

SPIRIT COMMUNICATIONS

God's plan to rightly relate the unseen with its spirits, to the seen with its spirits is the only one ever made. It is sane and righteous. All we know of the unseen, its spirits and their occupations has been revealed to us by God. He tells that angels go on His errands. One visited Abraham. Others sang when Jesus was born. There was a great earthquake in Calvary's awful hour. Saints came out of their graves and appeared to many in Jerusalem. God sent them that by their presence they might give added emphasis to the ministry of Jesus. This shows that God alone has power to send redeemed spirits from the unseen.

Witchcraft claimed to be able to call spirits from the unseen. In practice this denied that God alone had power to send spirits from the unseen. God banned this under penalty of death. He said "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live. It has been stated that Samuel's appearance to Saul proves the genuineness of spirit calling. It proves just the reverse. Had God sent Samuel because the witch of Endov, tried to summon him, He would have been approving from heaven above the very thing He had forbidden on earth under penalty of death. God sent Samuel to warn Saul of his death on the morrow; and, by his presence to reprove the witch for presuming to attempt that which God had forbidden. When, in earlier years the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul he prophesied until people said, Is Saul also among the prophets? He then felt no desire to consult spirit-callers. In his better days Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits and the wizards out of the land. When he backslid, and God did not answer him by prophets, Saul sought a woman with a familiar spirit. His servants said, There is one at Endov. Disguising himself Saul came to Endov's medium and requested that she bring up by the familiar spirit him whom he should name unto her. The woman said, whom shall I bring up into thee? He said Samuel. When the woman saw Samuel she said, why hast thou deceived me, for thou art Saul. Can an acted lie and a deceiving medium produce the dead? We are asked to believe that this lying combination wrought this miracle. Samuel's words to Saul does not mean that all go to one place; nor do they necessarily mean that Saul and his sons would be with Samuel in God's kingdom of glory on the morrow. In effect Samuel said to Saul, I am dead. Tomorrow, you and your sons will be where I am, among the dead. It is evident Saul understood Samuel thus; for he fell full length upon the ground. This warning called him to repent. We hope he did. Rev. Dr. Adam Clark supports this view. He also says: "I believe that the woman of Endov had no power over Sampel, and that no incantation can avail over any departed saint of God, nor indeed over any human disembodied spirit. I believe Samuel did actually appear to Saul, and that he was sent by the especial mercy of God to warn this infatuated being of his approaching death that he might have an opportunity to make his peace with his maker.

I believe that the woman found, from the appearance, that her real or pretend-

ed charms had no effect, and that what now took place came from a totally different disposition of things from those with which she was conversant."

The appearance of Moses and Elias to Jesus and his disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration is quoted to bolster up the idea that disembodied spirits can be summoned from the unseen by human agency. Let us consider what occurred on that sacred spot. Jesus took Peter, James and John and went up into a mountain to pray. As he prayed he was transfigured. These disciples were unwilling that Jesus should die. He would prove it to be God's purpose by heaven-sent spirits. Moses and Elias appeared talking with them and spake of his decease that he would accomplish at Jerusalem. He would prove to them his sonship. A bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice therefrom said, This is my beloved son; hear him. Here Jesus appears as the way to God and to the reception of messages from unseen spirits. No medium save Jesus was needed.

Human attempts to call spirits from the unseen evidences a lack of faith in God. When Job lost all his children he worshipped saying, The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. The disciples took up the body of John the Baptist and buried it and went and told Jesus. They did not consult a clairvoyant. Tell it to Jesus as they did.

Consulting a medium is as truly sinful as being one. God says, There shall not be found among you one that useth divination, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard or a necromancer. In spite of God's command multitudes consult mediums. Walk with God and you will know all of the unseen and its spirits that He choose to reveal. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him because sent of God. His guardians are sufficient. The great cloud of witnesses that watch God's saints run the heavenly race will bring to us any message God sends by any of them. Let no medium supplant God and His messengers. Consult God through Jesus and you will be satisfied. Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation.

B. T. G.

THE RULE AND THE EXCEPTION.

Yesterday I wrote "God's word and the Family." There I tried to show that there exists a divine law or rule whereby it is easier for a father or mother to gain the ear of God in behalf of his or her own child than for the children of other people. It is a common saying that "there are exceptions to all rules." Another saying is, "The exception proves the rule."

So in this rule there is one sad exception. But the bright side is that this exception tends to prove the rule. Turn to Ezek. 14:20 and read, "Though Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall deliver but their own souls by their righteousness." No one will question but that this exception emphasizes the rule. For it is clearly implied in these words that the first and most likely persons to be delivered by the intercession of these three righteous men would be their own sons and daughters.

In this instance, a little study shows us just why the children of godly parents may be lost. The whole of the City of Jerusalem had become worldly and were "trespassing grievously." The young people were like all the others, fashionable.

The case of "just Lot" will let in light on this exception to our rule. For when "Lot which married his daughters, and said, 'Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. . . he seemed as one that mocked unto them.'"

So the angel hastened Lot, saying, "Arise, take thy wife and thy two daughters which are here, and . . . escape for thy life." It seems that his other daughters were lost together with their ungodly husbands. They were wedded to the spirit of worldliness; for "if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

It is plain that God will hear the cry of a righteous parent for his own child, before He will the pleadings of other righteous people for the same child. Also we may safely say that parents can intercede and prevail for their children unless such children are so wedded to worldliness as to be unsavable. In other words, God will hear and answer the prayers of all righteous parents, for the salvation of a son or daughter who has not crossed the "dead line," and sinned against light until the Holy Spirit in grief has said, "Ephraim is joined to his idols, leave him alone."

These cases, however, are desperate ones, and should be rare. It is well for all parents to remember the mistake of Eli who failed to "restrain" his sons." Then Lot, you will recall, left the simple country life and moved to the city, where the worldly spirit proved too strong for the mother and the other daughters.

I like to believe that all the children of righteous parents who walk in the center of God's will, may, without exception, be saved in answer to the prayers and efforts of their fathers and mothers.

H. C. SANDERS.

SHE'S DEAD ALL RIGHT

A number of years ago Mrs. Mary Baker, Patterson, Glover Eddy, the founder and head of the Christian Science cult, died. She actually died, although she did not believe in death. She was buried, although she did not believe in a graveyard. Not a few of her deluded followers believed that she would be resurrected like Jesus Christ, but as the years come and go the old lady still sleeps with no hopes of her ever coming forth.

Years later some Christian Scientists desired to build a monument over Mrs. Eddy's grave. This was strenuously opposed by other Christian Scientists, who said, to build a monument is tantamount to admitting that Mrs. Eddy is dead, and she did not believe in death. They were in a great fix. She is dead or else she is not.

The inconsistencies of this absurd cult lead them into many a ludicrous position. But they always try to wiggle out. It's a strange mystery, that many seemingly good and bright people are so easily deluded by a cult teaching such glaring nonsense. But here is a fact, while Christian Science is teaching primarily a false religion, Mrs. Eddy sleeps in her grave as dead as anybody. Yes, she is dead all right! Put up the monument. —Herald of Holiness.