

# INDEPENDENT SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION

of the United States of America

## Our Principle Beliefs

Original in black ~ Children's simplified in red ~ \*Ministers comments follow

\*Note that our Minister's comments are their own and not necessarily reflect those of the ISA.

**2) We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and Spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.**

**2) We believe that God is expressed through all Nature.**

**Rev. Thomas Janssen:** "God is the ALL. Nothing exists outside of God. God is the *Creative Force* within the Universe/Creation. The first question each must ask of their theology is, 'does God exist separate from His Creation?' My answer is clearly, "no." God is everywhere and in all that exists being the *Creative Force* causing all to exist.

Evidence of God can be found anywhere and everywhere. This is why science cannot be opposed to Religion. Even and Atheist Scientist will discover evidence of God within the Creation (I do not believe God to be so petty as to require belief or worship). The evidence is there for 'those who have the eyes to see and the ears to hear.' Evolution does not invalidate God as the Creative Force behind all that exists. It does present some of the details of the design by which life unfolds and grows into ever greater complexity. Life is persistent and adapts to even dramatic changes of environment. Science is finding life to be an unstoppable force in the physical world.

Benjamin Franklin invented the Lightning Rod to prevent fires. This was a big problem for wooden buildings in colonial America. Churches were the most often struck with their high steeples. However, it would take a hundred years before Religious leaders would use Lighting Rods, fearing that they were interfering with God's Will.

Every scientific stand taken by Religions have proved to be wrong over time. The world is not flat, the Earth is not the center of the Universe with the sun and stars revolving around it, people who have healing skills, or intuition or sneeze with their eyes open are not witches working for the Devil and suicide bombers are not going to Heaven for great rewards. The scientific method develops a theory and then sets out to prove it right or wrong, and peer review will continue the scrutiny. New ideas are not easily accepted but there is a path open to new and more enlightened truth. Not a method used by most Theologians which hold fast to early interpretation of what 'God said.' Everything in our sacred texts were written by men, translated by men and continue to be interpreted by men. Once you accept something as the *Word of God*, you can no longer question or act out of reason. Good people have discriminated and even tortured and killed others believing it to be what God wants them to do in His behalf.

We each remain responsible for our choices. Direct Divine connection within is the only true guidance that could come directly from the Creative Force. But even this requires Discernment since there can be many intermediaries between you and the Source and likely are required due to our limitations. We must remember that Truth is ever evolving. What we have at best is Our Truth. It is actually our capacity to understand that evolves, grows to a greater ability to understand that which is beyond understanding. Truth will grow and is never stagnant.

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**Rev. Phillip Falcone:** "When we look at nature, meaning the weather, plants, animals, etc. two things become obvious. The first is movement. Nature is ever changing, from death to birth and all points in between. When no movement is perceived, there is rest. This is a period of assimilation. In the Gospel of Thomas and in Theosophy, it is taught that the Infinite Being is movement and repose. Just as the Universe is action and rest so is Infinite Intelligence. Thus, God is in everything and everything is in God. This can only mean that God is nature. The physical aspects of nature are intertwined with the spiritual. To separate one from the other is utterly impossible. This means that the expression of Infinite Intelligence is action and repose. Nature and Infinite Intelligence are aspects of the same source."