



溪邊的樹

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鏡子

哥林多前書 13:9-12 「我們現在所知道的有限，先知所講的也有限，等那完全的來到，這有限的必歸於無有了。我作孩子的時候，話語…心思…意念像孩子，既成了人，就把孩子的事丟棄了。我們如今彷彿對著鏡子觀看，模糊不清；到那時就面對面了。我如今所知道的有限，到那時就全知道，如同主知道我一樣。」

雅各書 1:22-25 「只是你們要行道，不要單單聽道，自己欺哄自己。因為聽道而不行道的，就像人對著鏡子看自己…面目，看見，走後，隨即忘了他的相貌如何。惟有詳細察看那全備、使人自由之律法的，並時常如此，這人既不是聽了就忘，乃是實在行出來，就在他所行的事上必然得福。」

哥林多後書 3:16-18 「但他們的心幾時歸向主，帕子就幾時除去了。主就是那靈；主的靈在那裡，那裡就得以自由。我們眾人既然敞著臉得以看見主的榮光，好像從鏡子裡返照，就變成主的形狀，榮上加榮，如同從主的靈變成的。」

今天要分享的主題是“鏡子”。一個小小的東西，我們不太注意它，但在日常生活上不可少，是很重要的。沒有鏡子，我不太會刮鬍子；我照鏡子不是看漂亮、而是看不漂亮的：看臉上的老人斑，有什麼變化、是否該去看皮膚科了；姊妹們看鏡子、多半為了漂亮，所以很有用處。屬靈的事也需要鏡子照出污點、瑕疵，使我們在主面前愈來愈美。新約裡就提到有三面鏡子。

第一面在哥林多前書 13:9-12 裡，這面鏡子是人的心。當我們讀些聖經，知道些屬靈的事情，往往自以為什麼都懂了，常用聖經的話辨論，用神學的理论爭論，夫妻用聖經的話吵架。但這裡告訴我們，我們的知識有限、恩賜的運用有限；先知所講的也有限，講台分享，對聖經的瞭解都有限。等那完全的來到，連這點有限的也要歸於無有了。現今我們好像對著鏡子、看不清自己，要等主來到、與主面對面時，才能知道自己，如同主知道我們一樣。所以這第一面鏡子說到、我們對自己知道的太少了。有位老將軍，他留學德國得到軍事學的博士，在劉東崑弟兄那裏聚會。有一次劉弟兄對他說、老將軍呀！你很有學問，但你的學問還是有限那麼一點。老將軍聽了很不高興，臉就拉長下來了。劉弟兄就告訴他、老將軍，你不要生氣，你的軍事知識有一天要過去；我這先知所講所傳的道也要過去，因為我們能講的就那一點，所學的也只有那麼一點。等我們到主那裏去面對主，這一切都要過去；這一切都是暫時為著教會的好處，所以不要依靠這些事。聖經不是告訴我們，這些都是小孩子的事嗎？「我作孩子的時候，話語…心思…意念像孩子，既成了人，就把孩子的事丟棄了。」許多時候我們說話、心思都像小孩—這心思說到我們的感覺；我們的意念像小孩—這意念是我們裏面的推理。我們不常就是這樣嗎？像小孩一樣，不

知道自己在講什麼；像小孩一樣憑感覺待人處事。等我們在屬靈上稍微長大一點，就開始推理，卻像小孩一樣，有許多錯誤的推理。為什麼呢？因為我們知道的有限，聖經用“模糊不清”來形容，因為是對著鏡子在看。保羅當時的鏡子是銅做的，對著銅鏡看，可以看到一點，但是模糊不清。哥林多是個講究人體美的希臘城市，出的鏡子最有名，所以保羅寫信給哥林多的人，他們一看就明白了。保羅指出我們對屬靈的事情、對先知的事情、對知識的事情都有限，就像我們對著銅鏡子看自己的面貌一樣，都是模糊不清的。我們的心就是這樣，因為看不見自己所知有限而心生驕傲，做出錯誤的判斷。

