



# **MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL**

**CRYSTALENE REYES**

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# MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

I remember as a child, I loved to read and I would fantasize about fairy tales. The glamour of princes and princesses and kings and queens was something that always captivated me. There was this one story, ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs’ that I’m sure we are all familiar with, which stood out to me. In the story, Snow White is the princess who is envied by her wicked stepmother. She is exiled into the dangerous forest and rescued by seven dwarf miners. She is beautiful and she is kind hearted and she has charisma. She charms every creature in the Kingdom. The Queen looks at Snow White and seeing all that she has and possesses, she orders her loyal huntsman to take Snow White into the woods and kill her. She wants her dead because she is a threat to the queen's own beauty. When the huntsman fails to deliver, the Queen herself comes to Snow White disguised as an old peddler woman and persuades Snow White to take the bite of a poisonous, seemingly rosy, red apple, promising her it will make all of her dreams come true.

Now let’s rewind a little, what started this in the first place? The Magic Mirror! The Queen would go every day to her magic mirror and ask the question, “Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?” and the mirror would respond, ‘Why of course you are!’ until one day when even the mirror recognized that there was one

fairer than the Queen. How green with envy the queen became! I don't know how many of you have ever experienced envy but, it is not a pretty emotion to manage.

In the book of Matthew, one of the four Gospel accounts in the New Testament, Jesus is presented, by Matthew, as a man from Israel. Matthew was a Jewish man, a former tax collector and he was a man who had walked with Jesus on the earth, a disciple, an eye-witness to the events of the Lord's life and in his writing, he sought to prove to his Jewish readers that Jesus is the long-expected Messiah and that He was in fact the son of David. The book was written as a fulfillment of the Old Testament and traces Jesus' descent all the way from Abraham. It is known as one of the Gospels: evidence of the Good News. **Matthew 4: 1-11** presents a testimony of Jesus below:

*1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

*4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

*5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:*

*‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’*

*and,*

*‘In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”*

**7** *Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”*

**8** *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”*

**10** *Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”*

**11** *Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

This account, read above, can not only be found in the book of Matthew, but can also be found in a similar way in Mark and Luke. It is much the same as having three different persons give three witness statements from three different perspectives after they've each experienced the same event. Key similarities will most definitely exist but there will also be key things that would stand out to each individual. For this purpose, in this exposition, we examine closely Matthew's account.

At the point of our exploration, we are in Chapter 4 of the book of Matthew. The passage before finds John the Baptist preaching about repentance in the wilderness and baptizing those who are willing. Crowds gather to hear him preach, even Israel's religious leaders. Jesus arrives on the scene and insists that John baptize Him. As He emerges from the water, the Heavens break open and the Holy Spirit descends to rest on Jesus like a dove. Following which, the Voice of God Himself declares that, ***'THIS IS MY BELOVED SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.'*** Picture that moment and how it must have ricocheted the kingdom of darkness. Certainly, it would have been a 'Mirror, Mirror on the Wall....Who is the fairest one of all' moment! Imagine how this event would have rocked the prince of the air. ENVY and BITTERNESS ACTIVATED!

After this baptism and open declaration, Jesus is led into the desert to be tempted by Satan (HIMSELF) in our chosen passage of Scripture. You see, when you are dealing with big anointings, Satan doesn't trust to send just anyone to do the job. They may be like the huntsman. This is a job for the 'bigboy' himself, the man in charge!

Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Have you ever been hungry? The body, after just eight hours without eating, begins to use stored fats for energy and this continues until eventually it runs out and stored protein is used for energy. Eventually, the body begins to produce a hormone called cortisol. In



fact, research says that it is actually like the body's built-in alarm system. It is your body's stress hormone and works with your brain to control your mood, motivation and fear. As a matter of fact, one article that I read actually said that those on their deathbeds can survive between ten to fourteen days without food and water. Jesus fasted for *forty* days! And now, he was hungry! But guess what! The HOLY SPIRIT rested on Him like a dove! You see when the Holy Spirit rests on and in you, no amount of hunger can cause you to fall. Jesus responds in Matthew 4:4 and says, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'. EVERY WORD, EVERY PROMISE, EVERY TOUCH.

It is no secret that at times we all become hungry. We become weary. We become tired. We crave more of what the world has to offer. We crave more of what the flesh demands. This hunger does not always come from the lack of food. Anything that we lust after, we can be hungry for but we need to recognize the triggers of the lust. Our anointing triggers the temptor and **he comes to offer you a carbon copy, a fleshly version of 'food'**. We must as a result continue to wrap ourselves with the presence of the Holy Spirit, lest we fall like Snow White and bite into the apple. We are taught that just as God kept the Israelites in the wilderness, He can sustain and feed us once we maintain that humble dependence on the divine blessing. No, you cannot feed yourself the way that God can feed you. All this talk about, I can do all things and I am responsible for me and I and I make my own path. NO! It is

I can do all things THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME and yes, I am responsible for my choices but I am God's child and my FATHER's word is a lamp unto my path and a lamp unto my feet.

Permit me to share an experience I had while on a fieldtrip with some of my female students. I had taken my 'girls' to the Pitch Lake, a tourist attraction located in South Trinidad. While walking with the tour guide, he picked up a rocky, flaky looking substance and began to explain to the girls that it was in fact, dead pitch. He then continued to explain that the dead pitch could be fed to the plantain plant when it begins to die and this causes the plant to be restored. This is when it hit me! My DADDY really didn't forget anything!

