"A wise skepticism is the first attribute of a good critic."

— Shakespeare

CHAPTER IV

I. THE ROLE OF SKEPTICISM

A. The dictionary definition of skepticism is a good one:

“A doubting or questioning attitude or state of mind...”

B. An overt skepticism is an absolutely indispensable attitude in your approach to psychic studies. You can be duped unless you are constantly on the alert — *keep your eyes and ears open!*

1. The late Arthur Ford once made the statement that all of the great psychic researchers began their work as complete skeptics.

2. It is far better to believe too little than too much.

3. *Truth is self-authenticating!* What you read and experience must ring true for you. Dr. Leslie D. Weatherhead, the English Methodist minister, said this in his outstanding book, *The Christian Agnostic:*

   “Truth has no authority, no value in personality, until it authenticates itself, until the mind leaps up and sees it true, and accepts it, not because its truth is imposed, or its refusal dreaded, but because it is seen to be true...”

C. With any psychic experience, look for the most logical explanation. Can that experience be accounted for by what we currently know scientifically? It is vital that you seek a *natural* explanation first rather than the paranormal.

1. “…Parapsychology guards and guides itself on the axiom that if an occurrence can be explained reasonably to be the result of familiar physical forces, it must not be attributed to psychic force...”

D. It is wise to remember the words of the Harvard psychologist, William James:

“...I personally am as yet neither a convinced believer in parasitic demons, nor a spiritist, nor a scientist, but still remain a psychical researcher waiting for more facts before concluding...”

1. William James made another statement that has achieved immortality, and we should keep it constantly in mind in the midst of our doubt and skepticism:

   “...If you wish to upset the law that all crows are black, you must not seek to show that no crows are; it is enough if you prove one single crow to be white...”

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'Ibid, p. 41.
E. The Reverend Charles Slap, instructor in parapsychology, American River College in California, has said that, "The two curses of parapsychology are those who will believe anything and those who will believe nothing."

F. Move cautiously in your study and investigation. Nurture your healthy skepticism and doubt. Remember, truth IS self-authenticating.

**DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH PSYCHIC PHENOMENA**

1. **FRAUD**

A. Be alert to the possibilities of fraud.

1. Fraud has been discovered more in the areas of physical phenomena (materialization, spirit photography, apports, etc.) than mental phenomena (trance communications, automatic writing, healing, etc.).

B. More than one prominent medium has been caught cheating. Witness the mediumship of famed Italian Eusapia Palladino.

"...The great medium Palladino...produced flawless psychic phenomena when under rigid and skeptical scientific observation, but when this was relaxed she cheated flagrantly..."

1. "...Almost at the outset of the Spiritualist movement, i.e., in 1851, three doctors, professors of the University of Buffalo, N.Y., demonstrated that the rappings which attended the Sisters Fox were produced by the manipulation of the knee and toe joints..."

2. "...Some of the persons purporting to be mediums are little else than tricksters. Some, however, have certain paranormal gifts, but occasionally cheat consciously or unconsciously when these gifts, which are not under their control, happen not to be functioning. Thus, to divide persons purported to be mediums into honest and dishonest ones would be as naive as it would be so to divide men in general, or to divide men into truth tellers and liars. What is important for scientific purposes about a given medium is not whether some, perhaps many, of the phenomena which occur in his presence are spurious, but whether any of them, perhaps only a few, are genuinely paranormal."

3. "...I am waiting anxiously and fearlessly for the moment when I can show the world, by personal demonstration, that all Spiritualism is a fraud and a deception..."

4. A storm of controversy has erupted around the young Israeli psychic Uri Geller. This is the man who bends forks and keys, fixes watches that have stopped and demonstrates amazing powers of telepathy. When I saw him in St. Louis, in Seattle and Anchorage, he appeared authentic with a flair for showmanship.

   a. One summer evening in 1978, Uri Geller attended a lawn party across the street from my house in Alaska. My next door neighbor was there discussing my son's hearse with Uri. It was parked in front of the house. They were looking over there and joking around. My son also had a Barracuda parked in the driveway. A few hours later the torsion bar snapped on the Barracuda and the front end pitched forward. When the neighbors heard the noise, they thought something had exploded.

