

You know, a mirror is such a simple thing. It allows you to look critically at yourself. You get the exact image of yourself, an almost perfect reproduction of what other people see physically when they look at you. Now, as some of you know, I spend most of my time on the fine edge of being half crazy. And the other day, I began wondering, "How do other people see me?" There is no mirror that can easily show us just how we look as a personality, how we look mentally and spiritually. I saw a movie the other day that really emphasized to me the importance that each of our lives has to someone else. Each of us influences someone else, far more than we or they know. In this movie, a man decided that it would have been better if he had never lived. He was then shown what his life would have been like if he had never existed. All of the people he loved had led empty lives without his influence. There is no way for me to tell you the real impact that each one of us has for another.

We are sort of in the business to help one another, to do what we can to spread love and peace and God's personal message to every one that we can, while at the same time not letting the influence of the world change us. We must not let our spiritual mirror get smudged or unused so that we cannot examine ourselves. As Richard Rogers says, 'Evil companions corrupt good morals, 9 times out of 4.' But so many times instead of telling one of our friends that what he is doing is wrong, we tend to think that he is cool, and we want to be like him. We must beware the leaven of the worldly.

Everybody knows what a filter is, like the green or gray filter used for sunglass material. A Christian is a sort of a filter for God. The word goes into our minds, like a light, and sometimes we do not let it shine out into the world by our actions. We are darkened, as with sin. Our lamp has been hid by a bushel. But we must let the word of God flow from us to light the way for others.

We don't always have the opportunity to do big things, and really stand out as someone everyone sees and wants to be like, but it's every little thing that we do that will most influence our friends. We are sometimes a little like a catalyst in someone's life. A catalyst is a material that takes part in a chemical reaction, and influences the participants, but in the end result remains free from the products just as it was in the beginning. What I am trying to say is that we influence people and then are forgotten by them quickly, but our influence remains. One never notices a particular brick in a building as being important, when in fact it is very much a part of the support of the building. We don't need to try to impress others with our 'Christianity', but if we are just a Christian, they will be influenced by it just the same.