有人向朋友傳福音、說：「有個人犯了交通法現，拿到一張罰單，他到法庭交款時，向法官訴苦：家裏有生病的老母親，有兩歲年幼的孩子，實在付不起這麼重的罰款，求你憐憫我。結果法官脫了他的袍子，下來代付了他的罰款。」告訴他朋友：這就是福音。朋友一聽：喔，我懂了，原來信耶穌就是掏出錢來做好事；多麼錯誤的推斷！福音是說到有一位耶穌為我們的罪死了，替我們付了罪的代價；而這朋友的推論卻是、信耶穌就是拿錢做好事，他不瞭解是因他知道的有限。還有人對主耶穌五餅二魚餵飽五千人好像不可能的事、有這樣的推理：我知道，五餅二魚分給每人嚐一點，因為耶穌在場，他們很歡喜，心裏就感覺飽了一全是心理作用。是因為他知道的有限，而推論錯誤。主耶穌用五餅二魚餵飽了眾人，聖經說飽了就飽了，因為他們飽了，才說這是神蹟。

所以要注意：(1) 不論斷人。羅馬書第一章說到，人不但自己犯罪為樂，還喜歡別人一同犯罪。等別人也做了同樣的事，羅馬書第二章說，他反過來又論斷別人—比方自己愛誇張，等別人也說誇張的話時，他反過來就論斷人為什麼誇張。因此如聖經所說，我們需要一面鏡子，看到自己的有限，不要隨便論斷人，因為世人都犯了罪。(2) 憑信心依靠主。羅得的僕人和亞伯拉罕的僕人相爭，導致二人分開。羅得憑著眼見，做了錯誤的決定，選擇了約旦河平原的所多瑪城而致喪家。當我們在需要做判斷的環境裏，若知道自己有限，就不敢靠自己的眼見、推斷、做決定；一定要像亞伯拉罕，憑信心依靠主、跟隨主，走信心的道路。

第二面鏡子是雅各書 1:22-25 這面鏡子、就是**主的道—神的話**。雅各說，要行道、不要單單聽道理騙自己。主的道像一面鏡子，照出我們的本相；只有聽了道，又去行的時候，本性才會顯露出來。不然，就像人對著鏡子看自己一眼就走開，很快就忘記自己的面目。有人常自認心直口快，等聽了道、又去行時，才發現自己原來心浮口燥、衝動易怒，不能容納別人。有人自覺很熱心，喜歡幫助人，當他要行所聽的道時，才知道自己原來愛管閒事，別人什麼事都要插上一手。所以我們常常提醒，除了聽道、還要讀、要查考、要背誦、要默想，才能行道，才對自己有益處。讀聖經看見雅各的抓、掃羅的嫉妒、彼得的急躁…；看見大衛犯罪後，神差拿單去用比喻斥責他、「你就是那人」時，願主的靈使我們知道、「我就是那人」！聽道又行道，才知做不到而不敢論斷人。

為要行主的道，這段聖經的第 25 節說到四樣必要的事：(1) 詳細察看。察看那全備使人自由的律法。全備的唯有主耶穌，使人自由也只有主耶穌。詳細察看、更明白主的道，而後活出來。(2) 時常如此。不是一周、一月做一次，而是天天做。(3) 實在行出。才知自己本相的軟弱，更見基督完全的榮美，而從心中求主憐憫、拯救我這軟弱不可靠的人！(4) 必然得福。這節聖經一定要刻在你心版上，成為你生活上的實際。

最後，哥林多後書 3:16-18 裏的第三面鏡子，說到**主的靈**。第一面鏡子讓我們知道、人的心有限，不過是小孩，惟有依靠主，奔走天路；因此需要第二面鏡子一時時詳細考察主的話，晝夜思想，並在生活中實行出來；於是，就看見自己是怎樣活在老我中的人，一點都不像我們的主那麼完全；這麼大的距離，怎麼辦？就要靠第三面鏡子—主的靈、來改變我們。難處是我們心上有帕子，遮住我們看不見主的靈，阻礙了我們與主靈裡的交通。什麼是帕子呢？就是凡攔阻我們的心，使我們與神有間隔的事物。比如我禱告、要求得獎學金、或工作，主還沒給我，心中對主有怨氣，因而對主冷淡，不愛禱告、不喜歡聚會…等靈裏不正常的光景，就成了我們心中的帕子。這帕子必須除去，我們的靈才得自由地與主的靈交通。弟兄姊妹有會游泳的，恐怕很少見人背著背包游泳；要脫下背包、外衣、襪子和鞋子，只穿著游泳衣，在水裡就自由了。靈裡的事也一樣，要把心上的帕子拿掉，靈裡自由才能遵從主的吩咐、討主喜悅。我們的心要尋找主、定睛在祂身上；我們的臉向祂敞開，常常來到主面前，得以與主面對面，主的榮光就返照過來，榮上加榮。聖經說，每次一照這鏡子，敞著臉看見主的榮光，就從主的靈返照；臉上的榮光、心上的榮光都加添了，我們就被改變，越來越像在山上變了形像的主耶穌、那樣臉面明亮如日頭。要能達到這屬靈的境界、綜合前面所說的，我們必須：(1) 心要對準主，(2) 帕子要除掉，(3) 臉敞開看見主的榮光，好像從鏡子裡返照，(4) 不停的照鏡子，主的靈就改變我們成主的形狀，滿有基督的榮光。

