

Gratitude: The Mirror Metaphor in James 1:23-25

James then demonstrates that if a person is negative to the message, he prevents the content of doctrine in his stream of consciousness to function as a mirror for self-analysis.

James 1:23 - ... because if [protasis of a 1st Class Condition] anyone keeps on being a hearer of the word and not a doer, then such a one is like a person who observes his natural face in a mirror.

The mirror is the content of doctrine stored in the soul's stream of consciousness. Self-analysis cannot occur if the believer is in carnality, however, in reversion recovery, the Holy Spirit will bring to his remembrance those doctrines which reveal his error. This is the utilization of problem-solving device number 5: Doctrinal Orientation to Reality.

But if the believer is only a "*hearer of the word*" and rejects the Holy Spirit's presentation of truth at academic understanding, then there is no doctrinal mirror for self-analysis. This is characterized as being like a person who takes a look at his physical appearance in a mirror and then walks away denying what he saw.

James 1:24 - But once he glances at himself then off he goes and immediately he disregards what sort of a person he was.

This is classic self-denial. The word of God is a mirror which will reveal to the believer the exact status quo of his emotions and stream of consciousness from which an accurate self-analysis can be observed. As we have recently learned, this person is in for some heavy-duty divine discipline.

1 Corinthians 11:31 - If we judged ourselves, we should not be judged.

Then James quickly indicates the advantages the recovering reversionist has when he decides not to just be a "*hearer of the word*" but also a "*doer of the word*."

James 1:25 - But he who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and has persisted, not having become forgetful hearers but a doer of accomplishment, this believer will be happy in what he does.

Here James describes the Word of God as the "*perfect law of freedom*." Why? Although the Word of God is established fact, the believer is free to accept or reject its message. However, once accepted, the one who responds becomes truly free under the leadership of his Second Husband, Jesus Christ. His orientation and adjustment results in true happiness and spiritual prosperity and, in addition, keeps him on track for conveyance of escrow blessings.

On the other hand, he who rejects the truth and walks away from the mirror remains in slavery to his First Husband. His disorientation and maladjustment results in unhappiness and adversity and, in addition, places conveyance of escrow blessings in jeopardy. The believer who grows in grace and maintains an increasing inventory of doctrine on the FLOT Line is not only a "*hearer of the word*" but also a "*doer of the word*."

Psalms 119:45 - I will walk in freedom for I will seek Your doctrines.

John 8:32 - You shall know doctrine and doctrine shall make you free.

Galatians 5:1 - It is for spiritual freedom that Christ has set you free [from your first husband]. Stand fast and do not become entangled again in the yoke of slavery [under your first husband].

C. Principles from the Mirror Metaphor of James 1:23-25

The textbook for arriving at an objective and accurate self-analysis is the Word of God. When the doctrines of the Word are stored by the Holy Spirit in your stream of consciousness it forms a mirror by which a self-analysis may be conducted. Therefore, by consulting this biblical mirror you can self-examine your life. If you hear doctrine taught and it reveals error in your behavior patterns, character traits, or lifestyle and you reject its application to you, then you have looked into the mirror and then walked away. Self-denial results in you forgetting what kind of man you were revealed to be.