



# Contact with Spirits

## Lesson Overview

### 1. Watch a Video

Watch *Instant Connection in the Afterlife* online at [bit.ly/OTLEConnection](http://bit.ly/OTLEConnection) (3min 31sec)

### 2. Talking with Spirits

King Saul spoke to Samuel's spirit through a medium. The Writings explain why this is dangerous and should not be done. Pp 1-2

### 3. Discuss

It is impossible to tell whether spirits we might talk to are good or evil. p.2

## New Church Concept Spirits with Us

It is believed that a person might be more enlightened and become more wise if he should have immediate revelation through speech with spirits and with angels, but the reverse is the case. Enlightenment by means of the Word is effected by an interior way, while enlightenment by immediate revelation is effected by an exterior way. *De Verbo* 13

FaithBuilder 1 | Lesson 11 | Eternal Life

## Watch a Video

How is connection between people different in our world than in the afterlife? Watch *Connection in the Afterlife* (3min 31sec) at [bit.ly/OTLEConnection](http://bit.ly/OTLEConnection). Insert bitly link in browser bar at the top of your screen. Bitly links are case and space sensitive.

1. How might a person experience the presence of someone they love when separated by distance or death?
2. The video contrasts connections we experience on earth with connections in the spiritual world. How do the two worlds connect?
3. Is actively trying to connect with the spiritual world constructive?

## Talking with Spirits

Various people in the Word had visions and talked with angels. For example, an angel told Mary she would bear a Son. Although Mary was visited, she did not try to speak to an angel; the Lord sent the angel to bring her a message. So what might be different when it's the other way around—when a person wants to talk to a spirit? The Word warns that people who intentionally seek communication like this will be cut off from the Lord.

And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits...I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. Leviticus 20.6

The Word tells a story of a visit to a medium. King Saul received messages from the Lord through the prophet Samuel. But after Samuel died, Saul was threatened by the Philistines and desperately wanted to find out how it would end. So he went to a medium in En Dor in disguise to try to contact Samuel.

Saul...came to the woman by night. And he said, "Please conduct a séance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you." ...then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel..." ...And the king said to her, "...what did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth." So he said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down. Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore.... Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do." Then Samuel said: "So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy? And

the Lord has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day. Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.” I Samuel 28

Although it appears that the medium summoned Samuel, the Writings warn that it’s impossible to tell if spirits are who they say they are. Contacting spirits puts a person in danger.

Many believe that a person can be taught by the Lord by means of spirits speaking with him. But people who are willing to believe it do not know that it is dangerous to their souls.... As soon as spirits begin to speak with a person they come...into a person’s natural state, and they then know that they are with a person and join themselves with the thoughts of his affection and speak with him from those thoughts.... For this reason the speaking spirit must be in the same principles as the person is, whether they are true or false. These he stirs up, and through his affection conjoined to a person’s affection, he strongly confirms them. All this shows the danger in which a person is who speaks with spirits or who perceives their operation. A person does not know what the quality of his affection is, whether it is good or evil, or with what other spirits it is joined.... Whenever a spirit from like affection favors a person’s thoughts or principles, one leads the other as the blind lead the blind until both fall into the pit. *Apocalypse Explained* 1182.4-5

## Evil Spirits Want to Destroy Us

Evil spirits who become aware of being with us want to hurt and destroy us.

Talking with spirits is rarely allowed nowadays...because it is dangerous. The spirits then actually know that they are with us, which otherwise they would not; and evil spirits by nature harbor a murderous hatred for us and crave nothing less than our total destruction, body and soul. *Heaven and Hell* 249

## Discuss

1. Did Samuel’s spirit give Saul the news he hoped to hear?
2. What dangers does deliberately contacting spirits expose us to?
3. Can communicating with the spiritual world have a positive outcome?
4. Can communicating with the spiritual world answer questions about the Lord? Or help us believe in the life after death?
5. Is it possible to know if a spirit a person is in contact with is from heaven or hell? Why or why not?
6. Emanuel Swedenborg was permitted to speak with angels and evil spirits in the afterlife. Why did the Lord make an exception for him? Was he in danger?

## New Church Concepts Spirits Deceive

When spirits begin to speak with a person, he must beware lest he believe them in anything; for they say almost anything; things are fabricated by them, and they lie; for if they were permitted to relate what heaven is, and how things are in the heavens, they would tell so many lies, and indeed with solemn affirmation, that a person would be astonished; wherefore, when spirits were speaking, I was not permitted to have faith in the things which they related. For they are extremely fond of fabricating: and whenever any subject of conversation is proposed, they think that they know it, and give their opinions one after another, one in one way, and another in another, altogether as if they knew; and if a person then listens and believes, they press on, and deceive, and seduce in divers ways: for example, if they were permitted to tell about things to come, about things unknown in the universal heaven, about all things whatsoever that person desires, yet (they would tell) all the things falsely from themselves; wherefore let people beware lest they believe them. On this account the state of speaking with spirits on this earth is most perilous, unless one is in true faith. They induce so strong a persuasion that it is the Lord Himself who speaks and who commands, that a person cannot but believe and obey. *Spiritual Experiences* 1622