西元 2000 年初夕，我在南加州的 Palomar 山上聚會。山頂上有個很大的天文望遠鏡，是 Hubble 教授的實驗室，專用來觀察外星球的星雲。由於距離很遠，光非常微弱，需要很大的望遠鏡、要對準星雲長時間的聚光，有時要花六個月的時間，才能照到一張外星球星雲的照片。問題是、地球一直在轉，望遠鏡常常對不準星雲。Hubble 實驗室於是把整個望遠鏡架在機器上，把機器固定在軌道上，與地球的運轉同步進行，使照相板一直對準著望遠鏡；長時間後才能拍得一張照片，供遊客觀看、明白宇宙中星雲的奧秘。這是 Hubble 教授的貢獻，所以在外太空用的望遠鏡以 Hubble 命名。在 Palomar 山上除夕夜的經歷，使我恍然大悟、神在哥林多後書 3:16-18 向我們啟示的是什麼？照一張照片，要對準星雲六個月之久。弟兄姊妹，我們的心對著主有多久，一天二十四小時，有幾分鐘對著主？難怪我們這人到今天仍改變不了；難怪人看我們，沒有人會信耶穌；難怪今天教會不興旺，因為我們的心沒有對準主。求主幫助我們，讓我們心對著主，敞開我們的臉，靈裏自由；一周、一月、一年，心上的底片越多收聚主的榮光，返照出來改變我們，成為主的形像，而能榮上加榮。願意新的一年，主讓我們看見我們的心何等有限；願主的話顯明我們的真相；願主的靈改變我們，願這屬靈的三面鏡子一直照在我們心中，使我們在主裡愈照愈美麗、愈明亮！

Mirror

1 Corinthians 13:9-12 “For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.”

James 1:22-25 “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

2 Corinthians 3: 16-18 “but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

“Mirror” is the topic to be shared today. Just a small thing we usually don’t pay much attention to, however it’s indispensable in daily life, and is very important. Without a mirror, I usually couldn’t shave; when I look into a mirror, I look for what’s not nice, not what’s nice. For example, I look for senile freckles and any changes in them, to see whether I need to see my dermatologist; but for sisters, to look into a mirror, is more likely to make sure to look prettier, so a mirror is very useful. For spiritual matters, we also need mirrors to show stains and flaws, so we can be more beautiful before our Lord. The New Testament mentioned three mirrors.

The first mirror appeared in 1 Corinthians 13:9-12, and it refers to **man’s heart**. After we read a little bit Bible, know something about spiritual matters, usually we would think we know everything. We debate with verses from bible, argue with theological theories, and couples quarrel quoting what’s written in the Bible. But here it tells us, our knowledge is limited, and the application of gifts is limited; prophesy is limited, ministry is limited. Our understanding about the Bible is limited. When the complete knowledge comes, then all the little things we know will become nothing. Today it’s like we are looking at ourselves in a mirror, can’t see through the real selves; we can only wait for our Lord’s return, to meet with Him face to face, then we can know real selves, in the same way as how the Lord knows us. Therefore this very first mirror reminds us that we know too little about ourselves.

