

## The cup of dirt analogy

### Testimony:

When we first turned to the Lord (when he caused us to come near), God sent us (my wife and me) a man of God to teach us. He was a Godly man who had gone through a lot of repentance and deliverance, and God anointed Him to teach us, and a few others, the ways of Truth.

One of his gifts was the ability to see into a person's heart and to reveal to that person, areas of iniquity and sin by bringing conviction upon them. At first, I did not know how he did this, but later it was revealed to me that this ability was a gift from God to those who were willing and called to pray for others.

Someone would walk into his presence and he would see something in their heart that was a burden to them. He might say to them, for example, "You've got a lot of hurt in your heart, haven't you?". The young person he spoke this to immediately started to manifest the hurt and shame she felt from being abused at an earlier time in her life.

Our pastor didn't just stand there and watch her cry and be a spectacle in front of others. He immediately guided her into deliverance from the hurt, shame, anger and unforgiveness she was in bondage to, and had her on the road to recovery.

Our pastor is no longer with us today. He's gone on to be with the Lord. May he be blessed of God forever and forever.

One of the things our pastor told us at the beginning of our walk with Him was that we were all vessels of God. But like so many of God's people (vessels), who were in the world before we began to follow the Lord, we had gotten all dirty and we were like a cup full of dirt.

He told us that without repentance and deliverance, the dirt would remain in the cup. Jesus loves us, and we were saved, but he wants us to go into the cleansing. Otherwise, he said that we would seek to pour the pure water-of-the-word into our cup, and all we would get was muddy water. Our ministries to others would be lacking, often untimely, without the full anointing, and ineffective at best, until we got the dirt out. And he was right! (See picture power point of "Dirt in the Vessel").

So our pastor began to teach us about fasting, prayer, repentance, deliverance, and overcoming by the word of our testimony.

He opened up to us one of the major themes in the Bible, and that was how to get right with God. Even though we were saved, not all our ways had been made right, and he wanted us to go on to maturity. He taught us:

**"He has shown you, o man, what is good; and what  
The Lord requires of you,  
But to do justly (to repent),  
To love mercy (ask Jesus for forgiveness),  
And to walk humbly with our God"**

(Mica 7:8)

Our pastor taught us to see ourselves in the mirror. If he showed someone an area in their lives where they were not right with God, he said that he was showing it to us all. Even though he spoke only to one individual, the lesson was for us all. There were many times when we all repented on the same area.

### Dreams about the mirror:

Dreams are one of the many ways God speaks to us, and He has spoken plenty to us about the mirror. But before going there, here are two Scriptures on dreams. The word “dream” and the word “vision” are used 229 times in the Old and New Testaments. The dream or vision is one of the main ways the Lord uses to talk to us, even today.

**“It shall come to pass in the last days I will pour out  
My spirit upon all flesh, your sons and your daughters  
Shall prophesy, ...your young men shall see visions and  
Your old men shall dream dreams.” (Joel 2:28)**

**“in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon  
men, while slumbering in their beds, then He opens  
the ears of men and seals their instruction; in order to  
turn man from his deed (sin), and conceal pride from  
man. He keeps back his soul from the pit, and his life  
from perishing by the sword.” (Job 33:15-18)**

These Scriptures are shown to validate the value of dreams and visions in our lives. Dreams are mentioned 5 times in the first two chapters of the New Testament, so they’re still relevant today. These are a few of many dreams to share on the subject of the mirror, but just a few to make the message clear.

### **Personal dream:**

#### **I dreamed I was a vampire: (whew!)**

Our pastor told us one day, that some of us were called to be priests before God. We had been studying the tabernacle in the wilderness, and we knew about the old order of priests, called the Levites, and we knew there would be a new order of priests that would be patterned after the likeness of the priestly order of Melchizedek.

To me, this seemed a very unlikely call on my life, because during that time, it was just beginning to sink into my understanding about my fallen nature, and there seemed to be no hope for me to ever be out from under all the bondage I had gotten myself into. But God is good and his goodness and lovingkindness extended even to me.

So now, I remember the visions and dreams that God used to urge me into praying for others. Looking back I see His calling on us for this purpose, all along. If I had known back then of this calling, I would have probably have gotten all proud about it, wanting the glory of the call, but not wanting the work. This is because in me was a lack of compassion and a very judgemental nature.

Now it is a privilege to pray for others, and in the process of helping others, I can be healed. The first dream about me being a vampire was this:

**“In the dream I was a vampire. I didn’t kill anyone, but I remember the black cape I wore and the long fingernails and sharp teeth I had. When looking through a ‘glass-something’ that was like a window, I could not see anything on the other side. This ‘glass-Something’ was like a small window, but it was hanging on the wall.” And that was the dream.**

Over a period of a year, I had this dream over and over. Maybe 5 or 6 times. I would wake up, repent on being a vampire or for being like a vampire, and I would cast out the spirit and iniquity of a vampire, a bloodsucker, and all the things I could think of in the dream. But it kept re-occurring. I wasn't getting the message God was sending me.

