

# Mirrors and Photographs

What is the difference between a mirror and a photograph? They both show a picture, they both come in all shapes and sizes. However, they both also have limitations. A photograph can only show you what happened in the past, while a mirror shows what is in the present.

Paul (1 Corinthians 13:12) and James (James 1:23) both talk about looking in a mirror. James especially relates the importance of paying attention to what is seen in the mirror of God's Word and making changes or improvements where necessary.

Unfortunately, some people get their mirrors and photographs mixed up. They spend most of their time looking into their photographs. They cannot change the image that was already created. They cannot take back things that were done or said, only gaze upon them in memory.

What a picture cannot do is tell you what is now or what will be. They do not allow us to fix things in the present because they represent something that has already happened and cannot be changed. So, why do so many people spend so much time looking at photographs? Because it is easier to remember the past than it is to fix the present or prepare for the future.

Photographs have value and purpose. They remind us of what has taken place previously. Nevertheless, the greater value is found in the mirror. There is where we find the power to change what is seen, and to prepare for what is to come. It is in the mirror that we can fix the issues that plague us.

Are we looking into the mirror of God's Word and working to improve today and prepare for tomorrow? Or are we spending our time looking at photographs of the past and failing to learn from the lessons therein? ~~ *Adam Cozort*