death. This knowledge, based upon evidence and not just upon faith, can be a life-changing event, abolishing fear of death and giving us all hope for the future.

We do not normally associate healing with evidence of survival, yet during many healing treatments there is evidence of a superior intelligence at work. When a treatment is commenced the medium very often has no prior knowledge of the patient's condition or why they have come for a treatment, yet during the session many patients feel effects directly related to their problems and a significant percentage get benefit for the exact reasons why they came. Therefore someone, other than the healing medium, knows their needs.

Does this provide evidence of survival? Or is it evidence that there is a benevolent God helping us? We cannot say, and have to leave that to the individual to make their own conclusions.

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Guide to...

MEDIUMSHIP PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF LIFE AFTER DEATH

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A guide to

MEDIUMSHIP PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF LIFE AFTER DEATH

The main aim of mediumship is to provide evidence of survival of the human personality beyond physical death. Mediumship is a transfer of information from the spirit of a deceased person via a medium to a recipient. A medium has the ability to receive information from a communicating spirit and pass on that information. In many respects this will be personal to the recipient of the communication.

So if you are the recipient of a communication you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Was the identity of the person in the spirit world established beyond reasonable doubt?
- Was there sufficient evidence of who was communicating?
- Did the person in the spirit world convey knowledge of recent events?
- Was there a pertinent message?

The main purpose of mediumship is to provide evidence that can be proof of survival to the recipient, not to predict the future, not to give advice and certainly not to counsel. Mediumship is a means of enabling people in the spirit world, probably our family and friends, to communicate with us, thus enabling us to gain an understanding that the spirit of every person survives physical death; the spirit of a person retains their personality, character, mind, memories, emotions, etc just as we knew them during their life on earth. People in the spirit world have opportunities to continue to learn and develop similarly to the personal growth experienced during earth life. Mediums cannot call up a particular person in the spirit world; it is they who choose to communicate with us. A medium's primary purpose is to identify the spirit person who is communicating with them. It is expected that the communicator will provide a combination of personal information about themselves so that the recipient can identify them.

The medium can only provide the information given by the communicating spirit, and examples of this type of information could be; their name, relationship to the recipient, a description of themselves during their life on earth, where they lived, previous profession, cause of death, hobbies, character, shared memories, etc.

Sometimes the communicating spirit provides information that the recipient is not aware of or does not recall at the time of receiving it. Such information should be checked with relatives and friends later to seek confirmation. This previously unknown information should be considered to be very important evidence, as it disproves the claim by some people that mediumship is just reading the mind of the recipient. During a communication, information is often given which relates to events that have taken place in the recipient's life since the communicating spirit's passing. This would be considered very valuable evidence of the continuous existence of the individual person in the spirit world being consciously aware of these events, otherwise how could they know that information?

Not all evidence of survival is given verbally, the medium may sometimes exhibit mannerisms of the deceased person without even realising it, which are recognised by the recipient. Similarly, the medium may use words or phraseology regularly used by the communicating spirit person. A recipient should look for an appropriate combination of these facts that identify the communicator beyond reasonable doubt. This is important, because it is this evidence that supports the Third and Fourth Principles of Spiritualism, The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels, and The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul.

Through mediumship the evidence of survival of the human spirit beyond physical death can provide comfort to the bereaved and enable people in the spirit world to express themselves to family and friends. Science uses supporting evidence to gain facts and thus it can be seen that mediumship is an important part of the science of Spiritualism. Providing factual information to people who wish to investigate mediumship from a scientific point of view, thus demonstrating that Spiritualism has a scientific basis as well as being a recognised religion with a religious philosophy.

Spiritualism accepts that mediumship cannot provide empirical proof that there is life after death. However, a body of evidence can be so convincing to an individual that it becomes personal proof that those whom we have once known have indeed survived