

Four Mirrors
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Introduction: What are you made of?

- A. The power of knowing a living God is the power to see. **(Jn 8:32)**
 - 1. Conversion brings forgiveness, humility and hope.
 - 2. When our relationship with God becomes our life, then we are not afraid to open our eyes and let God work with us. **(Col 3:2-4)**
- B. Because we can drift from such a heart we need mirrors to help us see ourselves.
 - 1. A mirror will work if we want to see and change.
 - 2. Open your heart and look at who you are and where you are going.

I. The mirror of God's word

- A. This is a powerful mirror for the one who wishes to see.
 - 1. Many use God's word for human agendas. Jesus point out that these people will never understand God's word. **(Mt 13:14-16)**
 - 2. Why did the apostles see but others could not? They really wanted to understand God's word. **(Jn 5:44-47)**
 - 3. Be wise when you hear complaints about preaching and teaching. Worldly people will never appreciate proper teaching. **(1 Jn 4:5-6)**
 - 4. Have you lost your hunger and thirst for righteousness? **(Mt 5:6)**
- B. What does the mirror tell us about serious readers? **(James 1:22-25)**
 - 1. You really want to change. What would one do if he does not want to change?
 - 2. You first understand then you work towards remembering and applying over a period of time.
 - 3. Where does the mirror say about your interest in changing? Are you teachable?

II. The mirror of your memory

- A. If we know God we look at the past with great gratitude for God's grace. **(Eph 2:11-13)**
 - 1. We, of all people, can see the hopelessness of living without God.
 - 2. We should look on our past like Israel did their slavery in Egypt.
 - 3. As the Israelites observed the Passover and remembered, so should we completely identify our past with the deliverance in the cross of Christ!
- B. How we view the past will determine how we view ourselves.
 - 1. The power of conversion and forgiveness as a true foundation of our lives gives us a power and a confidence to live. **(1 Tim 1:12-15)**
 - 2. Here is where many struggle. Their conversion does not release them from the past. This is a battle we must win.
- C. Consider the OT character Shimei, of the house of King Saul.
 - 1. This man identified himself with his family and all views they held.
 - 2. 20 Years after Saul's death, Shimei shows his heart to everyone. How sad for a man to let his past mold him this way! **(2 Sam 16:7-8, 13)**

5. A bitter past brings a depressed and angry life.

III. The mirror of your relationships

- A. You can definitely see your spiritual direction by your relationships.
1. Peter made a series of bad decisions that led him into a place where he would fall. **(Lk 22:54)**
 2. Paul was encouraged to know he had brethren that would stand with him! **(Acts 18:9-11)**
 3. I am speaking of relationships where we depend on others and let our guard down around others.
 4. Our relationships change over time. How are they changing?
- B. Are you moving away from zealous, faithful Christians? **(Ps 1:1-3)**
1. You can move to those in the world or to worldly Christians, both will work against your spiritual life. **(Prov 13:20)**
 2. Some have what is called a “toxic faith.” They are scoffers and pull you into a pool of poison. **(1 Cor 15:33)**
 3. When you are drifting doctrinally this also happens. **(Gal 4:16-17)**
 4. You must fight and escape such relationships! I have known of some respected preachers like this.
 5. What a blessing to have “crazy” friends that love to talk about the word of God and of saving souls! **(Ps 119:63; Mal 3:16-18)**
 6. You friends or lack of friends is a mirror to who you are. What do you see?

IV. The mirror of your tongue

- A. Jesus told us that our tongues will show what is in our hearts. **(Mk 7:21-23)**
1. What do you love to talk about?
 2. Relationships are determined by what we are most interested in. You want to share what is in your heart with another who will also value what you value.
- B. How we think and act towards others is a powerful mirror.
1. Consider your attitudes toward brethren and the world **(1 Jn 2:9-11)**
 2. Jesus was a servant looking to the needs of others. Do you complain because brethren are not serving you? **(Rom 15:1-2)**
- C. Is your tongue filled with praise and thanksgiving?
1. A great way to move back to God is seeing Him and being filled with praise. **(Col 2:6-7)**
 2. You will also love to speak well of your brother in Christ. You want to build them up! **(Eph 4:29-32)**
 3. Are others reflecting my attitude towards them? Think about this.

Conclusion: Always be thankful when you can see where you are and that you know God will help!