

The Mirror Of The Soul

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James 1:22-24

James 1:22-24, *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”*

People have always been interested in mirrors, and most of us use them several times a day.

Probably, even the savage was interested in his reflection in the streams or ponds of his time.

Men have made a number of different types of mirrors, even to look at places impossible to look at normally.

God has made a mirror which reflects the soul of man.

This is mentioned to show the importance of being doers of the word. It is intended to show that the Bible is the standard to show man the way.

The mirror shows that which needs changing.

Mirrors have imperfections.

Mirrors which men make have imperfections. Some of these are made that way by plan to show distortions, as one finds in a fun-house.

But the word of God, which is the mirror of the soul, does not show a distorted picture. It is perfect.

James 1:25, *“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

Purpose of a mirror.

The purpose of a mirror, basically, is to reveal — to give a true reflection. A mirror tells it like it is, good or bad.

If correction is to be made, the individual who looks in the mirror must make the correction.

God's word is the mirror of the soul (James 1:22-24, above).

It tells it like it is. What it tells in not always a pleasing picture.

Seeing ourselves in the mirror does not change us. To change, we must do what God tells us. (James 1:22-24, above).

Like in the physical mirror, the correction must be done by the individual, as the word helps in revealing.

If we see the imperfections of ourselves as we look into the word, and then don't do anything to correct them, we are like unto a man who beholds himself in a mirror, and then does not do anything about it. The mirror does not help him, and God's word does not help us under such circumstances.

God's word reveals many things.

God's word, the mirror of the soul, reflects your origin when you look into it.

- Gen. 1:26, *"And God said, Let us make man in our image..."*
- Gen. 2:7, *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

In this mirror you can see that you are not a monkey.

God's mirror reveals your doings.

Just as that food stain on your tie might reveal what you just ate, or that lipstick mark on your collar might reveal what you were doing, the word of God reveals what sort of person you are.

Rom. 3:23, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,"*

1 John 3:4, *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."*

Gal. 5:19-21, *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*

God's mirror reveals your need.

Just as your physical mirror may reveal that you need to wash your face.

- Rom. 5:8-10, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*
- Rom. 1:16-17, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”*
- Phil. 2:12-13, *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*

God's mirror reveals your destiny.

Just as your physical mirror can show by the way you are dressed that you are getting ready to work in the garden, engage in some sports activity, go on a date, or go to church.

John 5:28-29, *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”*

God's mirror tells us that it is time for us to take a good look at ourselves.

Now, your physical mirror won't call after you, saying, “Hey, buddy, are you really going to wear that shirt with those pants?”

But God's mirror certainly tells us we'd better examine ourselves.

2 Cor. 13:5, *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”*

Don't get mad at the mirror.

People don't get mad at the mirror, no matter what the imperfections it shows.

The churchgoer may react the same way when he sees what he doesn't like in God's mirror. Why get mad at God's mirror? The sinner sometimes gets mad at God, or the one holding his mirror before us.

- Psalms 14:1, "*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*"
- 2 Thess. 1:7-9, "*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*"

I have heard the alien sinner reject baptism as a part of God's salvation to man; or another get mad when it is pointed out to him that what he is doing, God says it is a sin.

Titus 2:11-14, "*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*"

Proper use of God's word is important.

It should be used obediently.

James 1:22-25, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*"

It should be used regularly and frequently.

Psalms 1:1-2, *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”*

It should be used fairly and honestly.

Acts 17:11, *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*

Conclusion.

Are you looking into the mirror of your soul? It will show you like you really are.

If you are not yet a Christian, God's mirror will tell you how. The are the steps you must take:

Faith.

- Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*
- John 12:46, *“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”*
- Rom. 10:9, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

Repentance.

- Acts 17:30, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”*
- Luke 13:3, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*
- Acts 3:19, *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”*

Confession.

- Phil. 2:11, *“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*
- Matt. 10:32, *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”*
- Rom. 10:9, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

Baptism.

- Matt. 28:19, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*
- John 3:5, *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*
- Mark 16:16, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*
- Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*
- Acts 22:16, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