Was that coincidence? Or did Uri unknowingly weaken the bar while joking around? We had driven the car earlier that evening and there was no indication that anything was wrong with the vehicle. (Claire Fostervold, student, 1979)

C. Gimmicks can be purchased that will make tables wobble, produce spirit raps, and even allow you to see through a blindfold. The Robert Nelson Enterprises sells such wonders. The address: 336 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

D. To help eliminate the possibility of fraud, investigators have used the strictest vigilance, especially in the seance room, and highly scientific controls have been imposed.

E. **REMEMBER:**
   1. Proof of fraud is not necessarily disproof of psychic ability.
   2. There are cheats and frauds in all lines of endeavor; fraudulent lawyers, clergymen, doctors, Congressmen, and even presidents.
   3. Parapsychology seems to be a focal point when accusations of fraud are made primarily because critics, especially scientific, fear that, among other things, their world view will be threatened.

II. **DON'T ENDANGER YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE:**

A. Too much reliance upon psychic phenomena can endanger your spiritual life. We are to worship the living God and none other. Our homage is to Him and Him alone. We are not to pattern our lives solely upon astrological observations, the precognitive utterances of mediums, or such things as messages reaching us through automatic writing.
   1. Psychic experiences aren't necessarily spiritual.

B. There are many persons who are completely turned off by the church. Psychic or metaphysical groups are often looked upon as a substitute.
   1. We have a clear channel to God through prayer, meditation, and the study of the Bible. The insights of psychic phenomena, put in their proper perspective, are part and parcel of our religious life and are not to be considered as substitutes or alternatives.

C. "...It does seem to me that one can say that psychic phenomena contribute to our understanding of religious experience. This is not to say that all psychic events are religious. It is to say that at certain points the two touch, and a fuller understanding of the one can contribute to a fuller understanding of the other."  
   1. To sum up—religion has a definite psychic dimension.

D. There is a craving among persons to unlock the secrets of the future, and there is always the temptation to rely upon the wisdom and advice of psychically gifted men and women. There is no problem unless such advice begins to supplant God's wisdom and guidance.
   1. "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God..."  

III. **DANGER SIGNS**

A. Occasionally psychologically disturbed persons will be attracted to the paranormal. They are seeking solutions to difficult personal problems. They are searching for an emotional anchor.


"Exodus 20:4-5."
B. Occasionally persons with a physical or mental illness may refrain from seeking professional help because of contact with a “healer.” Healers are not intended as substitutes for professional help. Doctors and psychologists on occasion cooperate with psychic healers.

C. Some individuals are very suggestible and gullible and believe everything they hear, especially when involved in a seance (sitting).

D. Too fervent an interest in psychic matters may result in a person becoming “otherworldly.” He or she may tend to neglect the responsibilities of this world. This may be especially true for one who is overly concerned with survival of death.

E. It is unfortunately true that involvement in the psychic has caused even strong friendships to rupture. The field is still very suspect in the eyes of many. The greatest antagonists are those in the church, notably the conservatives and ardent fundamentalists. They look upon parapsychology as tantamount to socializing with the “devil.”

F. It is possible in the future that facets of the parapsychological could be used to control human behavior. This is an Orwellian concept, but when you are dealing with the mind, such control is possible. The Russians are well aware of this potential.

Do you think you have successfully absorbed the material in the first four chapters? Test yourself! The questions below cover what you have just studied. Answer them and then turn in the text to the specific sections covered by your self-testing. How well did you do? It is necessary to master what you have studied thoroughly before moving on in the text. One lesson builds upon another and there is a definite relationship to the whole.

LESSONS ONE THROUGH FOUR

1. What is your personal definition of the word parapsychology? Put this definition in your own words.

2. Is it valid to make a distinction between subjects that could be legitimately termed parapsychological and subjects that are legitimately termed occult? For instance, would astrology be a proper study for the parapsychologist?

3. What does the term supernatural mean to you? Why is it a poor term? What term would you use?

4. In your own words, explain the importance of glossaries.

5. Everyone has had a telepathic experience and I’m sure you have. Could you give an example of a personal experience?

6. Give your personal opinion of psychic healing.

7. In the Bible, the Book of Matthew, Chapter 14, verse 25, there is an incident where Jesus walks on the water. In your opinion, is it possible that others have defied gravity in this way? Give examples from the course.

