

God's Word as a Mirror

Adrian Rogers: Love Worth Finding Ministries

Ministry Moments . Volume 16, Number 6

Visit us at www.lwf.org

“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 beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was. But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” (James 1:23-25)

Most of us before we begin our day take a look in a mirror to be sure we are presentable. I want us to check ourselves in another mirror, the Word of God.

The Bible is so marvelous, so rich and varied, that Jeremiah said it's like a hammer, David said it's a lamp, Moses said it's like bread, the writer of the book of Hebrews said it's a sharp sword, and Jesus said the Word is like a seed.

James says that the Word of God is a mirror.

As a mirror, the Bible serves two important purposes: showing us the condition we are in and revealing Who Jesus Christ really is -- His transcendent glory and splendor. Both are vital to our Christian walk.

Mirror, Mirror ... The person in verse 23 who “beholds” his face in a mirror is a person who gets up in a hurry and runs past the mirror. The word “behold” here means he just glances, then he's gone. We do that a lot. We glance at the Word of God. Many people even call this glance their “morning devotions.” We open the Bible, glance, say “I've done my duty -- a dose a day keeps the devil away,” then we're on our way. But we've not really looked into the word of God. We snatch a look in the Book.

We don't pause because we don't really want to see.

We're like a gnat bouncing around from place to place. God doesn't reveal much truth to people who glance.

In contrast, James describes the person who “looks into” and “continues therein” (v.25). The word for “look” here means to peer into, scrutinize -- like the disciples peering into the empty tomb, focused, searching, intent. This is how we should “look” into the **mirror** of the Word of God. We must do more than take little spiritual sandwiches out of the Word. We must sit down and absorb the Word, because the Word is the **mirror** that reveals our true selves to us. We

can lie to ourselves, we can see what we want to see in an earthly mirror. But when we peer intently into the **mirror** of God's Word, we see our true reflection and can begin to deal with what we see.

The Fairest of Them All. Then when we gaze intently into the Word of God, we see the reflection of Jesus Christ. The Bible mirrors Jesus, showing Him to us in His regal glory and splendor. Without that revelation in the mirror of His Word, we cannot fully know Him or be changed into His likeness.

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass [mirror] the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Through His Word, God wants to show you what you are by nature and what you can be by grace. As you look in the Word, you become like what you see. He wants to make you like the Lord Jesus Christ.

"With Open Face" Come before the Lord with no veil or covering. Don't attempt to hide anything. Come in honesty and openness. When you think about it, why should you hide things -- He knows it all anyway!

"Changed" The same word is used in Matthew 17:2 to describe Jesus' appearance, changed into radiant light on the Mount of Transfiguration. The more we look upon Him in the Word of God, the more we are changed -- transfigured -- into the image of Christ by the Spirit of God.

"From Glory to Glory" When you first get saved, that's glorious. When you learn the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that's more glorious. Then you learn death to self -- again, glorious. God wants to lead you from one level of glory to another.

As you look into the Bible and see the glorious Savior, _____ that inner nature of Jesus in you responds to what you see, and you're changed from glory to glory, transfigured into His likeness.

The Bible is not a "mirror, mirror on the wall," but A mirror in your hand, transforming you from the inside out by the Word of God.

LWF – on TV Channel 44 Lima, OH Sunday 11:00 am & 11:30 pm, Monday 9:00 pm.

Presented by: Gary Westgerdes www.thekeysofheaven.com