There was an old General, who had studied in Germany and obtained a doctor degree in Military Science, and he regularly attended gatherings at Brother Liu’s meeting place. Once Brother Liu told him, “General! You are very knowledgeable, but your knowledge is still just a little.” Old General was very offended after hearing this, and his face became very long. Then Brother Liu told him, “my General, please don’t be angry; your military knowledge will pass one day, what I have said or preached will pass as well, because what we can preach is only a bit, what we can learn is also just a little bit. When we go to the Lord to face Him, all of all will pass; all of these is for the good of the Church for the time being, so don’t count on them.” Doesn’t the Bible tell us all of these are childish things? “When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.” In many occasions we speak, think like children – thinking refers to our feelings; our thinking is like children’s – this thinking is the reasoning inside us. Aren’t we like this from time to time? Like children, we don’t know what we are talking about; and treat people and things in childish ways. When we become a little more mature spiritually, we start to reason, but still like children, our reasoning comes with many flaws. Why? Because what we know is limited! The Bible uses “dimly” to describe it, because it’s a mirror at which we look. In Paul’s era, mirrors were made of brass, when looking into such a mirror, we can see a little, but it’s very dim. Corinth is a Greek city where people values physical beauty and mirrors made in that city was most famous. So Paul wrote to the Corinthians in this way and people understood right away when reading the letter. Paul pointed out that we are indeed limited in spiritual matters, such as prophecy and knowledge; it’s like we look at ourselves in a brass mirror, everything is dim. Our heart is exactly like this, because of not knowing what we know is actually limited, we become proud and make wrong judgments.

One brother was trying to bring gospel to his friend, and he said: “Someone violated the traffic law and got a ticket. When he went to the court to pay the fine, he whined to the judge: my mother is old

and sick, my child is only two, and I really can't afford the hefty fines. Please have mercy on me. In the end the judge removed his own gown, came down and paid for this man's fine". And this brother told his friend, this was the gospel. After learning this, his friend said: "I see, so following Jesus is to take out money to do good things". What an erroneous conclusion! Gospel tells us that there's a man named Jesus who died for us and redeemed us from our sins; but this friend's conclusion was simply that following Jesus was to use money to do good things. He didn't understand because what he knew was very limited. Another friend had such an interpretation about the seemingly impossible sign in which Jesus fed 5000 people with only five small barley loaves and two small fish: the five barley loaves and two fish were divided so everyone got a tiny piece of food; because Jesus was there, they were so happy to be with him that they felt full instead of hungry – all thanks to psychological factors. It's because of his limited knowledge that he came to a wrong conclusion. The Lord Jesus fed 5000 people with only five loaves and two fish, when Bible said they were full, they must indeed had been full. Because they were full, it's called a miracle.

Therefore we must pay attention to: (1) don't judge people. Romans 1 mentions that man not only finds pleasure in committing sins himself, but also likes others to commit the same sins. When others do the same thing, says Roman Chapter 2, he would in turn come back to judge others – for example, he likes to exaggerate, when others exaggerate too, he would come back to reason why others like to exaggerate. Therefore just as Bible says, we need a mirror to see our own limitations, and don't judge others as we like, because everyone has committed sins. (2) Rely on the Lord by faith. Because of the argument between Lot's servants and Abraham's servants, Lot and Abraham separated from each other. Lot believed in what he saw and made wrong decisions. He chose Sodom on Jordan plain and lost his whole family eventually. When we are in circumstances where we need to judge, if we know our limitations, we would be careful not to reason or conclude only based on what we see. We must do like Abraham, depending on and following with the Lord by faith, and walking by faith.

The second mirror is the one in James 1:22-25, it's **the Lord's word – God's word**. James says, we need to practice the word, not just hear it and comfort ourselves. Only when we hear the word and do it, the real self can be shown. Otherwise, just like looking in a mirror briefly then walking away, we would easily forget who we really are. Some people often think themselves as simple and straightforward. When they hear the word and start to practice, they would find themselves actually impatient and short-tempered, easy to lose control and difficult to tolerate others. Some people think themselves as very warm-hearted and helpful. When they start to practice the word, they would find themselves actually officious, and like to meddle with others' business. Therefore we need to remind ourselves from time to time, other than hearing the word, we also need to read, to study, to reflect, then we can practice the word, in this way it can be beneficial to ourselves. In the Bible when we see Jacob's grasp, Saul's jealousy, and Peter's short temper. After David committed sins, God sent Nathan to rebuke him, "you are that man!" May the Holy Spirit make us aware "I am that man!" Only when we hear the word and do it, we could know never to judge others.