I knew that quite often, dreams are symbolic of a spiritual condition. And I knew that I must search it out, because:

**“it is for the glory of God to hide a matter,  
and the honor of a king to search it out” (Prov 25:2)**

**And “God is a rewarder of those who diligently  
seek Him” (Heb 11:6b)**

I knew that the answer to the dream would be found in the Scriptures somewhere, because the dreams are always scripture related. But I couldn't find any place in my bible where he talked about vampires.

One day, I happened to see the word “vampire” on a comic book cover, and then I remembered: one of the natures of a vampire is that he can't see himself in a mirror! Who says that God doesn't have a sense of humor! What I see in others is actually seeing myself!!!

This was the beginning of an awareness within me, (one that I didn't want to admit), that God was showing me myself in others and in dreams about others. But like all things with God, it turned out to be a blessing and not a curse. I repented on not wanting to see my wrongness in this way, and God began to bless me.

He gave me a whole new way to look at others and to appreciate others. Instead of judging them, no longer did I want to rebuke someone else that I had a dream about, where I saw them doing something wrong. I began to admit that God was showing me myself.

God wanted me to not only pray for myself on the area shown, but to pray for the other person, also.

### **The second tell-it-like-it-is dream:**

My wife had a dream that explains the mirror principle of seeing yourself in others: (reasonable recollection of the dream)

**In the dream, my wife was with Jesus at some children's house. There were two young girls, nicely dressed on the swing-set on the top of the hill, and there were two young girls walking along the street. The ones walking were dirty, and their clothes were old and unkept. The two girls in the swing-set were pointing fingers at the two walking in the street and were telling each other how bad the other two girls looked. The two girls on the swing-set just couldn't believe how bad the other girls looked. That's when Jesus turned to my wife and said:  
“Isn't it a shame; I'm just showing them themselves.**

### **The third dream about the mirror:**

My wife had another dream that told her how to avoid life's ups-and-downs, commonly known as trials: (as near as I can remember it)

**“In the dream, The Lord gave my wife a mirror from**

**Heaven. She was in an area of many trials and tests where there were thorns and thistles. When she looked in the mirror, she was looking at others, but seeing herself. A voice from heaven was telling her:"**

**"If you always look into the mirror and repent on what you see in others, your life will go smoothly. Otherwise, you will have troubles."**

If we see what the Lord is showing us in others and quickly pray on it in ourselves, we won't have to learn through a consequence. You may have not done the sin they are manifesting, but God is showing you iniquity. And, He said to repent for the iniquity passed down from your fathers and forefathers. The iniquity is a hidden moral flaw, a sin that could manifest under certain circumstances.

**Caution: some things not to do**

We must remember that we are called to deal not only with sin in our lives, but also the iniquity in our heart. We must give account for our iniquity, and 'iniquity' is defined as that hidden desire in our heart to do evil. It is a propensity for doing evil and is different from sin in that sin is an act of disobedience to God's commandments. Iniquity is what drives the act and is usually inherited from our fathers and forefathers.

(Ex 20:5) Jesus was telling his followers:

**"Many will say to me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy Name? And in thy Name have cast out devils? And in thy Name done many wonderful works?"**

**"and I will profess to them, "I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity." (Matt 7:22-23, KJV)**

If you see a mirror image of yourself, and you're thinking, "Lord, I never did anything like that!". Just remember, He may be showing you an inherited iniquity, and not an actual sin, or He may only be showing you a person to pray for. Just like a sin, the iniquity will also separate you from God. (Isaiah 59:2) Judge not lest ye be judged....the 3 fingers pointing back at us.

**But your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
And your sins have hidden His face from you,  
So that He will not hear.**

**Isa 59:2**

Another thing to remember is that a mirror doesn't always have to reflect sin. When you see yourself in the mirror and realize that God has done a miracle in your life, give thanks to Him for the good things you see, not only in your life, but in the life of the one you are observing. In psalms 22, once Jesus received the answer from God, He then said that He would sing the praises of God in the congregation. Let's not forget to give thanks and praise to our God who saves us!

The lesson seems clear, and it does line up with the word of God. It also brings to mind one final Scripture:

**"the secret things belong to the Lord our God, but Those things which are revealed belong to us and**

**To our children forever, that we may do all the  
Words of this law.” (Deut 29:29)**

Thank you Jesus, for the wisdom and love you show us in the principle of the mirror. Amen