

08.10.2008 (Sun)

Whatever He Does Prospers (Jas 1:22-25)

There are two ways to look. Two ways of understanding. Two different persons. Let's meet the two persons. One person *looks at his face in a mirror and then goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like*. The word *look* in Jas 1:23-24 is *katanaeo*. It means *to observe*.

But, how you observe is very important. This person's observation is more like a glance. At first glance things can look good. After careful observation you see the seemingly deficiencies in the things. To glance is to take a brief or hurried look. You can't really understand how things work by glancing for few seconds, can you?

His observation doesn't keep record of why or how or what he observed for. He simply doesn't remember! We don't know why he doesn't take time *to see and think*. He's hurrying to see. Then, he forgets what he looked at. He doesn't remember what he saw. He doesn't know what he looks like. He lost his identity.

To see clearly you must get closer. Consider the crowd in the baseball stadium. You know the people are there but you can't really see the people unless you zoom in and get close to their faces and begin to see their unique individualities.

So, there's another way of looking. The second person looks at himself in the mirror like the other person. But, the way he looks at himself in the mirror in Jas 1:25 is different kind of looking. His look is *parakripto*, which means '*penetrating absorption*.' His observation penetrates the outer things and sees what's inside.

Then, he absorbs what he sees and understands. It's a deep understanding, going beyond the *mere* visible characteristics. His look is based on faith. His *look* is *faithful* based on meditation.

Let's read Jas 1:25. "But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does."

He looks "intently," meaning that he is determined to look into the Word of God. He has an eager attention and is resolved to meditate on the Word continuously. He continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it."

He doesn't forget what he saw or heard because he *continues to look* with "penetrating absorption." The only power that can penetrate body, soul and spirit is the Word of God. C'mon and let's read Heb 4:12. "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

He meditates on the Word sunny days and rainy days. The seasons can't stop him. Circumstances can't stop him. Because he is resolved on *doing it*. Doing it means practicing what he knows and believes.

Living his faith by continuing to meditate on the Word. It is mirror that "allows" what he looks like. He sees himself thru the mirror. The mirror symbolize the Word of God. His Word shows our true identity. Not only He shows us how weak we are, but He also shows how strong we can become.

Do you remember the parable of two home builders in Mt 7:24-27? One builder was wise; the other was foolish. The wise builder was the one who listened to the word and acted upon it. The foolish builder was the one who listened to the same word but didn't put into practice.

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

The other unfortunate builder who built his house on sand lost his when "the rain came down and streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house. It fell with a great crash." Jesus said "But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand."

The difference between the wise builder or foolish builder was where they chose to build, and how they were going to build their houses. The wise man built his foundation on the rock. David confessed and praised his God is his Rock in Psa 18:1. God was the Rock of David's life. God was David's strength. God was his protection.

That same God is our power today! He is our eternity! The foolish man built his foundation on the sand. Sand is a broken rock. So small it is now just a grain of rock. Sand and stars they both symbolize people (Gen 22:17). Sand is the earthly people. Stars the heavenly children of God.

Sand represents my fallenness and brokenness away God. If I continue to build my hopes and dreams on my brokenness I will crash greatly (Mt 7:27). But, today I can be wise and live wisely by looking into the Word, understanding the power of the Gospel and putting prayer, faith and grace of God into real life experiences.

No matter where you are you have a purpose in your life. Today you can **intently** look into Jesus and **continue** to have a firm grip on His gospel to **not forget** what gospel means; Jesus is *the* Good News for you and all people! By *doing it*, you will be blessed in what you do!