8. In your own words, what are poltergeists?

9. Why is skepticism important in the field of psychic studies?
   a. Can a person be too skeptical?
   b. What would it take to convince you that a particular psychic phenomenon is genuine?

10. What is your personal reaction to the term “Truth is self-authenticating?”
11. Why is it that fraud is such a problem in psychical research?

12. You have undoubtedly heard of the young Israeli psychic? Do you believe he is authentic? If so, why? If not, why?

13. Religion definitely has a psychic dimension. But too much reliance upon psychic phenomena, especially mediumship, can create grave dangers to a person's spiritual life.

a. What is your reaction to the statement above that religion definitely has a psychic dimension?
"It argues ill for the boasted freedom of opinion among scientific men, that they have so long refused to institute a scientific investigation into the existence and nature of facts asserted by so many competent and credible witnesses, and which they are freely invited to examine when and where they please. For my own part, I too much value the pursuit of truth, and the discovery of any new fact in nature, to avoid enquiry because it appears to clash with prevailing opinions..."

— Sir William Crookes

CHAPTER V

I. THE CRITICS OF THE PSYCHIC

A. Sherwood Eddy, writing in his book, You Will Survive After Death, says that: "...There is no field or area of life today that must meet such bitter, obstinate, and often unreasoning prejudice as the psychic field..."

1. Through the years the field of the paranormal has been surrounded by fraud, hustlers and charlatanry. (Review Chapter IV.)

2. In the mind's eye people find it extremely difficult to divorce the practice of magic from psychic phenomena.

3. The accusation has been made that interest in psychic matters is merely a fad. The attitude is, "This, too, will pass away."

II. THE WARINESS OF SCIENCE

A. There has been great difficulty in verifying parapsychological data and, especially, in convincing some individuals that there is really anything to verify in the first place.

1. ...Parapsychology has had no difficulty seeking out phenomena worthy of investigation, but it has encountered considerable difficulty in verifying 'even the simplest alleged phenomena of a psi nature.' The elusiveness of the repeatable experiment; the replication of one experimenter of the findings of another, remains a serious—perhaps fatal—weakness by accepted scientific standards...2

2. Parapsychologists must precisely define what they mean by a repeatable experiment, comformable to the discipline's own purposes.

B. The charge has been made that some researchers are slipshod in their investigations. Shoddy, or research of poor quality, is occasionally presented.

1. ...The situation is not helped at all by the 'proofs' that fail to satisfy traditional canons of scientific investigations. Despite the published discoveries, despite the indefatigable explorations of the psychic researchers, no one has yet been able to document experiments sufficiently to convince the infidel. For many, doubt grows larger with each extravagant claim.3

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3"Boom Times on the Psychic Frontier," Time, March 4, 1974, p. 66.
C. I mentioned previously that many scientists reject the paranormal because it does not fit in with their particular "world view."

1. William James asked this question:
   ...Why do so few 'scientists' ever look at the evidence for telepathy, so called? Because they think, as a leading biologist, now dead, once said to me, that even if such a thing were true, scientists ought to band together to keep it suppressed and concealed. It would undo the uniformity of nature and all sorts of other things without which scientists cannot carry on their pursuits...

D. In December, 1969, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the most prestigious organization of scientists in the world, officially admitted the Parapsychological Association into membership.

1. *Psychic Magazine* reported that:
   ...By this action, the world's largest organization of scientists gave the most significant recognition of ESP research in history. In effect, the affiliation of parapsychology's research methods have been deemed sound and appropriate and that the study of paranormal phenomena is a valid area for research.

III. THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH

A. Among the most fervent foes of the study and further development of the psychic are the evangelicals or fundamentalist Christians.

1. All things of a parapsychological or psychical nature are termed "satanic"; a thing of the "devil."
   a. "Without exception, those who have become involved in any form of occultism will eventually suffer satanic oppression in some manner...
   b. The fundamentalists would cite all aspects of the psychic, even telepathy which reputable scientists have confirmed, as an abomination unto the Lord.
   c. Involvement in any phase of the paranormal supposedly breaks the First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me."
   d. ...In view of the statements of Scripture which must remain the only measuring rod for all true Christians, there is only one conclusion that a Christian can arrive at, and that is that the spirits which so communicate, are not highly evolved 'spirit guides' and the souls of dead persons, but actually demons impersonating dead people...

