (<http://www.odportal.com/personality/four-temperaments.htm>).

<b>Isabel Myers, 1950s</b>	<b>Galen C., 190 AD</b>	<b>David Keirsey ,1998</b>
SP Sensing-Perceiving	Sanguine	Artisan
SJ Sensing-Judging	Melancholic	Guardian
NF Intuitive-Feeling	Choleric	Idealist
NT Intuitive-Thinking	Phlegmatic	Rationalist

# Study Primer



“...Old four-part patterns and themes relating to the Four Temperaments...

[have influenced] people's understanding of the world. [View information on

four-part patterns at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Temperament2>].

...But while the causal link between body fluids and health and personality

has not stood the test of time, the analysis of personality via the Four

Temperaments seems to have done so, albeit tenuously in certain models.

...Relating these ancient patterns to the modern interpretation of the Four

Temperaments does not however produce scientifically robust correlations”

(<http://www.odportal.com/personality/four-temperaments.htm>). The Myers-

Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) psychological assessment preferences follows.

# Study Primer

“The 16 personality types, [given by four-letter codes], of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator instrument are... often shown in what is called a ‘type table,’ [appears below].” The letters have the following meaning: E-Extraversion, I-Introversion, S-Sensing, N-Intuition, T-Thinking, F-Feeling, J-Judging & P-Perceiving.

(<http://www.myersbriggs.org/my-mbti-personality-type/mbti-basics/>).

ISTJ	ISFJ	INFJ	INTJ
ISTP	ISFP	INFP	INTP
ESTP	ESFP	ENFP	ENTP
ESTJ	ESFJ	ENFJ	ENTJ

“The statistical validity of the MBTI... has been the subject of criticism”

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myers-Briggs\\_Type\\_Indicator#Four\\_dichotomies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myers-Briggs_Type_Indicator#Four_dichotomies)) and

McCrae and Costa, in J Pers, 1989 Mar; 57(1):17-40, did not find “...support for the view that the MBTI measures truly dichotomous preferences...”

(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2709300>).

# Study Primer

ISTJ	ISFJ	INFJ	INTJ
ISTP	ISFP	INFP	INTP
ESTP	ESFP	ENFP	ENTP
ESTJ	ESFJ	ENFJ	ENTJ

An example of interpreting the four-letter codes of the 16 personality types follows. INTJ stands for Introversion, Intuition, Thinking and Judging. “INTJs tend to be quiet and reserved..., tend to be more abstract than concrete. They focus their attention on the big picture rather than the details and on future possibilities rather than immediate realities. ...They tend to value objective criteria above personal preference. When making decisions they generally give more weight to logic than to social considerations. ...[They] tend to plan their activities and make decisions early. They derive a sense of control through predictability...”

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/INTJ>).

# Study Primer

- Numerology: “The study of the occult meanings of numbers and their... influence on human life. [The] use of numbers to interpret a person's character or divine the future. ...Numerology systems assign numerical values to the letters of one's name and/or birthplace. These are added together to ascertain a basic number, which has a special symbolic interpretation...”  
(<http://www.answers.com/topic/numerology>). “3 is the first sacred number, the first perfect number..., [representing] the Pagan Trinity.... 6 is the next sacred number, representing the number of the soul of a man.... 7 is a sacred number..., the Invisible Center, the Spirit of everything.... 9 is a sacred number...; 11 is a sacred number; [and] 13 is [also a] sacred number...”  
(<http://www.cuttingedge.org/pages/seminar2/NUMBERS.htm>).

# Study Primer

- Palmistry: “The practice... of telling fortunes from the lines, marks, and patterns on the palms of the hands”  
(<http://www.answers.com/topic/palmistry>).
- Tarot: “...A pack of cards..., [which] from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century until the present time... [has been used] by mystics and occultists in efforts at divination, [telling the future], or as a map of mental and spiritual pathways” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarot>).
- Mysticism: Study of the “...states of consciousness... beyond normal human perception...” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticism>).
- Occultism: Study of the “...knowledge of the world of spirits and unknown forces” (<http://www.answers.com/topic/occultism>).

# Study Primer

- Divination: “...The attempt to gain insight into a question or situation by way of an occultic standardized process or ritual”  
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divination>).
- Crystal Gazing: “...A form of divination... achieved through trance induction by means of gazing at a crystal”  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal\\_gazing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_gazing)).
- I Ching: “...Chinese book of divination...”  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I\\_Ching](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Ching)).
- Sorcery: “...The use of power gained from the assistance or control of evil spirit...” (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sorcery>).

# Study Primer

- Enchantment: “A charm or spell created using words. ...In magic, occultism [and] witchcraft, it may be used with the intention of casting a spell on an object or a person”  
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incantation>).
- Spell: “...The word used to signify the means employed to carry out a magical action. A spell could consists of a set of words, a formula or verse, or a ritual action or any combination of these”  
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witchcraft>).

