

Now, I call your attention to the other passage I would like to mention in this connection. That is in 2 Cor. 3 where we find the statement of Paul (starting with v. 15), "Even to this day when Moses is read a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone 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 freedom. And we who with unveiled face reflect the Lord's glory are begin transformed into his likeness . . . which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

KJV at that point speaks of growing from glory to glory. With every increasing glory, from glory to glory in the life of the one who is truly making progress in sanctification there is progress, there are mountain tops, there are depressions in between them, but the mountain tops are getting higher. There is glory to glory. There is progress in sanctification.

This 18th v/ is interesting the difference between the KJV and the NIV, in their rendering. KJV has "but we with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord." That phrase: Beholding him, is a wonderful phrase and we miss that in the NIV, which says "we with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory." NIV has a footnote by the word "reflect" which says "contemplate." What a difference between reflecting and contemplating. They are both involved in it.

KJV says "with open faces beholding him as in a glass." That's where your reflexion idea comes in the NIV. Beholding Him as in a glass. The earliest English translations--not the very earliest but among the earliest made in the very early days of the English translation of the Bible all of them say "seeing in a mirror". "Seeing the glory of the Lord in a mirror." Chrysostom pointed out in the fourth century in a sermon on this passage there are two elements in it. We reflect the Lord's glory like a mirror, and we reflect what we see, reflect on what we see; contemplate the Lord's glory.

So if we can learn to contemplate the Lord, can learn to see him as in a mirror because his direct fact we could not look upon the glory of the Lord. But to see him, to reflect on him, to meditate on him, and to reflect to others what we see, there is a primary element in our being transformed from glory to glory, of meditating on the Lord. It is possible to study the scriptures in order to pass an examination and get nothing from it. It is possible to read the Scripture because that is your duty. Read some verses and get nothing from it. But to meditate on the Lord, to think about Him, and how wonderful His plan is and how far superior He is to anything you could plan. And to learn to know him better and to show forth His glory to others, this is the primary element in our sanctification. I think it is particularly important that we take time. That we constantly pray without ceasing as Scripture says. Meditate on the Lord and realize His presence in all that you do, and in all that happens.