2. When the Bible is taken literally and held to be absolutely infallible and without error, then the interpreter would obviously have to believe such Scripture passages as:
   ...When you come into the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, any one who practices divination, a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a medium, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord; and because of these abominable practices the Lord your God is driving them out before you. You shall be blameless before

Exodus 20:3
the Lord your God. For these nations, which you are about to dispossess, give heed to soothsayers and to diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you so to do.*

a. Study the following passages in your Bible:
   - Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27
   - 1 Samuel, Chapter 28 (The Woman of Endor)
   - 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14
   - Ecclesiastes 9:5

b. If an interpreter takes the above passages literally, would not the following have to be taken literally also:
   ...Happy shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock.*

B. Study the Bible in a responsible manner, critically. Dig under the words themselves in order to grasp the "sense of Scripture." We need, as intelligent interpreters, to understand something of the times in which such passages were written. What was the political, social, economic and religious situation at the time such passages were written? Only as we attempt to answer such questions will we fully understand why such proscriptions are found in the Bible.

C. A step forward. The 188th General Assembly (1976) of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. approved a "Report on Occult and Psychic Activities." The report was prepared by a task force appointed by the Church's Advisory Council on Discipleship and Worship, following a year's intensive study and research. While the denomination's General Assembly was cautious in its approval of the lengthy report, it was on the whole fair and objective. In one section of the report, the statement is made:
   ...since we live under the injunction 'By their fruits you shall know them' are there evidences of God's spirit in the midst of the phenomena, albeit, unacknowledged by the participants? This task of discernment is the ongoing responsibility of God's people. The community of faith, aware of its own traditions, in its study of the Word, relies on God's Spirit to lead it to the truth.*

The Task Force recommended seven guidelines for those confronted with occult and psychic questions:

1. "Does the psychic event or phenomenon lead us as total persons — heart, soul and mind — to love the Lord our God, putting no other gods before him, and to love our neighbors as ourselves?"

2. "Does it witness to the sovereignty of God as the ultimate source of possibility, power, and resources; or is it egocentric and manipulative, concerned primarily with private power?"

3. "Does it honor God's chosen means of self-revelation: his Son, his Word, and his Spirit?"

4. "Does it honor God's creation, both nature and humanity, in terms of fostering wholeness, reconciliation, and a posture of self-sacrificial servanthood rather than exploitation in both personal and societal terms? Is 'the unlovable' and the enemy given at least equal status within this redemptive framework? Is human need, bodily as well as spiritual, an item of concern and action?"

5. "Is it open to the infinite variety of God's work in the world, with humble recognition that 'His ways are not our ways,' leaving room for unknowns, for natural and general revelation, for fellowship with any and all human beings,"

*Deuteronomy 18:9-14.
*Psalm 137:9.
whenever their faith, ethnicity or theology, providing they do not despoil the human or seek to subvert love and community?"

6. "Does it produce in the long run, the 'fruits of the Spirit': love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?"

7. "Does it promote humility, a recognition that we do not yet see God 'face to face' but only 'through a glass darkly,' that much is yet incomprehensible or unknown, that we yet have much to learn and perhaps to relearn about his ways."

The report was intended "To invite further study by individuals and congregations in light of the guidelines." An outstanding annotated bibliography was appended to the report.

The crux of the matter is that information was made available for study allowing individuals to make up their own minds as to the authenticity of the materials studied.

IV. CAUTION

A. We live in a scientific age. Relatively little is accepted that has not been ratified by science.

B. "...When an idea offends us, we try to destroy it by argument; and when that fails, we try to ignore it; and when that is no longer possible, we hope to suppress it by violence..."\[57x462\]

V. ANYTHING NEW IS USUALLY OPPOSED

A. Sir Oliver Lodge speaks wisely:

...Very well, still more is the time not quite ripe for our subject; pioneers must expect hard knocks, the mind of a people can change only slowly. Until the mind of a people is changed, new truths born before their time must suffer the fate of other untimely births; and the prophet who preaches them must expect to be mistaken for a useless fanatic, of whom every age has always had too many, and must be content to be literally or metaphorically put to death, as part of the process of the regeneration of the world.\[98x349\]

B. Even when parapsychological evidence is available (the facts are in), there are many religious and scientific scoffers who refuse to believe; all this is in the face of irrefutable fact.