Sometimes, I can't even wrap my mind around it to be honest. It blows my mind! The birds of the earth and the fish of the sea are all provided for by God, and we who are created in His own image and likeness, we somehow believe that we have the power within us to do all things, without Him! NO... IT IS THE POWER of CHRIST within Us that properly equips us to do all things! We must not get fooled by a half truth. A half truth is still a lie. It is a mere reflection of part of the truth. In similar fashion, the Holy Spirit had rested upon Jesus like a dove! Remember this point as we move on: **WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD TO BE FED** hence we would be given a carbon copy of the real thing.

Once the devil recognizes that he hasn't succeeded with his first trick, he wastes no time in diving into the next! He **challenges your faith**. The devil took Jesus to the Holy City and had him stand at the highest point of the temple. Oh boy! Scripture says, 'Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, *"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. **For it is written:** 'He shall give His angels charge over you, and, In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone'.*

Contrary to popular belief, Satan isn't this dense, ugly-looking, clueless creature. To the contrary, he knows scripture better than you and me, and he will not hesitate to quote it partially for you, in an effort to confuse you! It is therefore of critical importance that we don't get fooled! Young people, as we say in Trini language, 'Doh take chain up'. If a young man were to come to you and say, 'Come nah girl, is God bring us together. God said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. What we waiting for marriage for?', or the boys on the block says to you, 'Boy, God says, "I shall supply all your needs according to your riches and glory in Heaven. Let's go rob someone." ' Know that that isn't the voice of God! That was the mirror image, the carbon copy, the half-truth which is the lie! But the thing is you can't know what you don't know so if you don't have the Word in your Heart, the Holy Spirit living inside of you, you have no recourse to determine a whole truth from a half-truth in the face of such eloquence and charisma.

Going back to the scene in the book of Matthew, the enemy is saying to JESUS: throw Yourself down. If he could say that to JESUS, imagine what he would say to you and me? Heaven help us! Why though? Why all this venom? Remember, much like Snow White and her step mother, you bear the anointing and as a child of GOD, YOU are now the fairest one of all. Satan has a problem with us because we are a threat to his throne and he will waste no time in chewing us up and spitting us out! It is also very worthy to note that when Satan sets you up, He doesn't do it half way. Look at the word pinnacle. Pinnacle means **highest point** so you know that's not no easy fall! His intent is that when you hit the ground, you hit hard! We must be very wary of the carbon copy, the force on the other side of the mirror! To do this, we need dependence on the Holy Spirit. Our **lives** depend on it!

As if everything else isn't enough, when all else fails, **he offers you false hope / power!** He couldn't feed you, he couldn't take your life so to keep you contained, he offers you a false sense of power, and he does it strategically. The Bible says,

*'8 Again, the devil **took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.** 9 And he said to Him, "**All these things I will give You** if You will fall down and worship me."*

First, he takes you up, he watches you rise up, he leaves you to rise up! Then he shows you all you can have. Things you didn't see before and never thought you could

have, and all of a sudden you're raving for position and power and the glory that comes with it. Then when you're properly well lustful, he promises it to you but only if you would worship him.

Jesus was promised the kingdoms of the world and their glory by the prince of the air because HE KNEW WHAT WAS COMING. You see, Satan figured that if he could 'block' Jesus by giving him 'a fake toy to play with', Jesus would never get a hold of the real toy, but Jesus, **being full of the Holy Spirit** responded, *"Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

You see sometimes we have to walk away from the little things that seem big so that we are available for the bigger things that will blow our minds when GOD gives it to us! If a glass is already filled with orange juice, there is no space left in the glass for me to fill it with champagne. If a plate is already full of macaroni and cheese, I can't fill it with macaroni pie. If you are already occupied with fake friends, there's no space on your calendar for the genuine ones. This being said, we need to be careful not to fill ourselves with the carbon copy but rather be patient to receive the real blessing! Our Father is not a man that He should lie! He is GOD! He is the Way, the Truth and the Life! And not just the TRUTH, the WHOLE truth and nothing but the Truth. As God's children, we have to strive to preserve the truth THROUGH the power of the HOLY Spirit.

What happens next? **Satan flees!** The biblical account states, 'Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.' If the devil had been allowed to minister in Jesus' space, there would be no room for the angels to come and minister to Him. Even the devil is smart enough to know when to leave you and yours alone! He will retreat but not without a fight and you cannot put up a fight without the presence of the Holy Spirit!

Imagine this, twenty-three chapters after Jesus turns down Satan's carbon copy of an offer, the King is placed on a cross and dies for you and me. When Jesus gives up the ghost, the bible says,

*“51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”*

One chapter later, Jesus appears to his remaining eleven disciples on the mountain in Galilee and Scripture says,

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me **in heaven and on earth.** 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have*

*commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

What a pity if we were to fill our cups prematurely with the imitation when the original already has our names stamped upon it! Rather, we must do as Psalm 37:17 commanded,

*'Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.'*

In closing, I beseech you to wait for that promotion, wait for that child, wait for that new car, wait for that spouse, wait for that house, wait for that new opportunity! But don't just wait idly, rather, wait in His Word and be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit!



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Crystalene Reyes is a devoted Christian, wife, and mother of five—three biological and two bonus children whom God blessed her with through the sanctity of marriage. Her love for the Lord began at a young age when her grandmother took her to church, igniting a faith that, though tested, has remained steadfast. She holds a Diploma in Theology, a Bachelor of Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. As a teacher and entrepreneur, Crystalene is the co-owner and founder of Divinely Guided Learning (CS Reyes Learning) in Trinidad and the founder of Divinely Guided Books, an online Christian platform offering both paid and free content to help others grow in their faith. Her



passion for God's Word drives her to share its truth with those willing to listen. She is the visionary behind the Through God's Voice series, which intertwines Biblical scripture with life lessons and self-development principles. Her ultimate mission is to positively impact lives and be the salt of the earth, just as God intended.