

## AS IN A MIRROR

When we look in the mirror, what we see is the reflection of ourselves. What the mirror shows truthfully and undeniably is the reality of what we look like. Many of us spend hours in front of a mirror dressing our face with makeup, eye shadows, eye brows straightening. At the end of this ordeal, we take a last look in the mirror to perfect our art work. It is amazing what a little makeup here and there can do to a face. Thanks to a mirror that can be done. But all of these are external and superficial beauty we desire, so to be accepted by the world, wanting to feel good about ourselves. There is however, an internal beauty provided by our Lord YAHSHUA when He died to cleanse us from our sins and iniquities; It reflects from the soul to the world in ways that world will notice the difference. It is a beauty that shines love, unconditional love to all. Moses reflected the glory of God in his face when he came down the mountain, where he spent forty days and nights with God. The brilliance of God's glory was so strong, he had to cover his face with a veil until he went up the mountain to talk to God. Imagine that! Paul said that Moses veiled his face so that the Israelites might not gaze upon the finish of the vanishing [splendor which had been upon it] (II Cor. 3:13). Moses carried with him the splendor of the glory of God every time he saw Him.

Like Moses, we God's people have access to His presence and experience His glory, because YAHSHUA tore the veil that separated the holy from the unholy from top to bottom. He opened our eyes of understanding to perceive as in a mirror His glory being reflected in us. So, becoming more like Him, we experience the ever-increasing glory, as we are transformed into His image. This is done by the Holy Spirit, Who works sanctification through molding us into being like YAHSHUA. This is a beautiful gift, but at the same time very painful too, because our soul being carnal does not submit to God easily. Its desires are evil, and contrary to God's holy desires and so are the thoughts of the mind; our emotion acts circumstantially depending on what is happening. As a result, the shining of the glory of God fades away, His joy from where we receive our strength is diminished. We want to be like YAHSHUA; indeed, but going through the breaking of the power of our will, thoughts and emotions, is not easy to accept. Going through his spiritual battle, Paul expressed himself the feeling that we also struggle: "But I discern in my bodily members a different law at war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that dwells in my bodily organs. O unhappy and pitiable and wretched man that I am! Who will release and deliverer me from this body of death? O thank God! [He will] through YAHSHUA Messiah our Lord! ..." (Rom. 7:23-25a). Yes, God, in his love through the Holy Spirit, continues refining us and perfecting us until the day He calls us home. As silver and gold must be refined for the purpose of shining the inner beauty as jewelry on the neck of one, or on the finger of another, we must submit to the work of the Holy Spirit of refining and transforming us from glory to another degree of glory according to His will. The veiled faces of those who continuously reject the truth is made impossible to perceive, to hear and listen, for darkness has covered their understanding. Not until they turn to the Lord in repentance will they be unveiled.

As in the mirror, the glory of the Lord will clearly be demonstrated to us some day; “for now, we see in part, we prophesize in part. However, when He comes and is manifested, we shall resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope on Him cleanses himself just as He is pure” (I John 3:2-3). Paul says that “for now, our knowledge is fragmentary, and our prophecy is fragmentary but when the complete and perfect comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away. For now, we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim reflection, but then we shall see in reality and face to face! Now I know in part, but then I shall know and understand fully and clearly, even in the same manner as I have been fully and clearly known and understood [by God]” (I Cor. 13:9,10,13). Persevering in our walk with the Lord, day by day, we will experience God’s glory, as when Moses did after spending forty days and forty nights, not one time, but two times, experienced God’s undeniable and radiant glory shown on his face. Moses’ experience with God was perfect and complete in the physical presence of God. Moses’ intimacy with God, made him a very special individual to this day, for no one has ever experienced it to the extent that Moses did. When he pleaded to see God’s glory, God allowed him to see His back and protected Moses with His hand, so Moses would not see His face and die in His presence. Moses said, “I beseech You, show me Your glory, and God said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name, THE LORD before you; for I will be gracious, and will show mercy and loving-kindness on whom I will show mercy and loving-kindness; but He said, You can not see My face, for no man shall see Me and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place beside Me, and you shall stand upon the rock and while My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by, Then I will take away My hand and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen” (Exodus 33:18-23).

The glory of the Lord shone to the disciples after His resurrection, when He invited them to have breakfast with Him. The glory of the Lord shone brightly over death at His resurrection and salvation was given to all who will receive. YAHSHUA restored Peter into His fellowship after a time questioning him about the love he said to have for Him. Peter experienced personally the love of YAHSHUA in that moment. His life radiated the glory of the Lord from that time onward. From glory to glory, Peter’s life was forever changed. Sanctified into God’s glory, he died for His Lord a death of a martyr. “As in a mirror, we continue beholding the glory of the Lord and we are constantly being transformed, renewed in an ever-increasing splendor from one degree of glory to another” (II Cor. 3:18). A Christian that has dedicated himself to walk the holy walk the Bible teaches no matter what circumstances bring, is evidence of the work of sanctification exercised in his life. For sure, he shines the glory of the Lord in all he does and the Lord God is exalted through him. The closer that we walk with the Lord, the brighter that the splendor of His glory will shine, as silver or gold when they are refined through fire or another means. It will happen when in the valley or in the wilderness, for these places are the refiners of our life.

When we are facing the deserts and valleys, we are standing in the presence of the Lord, as it was for Moses, the man of God. His most important experiences happened in the wilderness amidst trials and tribulations. It was not in the palace, when being considered a prince. No, it

was not. But it was on the top of the mountain of God, it was in the wilderness when God descended to him. Moses' face shone the brightness of the glory of God as a result of being with Him. What does this tell us? A place alone with our Savior and Lord would be a great idea; a place where the noise of the world will not be heard, a place of quiet waters symbolic of a peaceful place, where our hearts are united with the Lord's, our will entwines with His will. A place where He will calm our hearts of fear, worries and anxieties. It could be even in a closet of our house. A place where we shed tears of repentance and confession, where we spill our hearts and frustrations before the Lord with tears washing away the soul of all hurts we carry within. And as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord will be revealed to us as it was revealed to His servant, Moses. As we grow from glory to glory, our soul is renewed in the presence of the Lord, day after day until the end of our days on earth.