1. "Scientists welcome minor changes in their thinking but vigorously oppose major changes."

C. Copernicus, who laid the foundations for modern astronomy, proved that the sun is the center of a great system and the earth is one of its planets, rotating on its axis around it. He was bitterly opposed and persecuted by the Church. His major work, On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres, wasn't printed until thirty years after it was written and only because the author was on his deathbed.

D. Galileo, who laid the foundation for the science of mechanics, and discoverer of the first laws of motion, was the target of the ecclesiastics of his day. They bitterly opposed and attacked his discoveries in astronomy and called his telescope "an instrument of the devil." He was forced to recant what he profoundly believed.

1. Scientists of the calibre of Kepler and Isaac Newton came under heavy attack for their revolutionary discoveries.

E. When Charles Darwin published his epoch-making Origin of Species in 1859, it was as if the "devil" himself had written it. Theologians assailed it and even today the attacks continue. How dare Darwin question the Book of Genesis and its words telling how the..."
world was created in six days? The battle joined those who believe in "special creation" and those who accepted Darwin's thesis concerning evolution.

F. "In 1862 the storm of opposition burst and controversy raged at the appearance of modern historical criticism upon the publication of Bishop Colenso's *The Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua Critically Examined..."* 

G. Anything new is usually strenuously opposed because it upsets our well-ordered systems. We are creatures of habit and thoroughly dislike the new and the untried.

1. Thus, opposition to the psychic and the vast amount of prejudice it creates among persons who are afraid of the new should receive merits as well as demerits. While we can do without prejudice, it is wise to be circumspect and prudent in our study and investigation of psychic phenomena.

H. **NOTE**

1. History records that the church over the centuries has often been the prime instrument for persecution of those who have advanced new ideas and scientific discoveries. And, theologians have often born the brunt of savage attacks when they dared to question what is too frequently the "sacrosanct" teachings of the church. Witness Michael Servetus, who in 1533, was burned at the stake for his "Unitarian heresy."

2. William James summed it up beautifully when he said:

"There is no pain in the world like the pain of a new idea."
"The thought of death leaves me in perfect peace, for I have a firm conviction that our spirit is a being of indestructible nature; it works on from eternity to eternity; it is like the sun, which though it seems to set to our mortal eyes, does not really set, but shines on perpetually."

— Goethe

CHAPTER VI

1. THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPIRITUALISM

Modern parapsychology owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Spiritualism for keeping alive interest in human personality and its survival of death and communication between this side and the other side. This foundation has provided researchers with invaluable data accumulated over the past 125 years.

A. What is Spiritualism?

1. "Spiritualism is the Science, Philosophy and Religion of continuous life, based upon the demonstrated fact of communication, by means of mediumship, with those who live in the Spirit World."

   a. ...The Phenomena of Spiritualism consists of Prophecy, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, Gift of Tongues, Laying on of Hands, Healing, Visions, Trance, Apports, Levitation, Raps, Automatic and Independent Writings and Paintings, Voice, Materialization, Photography, Psychometry and any other manifestation proving the continuity of life as demonstrated through the Physical and Spiritual senses and faculties of man.

2. Spiritualism isn't anything new. Belief in the survival of human personality after bodily death and communication with those on the "other side" are as old as human history.

   a. Modern Spiritualism dates from about 1848, and we look to the small village of Hydesville, New York, for its genesis. John D. Fox, his wife and two daughters, Kate and Margaret, moved into a house in Hydesville and beginning in 1848 began to hear raps and noises. It was finally assumed that the disturbances were attempts to communicate.

      (1) ...On his wife's suggestion John Fox shook the window sashes to see if they were loose. Kate observed that the noises seemed to reply to her father's window shaking, and she suggested asking the noise to respond to the snapping of her fingers. It did just that. Margaret joined in by clapping her hands four times. Four raps came in reply, terrifying the young girl. Their mother took over and asked the agency responsible for the noises to make one rap for no and two for yes. This is part of her account, signed four days later.