# Study Primer

- Witchcraft: “...The use of... magical powers”  
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witchcraft>).
- Magic: “...Manipulating... reality... by supernatural means or through knowledge of occult laws...”  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spell\\_%28paranormal%29#Magical\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spell_%28paranormal%29#Magical_language)).
- Field of Occult: “...Seeking to attain... Initiation: [‘the development of the higher self...’], which ends in complete, fourfold development—a balanced growth of the body, mind, spirit and Soul...”  
(<http://www.denverspiritualcommunity.org/Wisdom/CompendiumOfOccultLawContents.htm>).

# Significance: Your Need to Know

- “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6, NKJV). “Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord; ...therefore, they shall eat the fruit of their own way and be filled to the full with their own fancies” (Prov 1:29 & 31, NKJV). But God offers this invitation: “Return you backsliding children and I will heal your backsliding...” (Jer 3:22, NKJV). “...I have loved you with an everlasting love...” (Jer 31:3, NKJV). “Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know” (Jer 33:3, NASB). **Your future is not left to chance or planets or the apparent transit of the sun through Signs of the Zodiac.** God holds your future!

# Lay of the Land: Study Outline

1. Established Reference Point
2. Warning against Spiritualism
3. Definition of Spiritualism
4. Originator of Spiritualism
5. Origin of Spiritualism
6. Role of False Prophets in Spiritualism
7. Prophets and Spiritualism Prevention
8. Purpose or Aim of Spiritualism
9. Disguise of Spiritualism
10. Deception of Spiritualism
11. Identifiers of Spiritualism
12. Effect of Spiritualism
13. Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

# Warm-up Group Discussion Questions

1. Should Christians be informed about or remain unaware of spiritualism? Defend your answer!
2. What is the value, if any, of unmasking spiritualism?
3. From the outline, where is this study headed?

# Established Reference Point

- “The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that He has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions” (Deut 29:29, NLT). “The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ, [through whom ‘the Father’ dwelt (John 16:32)], is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. This is the knowledge that works transformation of character. Received into the life, it will re-create the soul in the image of Christ. This is the knowledge that God invites His children to receive, beside which all else is vanity and nothingness” (The Acts of the Apostles, {AA}, 475.1). “The godly need not be deceived IF they are students of the Scriptures AND obedient to follow the plain path marked out for them in the Word of God” (Confrontation, {Con}, 90.1).

# Warning Against Spiritualism

- “When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. ...Do not... practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord.... **...You must be blameless before the Lord your God. ...The Lord your God forbids you to do such things**” (Deut 18:9-12, NLT). “...I am the Lord your God, am a jealous God...” (Exo 20:5, NKJV), “...who has separated you from the peoples” (Lev 20:24, NKJV; 2 Cor 6:17); “...I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself” (Exo 19:4, NKJV). “...Love the Lord your God; ...walk in all His ways; ...keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul” (Josh 22:5, NKJV).

# Definition of Spiritualism

- “The ancient system of magic is... the same as what is now known as modern spiritualism” (AA 289.2). **Spiritualism is a continuation of the ancient system of magic, “...a revival, in a new disguise, of... witchcraft...”** (The Great Controversy, p. 556.2). “Through spiritualism many of the sick, the bereaved [and] the curious are **communicating with evil spirits**” (AA 290.1). “The magicians of heathen times have their counterpart in the spiritualistic mediums, the clairvoyants and the fortune-tellers of today” (AA 290.2). “Wicca is a modern Pagan religion... popularized in the 1950s and early 1960s by a Wiccan High Priest named Gerald Gardner, who at the time called it the ‘witch cult’ and ‘witchcraft’” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicca>).

# Definition of Spiritualism

- “Spiritualism is a belief system... postulating... that spirits of the dead residing in the spirit world have both the ability and the inclination to communicate with the living. Anyone may receive spirit messages, but formal communication sessions (séances) are held by "mediums", who can then provide information about the afterlife”  
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritualism>).

# Originator of Spiritualism

- “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, ...the beast, and ...the false prophet. ...They are the spirits of devils, working miracles...” (Rev 16:13-14).

Spirits of devils prefer working miracles since “...they do not speak according to... [the law and the testimony]...” (Isa 8:20) and they don’t obey the more sure word (2 Pet 1:19).

# Origin of Spiritualism

- “The doctrine of man’s consciousness in death, especially the belief that spirits of the dead return to minister to the living, has prepared the way for modern spiritualism. If the dead are admitted to the presence of God and holy angels, and privileged with knowledge far exceeding what they before possessed, why should they not return to the earth to enlighten and instruct the living” (Darkness Before Dawn, 18.2)? But the apostle Paul dispelled this myth by unequivocally stating that the dead are in their graves (1 Thessalonians 4:15-16).

