THE MIRROR

By: Bishop. Michael Neal., D.D.

<u>The Mirror</u> is something that we all use, we have them in our bathrooms, bedrooms, some have many but we all have at least one. We use these mirrors to look at our self's to shave, comb our hair, or just to see our sweet smiling face. We need this mirror to see our natural man, that physical part of our self's so we may know how we look to the world and others. If we see a Pimple on our face we would want to cover it up, so others would not see it and point at us and it. But what about the inward man, that spiritual part of us that is harder sometimes to see by us and others.

How many times have we sat in church and heard the word of God and thought to ourselves that the Preacher was talking to the Brother or Sister setting beside us or in front of us, or at the most someone else maybe not even in the church? Even the Preacher when they preach thinking to themselves this Message is meant for someone in the Church. The word of God says in (2 **Timothy 2:6**) the husbandman that laboureth must be *first partaker of the fruits*.

So how do we all see that inward man, we have heard that old adage of "When you point one finger at someone, that there are two fingers pointing back at you" We Must! First apply the word of God (In all its forms) first to ourselves, and God has given us a Spiritual Mirror to do this with, it is the very word of God its' self (James 1:22-25) But be ve doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 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 beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. Gods' word can and will show us how we look not only to ourselves but to others around us, it will show us every little spot and blemish, some things we may not want to see, but need to see.

Each and every one of us has this mirror, unlike a mirror in our home we need just one, but like a mirror in our home when we look into it and see something that is out of place or that needs tending to, when we see it we must! Take care of it when we see it and not wait till later. When we do not take care of something we see in ourselves as we look into the mirror when we move away from it, we will forget what we have seen.

The one thing we can count on is if we do not take care of it, others will see it! If it is of the Natural Man or the Spiritual. It is so easy to point out and see the sins and faults of others, but we must! Look into the word of God and see our own sins and fault, when we hear or Read the word of God it must first be applied to us! (me) first and if it does not apply to us after we Look into the mirror then we have truly examined ourselves and we can walk away from the mirror

feeling good. Bt if the word does hit us and we see ourselves in the word, we must fix it then and not wait till we walk away from the mirror or will forget what it is that needs to be fixed. If we were not in the valley when the floods came then we would not have gotten wet! We must use the word of God to move from the valley to the mountain top then when the word of God comes then it will not hit us. Then we will look better to God and to others, the word of God is a very bright Light that shines so bright that it will show us everything we need to see ourselves, nothing will be covered up, every little fault to the big sin. But we must use it in order to get the full use of it, just like that old mirror in the bathroom at our homes; if we do not use it then we will start to look very bad to the people around us.

We all need to stop the pointing the finger at and looking at others when the word of God comes, and say to our self's "Is it me my Lord, is it me?" I know sometimes when we look in a mirror we do not like what is looking back at us, but we still have to look in order to see it and to be able to fix it, for if we do not know if something is wrong and out of place how can we fix it?. We have saints of God that have been with the lord in church for years and years, have been baptized in the name of Jesus and have the Holy Ghost for many years. They sit in church all those years day after day and night after night hearing the word of God, but have long ago stopped! Using that mirror to see what they look like or what they have become. The church has become just a place too go and a thing to do every Sunday Moring and night; they have become ugly in the spiritual Mirror.

They do more pointing and judging than looking and examine themselves in their mirror. The word of God is something we must use each and every day that we take a breath on this world, it must become so much apart of us that when we look into that mirror that we no longer see that "Old" self, but a brand "New" self. It must become something we do every day and not just once a week or once a month or year, this mirror the word of God must be looked into and there by seeing our self's each and every day of our life's. So the next time you read or hear the word of God, before you start to point your finger around the church or think to yourself that it is talking about someone other than you! Take a long look into that big shining mirror and *remember what it is you see!*