'Ibid., p. 37.
b. Thus, the Hydesville experiences, these rappings, provided the catalyst that resulted in the birth of the Spiritualist movement.

(1) A few years earlier than the Hydesville incident, Andrew Jackson Davis, the Poughkeepsie Seer, wrote a book about spirits called The Principles of Nature, Her Divine Revelations. Davis and the Fox sisters gave the needed impetus and set the organizational pattern of Spiritualism. Davis had great influence on the emergence of Modern Spiritualism.

3. Spiritualism's Declaration of Principles

a. Not all Spiritualists, but many, recognize the following Principles of the National Association of Spiritualist Churches:

(1) "We believe in Infinite intelligence.

(2) "We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite intelligence.

(3) "We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion.

(4) "We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.

(5) "We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.

(6) "We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: 'Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye also unto them.'

(7) "We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual and that he makes his own happiness as he obeys or disobeys nature's physical and spiritual laws.

(8) "We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any human soul here or hereafter.

(9) "We affirm that the Precepts of Prophecy contained in the Bible are a divine attribute proven through mediumship.''

4. What Spiritualism Is and Does

a. "It teaches personal responsibility.

b. "It removes all fear of death, which is really the portal of the spirit world.

c. "It teaches that death is not the cessation of life, but mere change of condition.

d. "It teaches, not that a man has a soul, but that man is a soul and has a body.

e. "That man is a spiritual being now, even while encased in flesh.

f. "That as man sows on earth he reaps in the life to come.

g. "That those who have passed on are conscious — not asleep.

h. "That communication between the living and the 'dead' is scientifically proved.

i. "It thus brings comfort to the bereaved and alleviates sorrow.

j. "Spiritualism is a Science, Philosophy and Religion of continuous life based upon the demonstrated fact of communication, by means of mediumship, with those who live in the Spirit World.

'The Spiritualist Manual, op. cit., p. 34.
k. "It brings to the surface man's spiritual gifts, such as inspiration, clair­voyance, clairaudience and healing powers.
l. "It teaches that the spark of divinity dwells in all.
m. "That as a flower gradually unfolds in beauty, so the spirit of man un­folds and develops in the spirit spheres.
n. "Spiritualism is God's message to mortals, declaring that There is No Death. That all who have passed on still live. That there is hope in the life beyond for the most sinful.
o. "That every soul will progress through the ages to heights, sublime and glorious, where God is Love and Love is God.
p. "It is manifestation, a demonstration and a proof of the continuity of life and of the truth of the many Spirit manifestations recorded in the Christian Bible.
q. "It demonstrates the many spiritual gifts with which mankind is en­dowed but which through want of knowledge have been allowed to lie dormant, or through prejudice have been violently and unjustly suppressed."

5. It is the belief of Spiritualists that throughout history there has been communication between those in the physical body and those in spirit ("the other side").

a. The Scriptures, for instance, present an outstanding record of Spiritualistic phenomena. Note 1 Samuel, Chapter 28, the incident involving Saul and the Woman of Endor. Here is a prime example of mediumship. Saul, in the flesh, and Samuel, in spirit, communicate. Note, also, the Apostle Paul's dramatic conversion experience on the Road to Damascus — Acts 9:1-9. A psychic interpretation of the Bible is, I believe, one of the major keys that makes the Scriptures "come alive."

6. An Interesting Note

a. In 1937, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York of the Church of England appointed a blue-ribbon committee of ten to carefully investigate Spiritualism. The committee labored for two years in its thorough examination of the subject, but the Church did not issue its report as expected by the general public. The House of Bishops pigeonholed it—and it remained a secret for nine years. However, the full text of The Church of England and Spiritualism was leaked. A majority of the committee (seven) found that Spiritualism was not abhorrent but integral, part and parcel of the Christian faith.

(1) The report concludes with this:

...If Spiritualism, with all aberrations set aside and with every care taken to present it humbly and accurately, contains a truth, it is important to see that truth not as a new religion, but only as filling up certain gaps in our knowledge, so that where we already walked by faith, we may now have some measure of sight as well.*


7. For information concerning Spiritualism in the United States, write to *The Morris Pratt Institute Association*, Jeanette J. Kneprath, 4721 W. Washington Blvd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208. This association will send you a "Prospectus" listing correspondence courses covering all phases of Spiritualism.