# Role of False Prophets in Spiritualism

- “The shepherds of My people have lost their senses. They no longer seek wisdom from the Lord...” (Jer 10:21, NLT). “...Though in this age there are many preachers, there is a great scarcity of able, holy ministers—men filled with the love that dwelt in the heart of Christ. Pride, self-confidence, love of the world, faultfinding, bitterness [and] envy are the fruit borne by many who profess the religion of Christ” (AA 328.2). “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture...” (Jer 23:1, NKJV). They are unaware that “through the... error [of] the immortality of the soul... [that] Satan will bring the people under his deceptions” (Christian Service, {ChS}, 160.1). “...The prophets of Jerusalem... walk in lies... [and] strengthen... the hands of evildoers that none... return from... wickedness...” (Jer 23:14). What a massive deception is at work among some the people of God who are led by unwise shepherds and prophets.

# Prophets & Spiritualism Prevention

- God, who is the giver of the breath of life recalls it and people expire. “...The breath of the Almighty... [gives]... life (Job 33:4) and the combination of a lifeless form plus breath of life in the nostrils create a living soul (Gen 2:7). Thus, “...the hand of the Lord... [has] the soul of every living thing and the breath of all mankind” (Job 12:9-10). And when God “...takes away their breath, they die...” (Pss 104:29, NKJV); as in cease to be a living soul and the body “...return to the earth and all their plans die with them” (Pss 146:4, NLT). The parable of Luke 16:19-31 presented in the context of contemporary beliefs and intended to reinforce reading of Moses and the prophets should not be misconstrued as a doctrine that the dead is in heaven.

# Purpose or Aim of Spiritualism

- “As in the days of the apostles men tried by tradition and philosophy to **destroy faith in the Scriptures**, so today, by the pleasing sentiments of higher criticism, evolution, spiritualism, theosophy and pantheism, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to **lead souls into forbidden paths**” (The Acts of the Apostles, {AA}, 474.1). “Wherever an influence is exerted to **cause [people] to forget God**, there Satan is exercising his bewitching power” (AA 290.2).

# Disguise of Spiritualism

- “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are really vicious wolves” (Matt 7:15, NLT).  
“...Many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people” (Matt 24:11, NLT). “...False prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones” (Matt 24:24, NLT). “...False apostles [and] deceitful workers [are] transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ...Satan himself transforms... into an angel of light; therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness...” (2 Cor 11:13-15, NKJV).

# Deception of Spiritualism

- “The teachers of spiritualism come in a pleasing, bewitching manner to deceive you, [as the serpent came to Eve (Gen 3:1 & 4)], and if you listen to their fables, [as did Eve], you are beguiled by the enemy of righteousness and will surely lose your reward [Gen 3:6-7, 23-24; Rev 21:27]. When once the fascinating influence of the arch deceiver overcomes you, you are poisoned, and its deadly influence adulterates and destroys your faith in Christ’s being the Son of God, and you cease to rely on the merits of His blood” (Counsels for the Church, 329.3). “...Have no fellowship with... darkness...” (Eph 5:11).

# Deception of Spiritualism

- “Satan is finding access to thousands of minds by presenting himself under the guise of departed friends” (AA 289.2). King Saul’s experience in 1 Samuel 28:3-20 is on record for our admonition, where in verses 15 and 16, we see that spiritualism is a Satanic deception. Indeed, “...the dead know nothing. ...They no longer play a part in anything here on earth” (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, NLT) and cannot instruct the living in life’s decisions or in righteousness. You should not “...have fellowship with demons” (1 Cor 10:20, NKJV) who come to you disguised.

# Identifiers of Spiritualism

- “Spiritualists call the requirements of God’s law bondage, and say those who obey them live a life of slavish fear. With smooth words and fair speeches they boast of their freedom and seek to cover their dangerous heresies with the garments of righteousness” (Con 90.2). [‘In God we boast all day long...’ (Pss 44:8); in contrast], “they open before the sinner a wide door to follow the promptings of the carnal heart...” (Con 90.3), “but the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it” (Matt 7:14, NLT).

# Effect of Spiritualism

- “Spiritualism declares that... ‘men are unfallen demigods’; that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. **The barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity and reverence are broken down**, and many are thus **emboldened in sin**” (Evangelism, {Ev}, 608.1). “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News...” (2 Cor 4:4, NLT).

