

The Mirror — The Path Of Relationship

The Mission: Building Community in a Separated World

The Mirror



Spiritual Disciplines The Path To Proactive Living

Intentional Living

Do you sometimes feel like you are in a relationship that is going nowhere?
Is there a proactive way to approach relationship?

The Mirror

Understanding the path of relationship is about understanding the principle of **Reflexivity**, which goes something like this: in the general case our view of self is **reflective** of our view of reality. If you don't think this is true, try and describe your self without describing any external thing. **This is the mirror concept.**

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines is about **living intentionally**. It is about getting ahead of our own dying and surrendering ourselves to God. Intentional living is a **proactive approach** to our own growth. It is also about answering the question of *individual responsibility verses collective suffering* in the spirit of discernment.

Spiritual Disciplines provide us with an **intentional active way** to live in sync with God's plan for our lives, to understand our own issues, and look into our own sins. They provide us with a way to cleanse and grow and become more like our savior Jesus Christ. We learn things like transparency, the laws of attraction and how they interact with our life experience, and we learn the transformative lifestyle.

Relationship can be one of the most powerful spiritual paths that can be taken! It can incorporate a number of spiritual practices that can take us to new heights in our relationship with each other and with our God and Creator.

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13: 12



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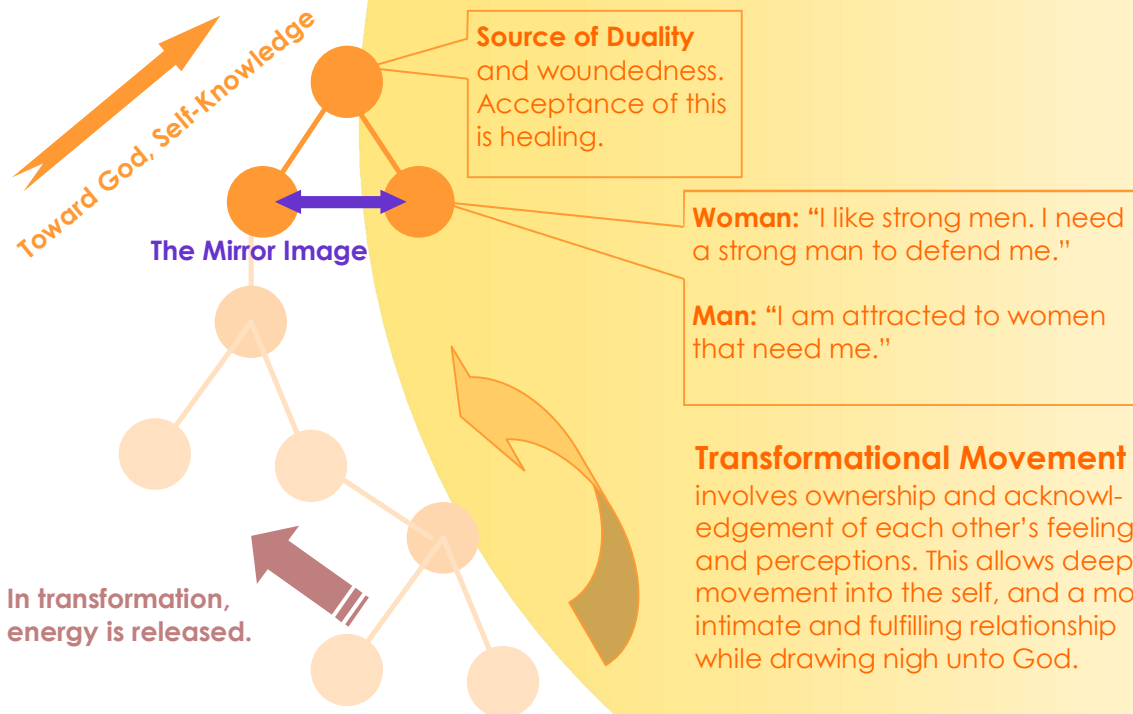
Identifying The Image In The Mirror

In many cases our most significant relationships in life provide an opportunity, through deep interpersonal interaction, to identify components in the "mirror."

Specifically what we see in an other is also reflective of what we think of ourselves. Whether or not we feel we are **tyed** to a relationship or **committed** to a relationship, this understanding is the first step on a more vertical path.

Transformation on this path is about identifying **the image in the mirror** and moving past it by dying to our own wants, desires, and attachments, and allowing ourselves to experience the accompanying emotions that hold us in a given place. For some people, acknowledgement is the hardest step, while for others feeling is the hardest step. Often when we self-select a person to be in relationship with, we do so based on our perception of their ability to help us with one or the other of these components. **This self-selection process sets our course for learning.**

Opposites attract and likes attract - these seem like two contradictory statements: how can they both be true? Opposites attract at the level of duality, likes attract at the level of the **source** of that duality. From a thought viewpoint, there is a structure to this dynamic.



And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Putting on the Mind of Christ And The Structure of Consciousness

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When we consider if we are called to do inner work we might think of the verse.

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **James 1:22-24**

This verse seems to be calling us to introspection, to really consider what we are looking at, what we are seeing. The goal of this process is outlined in Ephesians.

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²**to prepare God's people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, **attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Ephesians 4: 11-13

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. ² Corinthians 3:18

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