To follow God's word, James 1:25 mentioned 4 must-haves. (1) Looks intently: Looks intently into the perfect law which gives freedom. Only Jesus is perfect, and only Jesus can make man free. Look intently to know the Lord's word better, and abide by the Word. (2) Continue to do it. It's not once a week or once a month, but to do it every day. (3) Effectively do it. Then we will know how weak we truly are, and how perfect and glorious Jesus is. Therefore from the bottom of our hearts we would ask for the Lord's mercy, to save a weak and unreliable me! (4) Be blessed. This scripture must be engraved upon your heart and become the reality in your life.

Lastly the third mirror in 2 Corinthian 3:16-18. It mentions **the Spirit of the Lord**. The first mirror lets us know that man's heart is as limited as that of a child. We can only depend on the Lord to walk on the path to Him. Therefore, we need the second mirror, to look intently into the Lord's word, to think and study all the time, and abide by it in daily life. We will also see we are still living in the old self, nothing similar to our perfect Lord; the gap is so huge, what should we do? Here we need the third mirror – the Spirit of the Lord, to change us. The difficulty is that there is a veil covering our hearts, blocking us from seeing the Spirit of the Lord, and the fellowship in the Spirit of the Lord. What is the veil? It's anything which blocks our heart and separates us from the Lord. For instance, I prayed and asked for financial aid at school or a job but the Lord didn't give me. Then I started to hold grudge against the Lord, became indifferent to the Lord, stopped praying and attending church...such abnormal spiritual situations would become a veil covering our heart. This veil must be removed; otherwise our spirit can't communicate freely with the Spirit of the Lord. Brothers and sisters good at swimming would never see people swim with back pack; one needs to remove bags, clothes, socks and shoes, and put on swimming suits, then can be free in water. It's the same for spiritual matters, the veil covering our heart has to be removed, then our spirit can be free to follow the Lord's word, and please Him.

Our hearts shall pursue the Lord, looking intently at Him. Our face should be open to Him, continue to come before Him and face Him, and then God's glory will be reflected, from glory to glory. The Bible tells us that every time when we look at this mirror with open face to see the Lord's glory, and the glory is reflected from the Spirit of the Lord. The glory on our face and in our heart has both increased so that we are transformed, become more and more like the Lord Jesus transformed on the mountain, with face as bright as the sun. To reach such spiritual stage, summarizing what's discussed above, we must: (1) our heart needs to focus onto the Lord; (2) the veil has to be removed; (3) Open our face to see the glory of the Lord, as reflected from the mirror; (4) continue to look intently into the mirror, the Spirit of the Lord will transform us into the image of the Lord, full with the glory of Jesus.

On the New Year Eve of Year 2000, I went to a conference in Palomar Mountain in southern California. There is a big astronomical telescope in Professor Hubble's lab, specifically for observing interstellar nebulas. Because the distance is so far and the light is so weak, huge telescope and long time are necessary to collect light from nebulas. Sometimes it takes 6 months to get one nebula photo. The problem is, the earth is rotating all the time, so the telescope often can't stay focused on a nebula. The Hubble Lab therefore put the telescope on a device, which is fixed on a track, and they synchronize with earth's rotation so that the telescope can stay focused on the nebula; a photo can be formed after long time for visitors to see and understand the secrets of the nebulas in the universe. This is the unique contribution by Prof. Hubble; therefore interstellar telescopes are named after him. The experience on Palomar mountain before the new year made me suddenly understand what the Lord revealed to us in 2 Corinthian 3:16-18. To take a photo of a nebula, it would have to take 6 months to stay focused on it. Brothers and sisters, how long do our heart stay focused on our Lord? During 24 hours in a day, how many minutes do we stay focused on our Lord? There is no wonder why we still haven't changed much. No wonder when others look at us they wouldn't submit themselves to Jesus; no wonder the church is not prosperous today, because our heart has not stayed focused on the Lord. May God help us, so our heart can stay focused on Him with an open face so our spirit can be free. After a week, a month, a year, the film in our heart can collect more and more glory of the Lord, so it can reflect to transform us, making us more like the image of the Lord, from glory to glory. May the Lord in the New Year make us see how limited our hearts are; may the Lord's word reveal our true selves; may the Spirit of the Lord transform us. May the three spiritual mirrors always reflect in our hearts, so in the reflection we can be more beautiful and bright in the Lord!