# Effect of Spiritualism

- “...Manasseh, king of Judah... [brought] ...evil upon Jerusalem and Judah...” (2 Kings 21:11-12). “For he... worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. ...He built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord and he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom. Also, he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards.... So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen...” (2 Chron 33:3, 5-6 & 9; 2 Kings 21: 6 & 9).  
“Therefore, thus say the Lord God of Israel: ‘...I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies’” (2 Kings 21:12 & 14, NKJV).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- **God walks among and abides with His people** (Gen 3:8; Deut 23:14; 2 Cor 6:16 & John 14:23) and promises to “... never leave... [or] forsake [them]” (Heb 13:5, NKJV); “...[to] direct [their] paths” (Prov 3:6) in His Way (Pss 25:12). Don’t risk loss of fellowship with God; thus, “...the people of God today [are cautioned to]... have **NO** fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them” (Eph 5:11, NKJV in AA 290.2). “Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ” (Col 2:8, NLT).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- “In every generation and in every land **the true foundation for character building** has been the same—**the principles contained in the word of God**. The only safe and sure rule is to do what God says. ‘The statutes of the Lord are right...’ [Pss 19:8, NKJV) and ‘those who lead blameless lives and do what is right... will stand firm forever’ (Pss 15:2 & 5, NLT) [‘...for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed’ (1 Sam 2:3)]. ‘**The Lord your God will delight in you if you obey His voice and keep the commands and decrees written in this Book of Instruction, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul**’”] (The Acts of the Apostles, {AA} 475.2).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- It is imperative for us that we do not “...say unto God, ‘Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways’” (Job 21:14). “For to a person who is **good**, [Pss 37:23], in His sight, [out ‘...of the {depth of} the wisdom and knowledge of God’ (Rom 11:33)], He... [gives] wisdom, knowledge and joy...” (Ecc 2:26, NASB) because He regards exercise of mercy and the obedience to the knowledge of Himself more highly than sacrifice and burnt offerings (Hos 6:6 & 1 Sam 15:22).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- “The divine law: ‘Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart; ... and thy neighbor as thyself’ (Luke 10:27), the great principle made manifest in the character and life of our Savior, is the only secure foundation and the only sure guide” (Education, {Ed}, 228.4). “It is as true now as when the words were spoken to Israel of obedience to His commandments: ‘This is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations’” (Deut 4:6 in Ed, 229.2).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- We must pray “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give... [us] the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Eph 1:17, NKJV). Ask “to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:19, NKJV); “that [we] may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col 1:10, NKJV).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- God has a specific, spiritual growth pattern for His children. He gave each of them a measure of faith (Rom 12:3), and by obeying the Word of God through the operation of the Holy Spirit (1 Pet 1:22), they cooperate with divinity and “...add to [their] faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these... [attributes are within], and abound, ...[they] shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of... Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 1:5-8) because “grace and peace [will] be multiplied unto [them] through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Pet 1:2).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- We are in the race for immortality (1 Cor 15:50-53).  
“...Those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the [first] prize. Run in such a way that you may win” (1 Cor 9:24, NASB). “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Heb 12:1, NASB) because “eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things, which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor 2:9, NKJV).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- “...You must be blameless before the Lord, your God. ...The Lord, your God forbids you... [from consulting] sorcerers and fortune-tellers. ...The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet... from among your fellow Israelites... [and] will put... words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him” (Deut 18:13-15, & 18, NLT). “...Believe in the Lord your God, so shall [you] be established; believe his prophets, so shall [you] prosper” (2 Chron 20:20).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- “...I now teach you these decrees and regulations just as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy. Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim: ‘How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation!’ For what great nation has a god as near to them as the Lord our God [who] is near to us whenever we call on him?” (Deut 4:5-7, NLT)? Even today, “...Christ Jesus... [remains] unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor 1:30).

# Our Only Safeguard against Spiritualism

- What decrees and regulations shall we keep? “...All the sacrificial offerings, [which] ...prefigured the death of the Son of God, in which type met antitype, and after which the rites and ceremonies of the Mosaic dispensation were no longer binding” (The Acts of the Apostles, {AA} 189.3) is no longer “....living faith, ...[but] dead formalism” because “that which they shadowed forth had come to pass, and those who were living under the gospel dispensation had been freed from their observance. [However], God’s unchangeable law of Ten Commandments...” did **NOT** prefigure the death of Christ (AA 190.1) and is now written upon the mind (Heb 8:10) and all who love Christ keep them (John 14:15). “[God has already visited the Gentiles] ...to take out of them a people for His name” (Acts 15:14) and at this time, “[His] angel..., carrying the seal of the living God, ...[is placing] the seal of God on the foreheads of His servants” (Rev 7:2-3). Live so that you will receive the seal of God!

# Post Study Group Discussion Questions

1. Should Christians be informed about or remain unaware of spiritualism? Defend your answer!
2. What is the value, if any, of unmasking spiritualism?
3. What did this study mean to you?