



Standing on the Outside Looking Inside

*As in water face reflects face,
so the heart of man reflects the man.
Prov 25.19*

The Point: The purpose of the Christian life is to transform and grow in Christ.

The Question: How does one see their inner man?

The inner man.

Unseen and fed, working in the background

The outer man

The mirrors

The Law

The Christ

The goal and standard.

Transform into the image of Christ, which makes us better people, neighbors, and citizens.

When you look into the mirror, what are you looking at, or looking to find? What do you expect to see? You are probably looking for guidance to apply lather, makeup, putting product in your hair, and making things look suitable. Perhaps you are looking at a new blemish and wondering if a doctor might need to examine it. The mirror does not lie, but good lighting helps. A mirror does not penetrate; it reflects what is. Your heart reflects on the outside what is on the inside.

There is a spirit; some call it a soul (in Bible language, the terms are interchangeable). This spirit lives in the human body. Some also call it the inner man/person or subconscious. The spirit moves the body to think, plan, move, speak, build, honor, or dishonor its creator.

Those around you see the reflection from spirit to your body. But do your actions mirror your words? Does the faith you proclaim move your hands and feet?

You feed your inner man with music, art, poetry, and images from movies and youtube videos—what you feed it wither nourishes or poisons your spirit. Like a computer program corrupted by a virus or malware, effects are seen on the screen and in its performance. People evaluate your performance every day. Every believer needs to look into the mirror and examine

One mirror is Scripture. Read, study, meditate, compare your life to what is in the Bible—all 66 books. Another mirror is fellow believers. If someone compliments you, say thank you and praise the Lord. If someone criticizes you, see if there is a kernel of truth in what they say and honestly ask yourself, “do I need to change that behavior.” A Spouse or best friend can help discern if a change is needed. Did you offend, then apologize. The last mirror is Jesus, his words, actions, and character.

Salvation is the beginning of transformation and sanctification. You do not become more saved, but you become more beneficial for the kingdom and a better model for the world to see—a brighter light.

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