

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25 (NIV)

A Quick Glance

What will a quick glance into my word do for you? I'm not sure. **What has a quick glance in a mirror done for you?** It has never been good idea for me to rely on a quick glance at myself in the mirror. **Why is that?** I can't tell you the number of times I have been embarrassed because I missed something I didn't see with a quick glance in the mirror. **Do you now look intently in the mirror every day before leave your home?** Yes, I do. I'm pretty sure that I look in the mirror much longer and more frequently than needed. I look in the mirror every chance I get. **Why is that?** I don't want anything to be out of place or to not look right. **I see.**

My word is like a mirror. How so? **My word will help you to examine your life to see if anything is out of place or doesn't look right. My word will help you to evaluate all that you think, say and do. A quick glance at my word will help you about as much as a quick glance into the mirror has helped you.** Why is that? **You tell me.** When I rely on quick glances into your word I'm not look intently or listening carefully. My heart and mind are not ready and receptive to take your word into my life. Just minutes after quickly glancing into your word I have forgotten what I just read. There is very little chance that I will ever put your word into practice when I cannot even remember what I just read. **That's right.**

What will you do if you want my word to bless your life? What will you do if you want my word to set you free? I will look intently into your word. I will listen carefully to your word. I will consider deeply all that your word has to say to me. **Can you listen carefully and consider my word deeply with quick glances into it, here and there, and now and then?** No, I cannot. **What else will you do with my word?** I will put your word into practice. I will let your word change my heart, transform my mind and guide my life. **My word will bless your life as you listen to it carefully, consider it deeply and put it into practice. My word will set you free to live the life that I have given to you.** That is what I want. That is what I will do. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I know that I look at a mirror a lot. With a very quick glance I have been embarrassed because I missed what I needed to see. Help me to look intently in the mirror of your word so that I will be able to hear and do your will. Amen

God's Word*Do What It Says*

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

NIV

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Do What It Says*

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

NLT

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Be Doers Of The Word*

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

NRSV

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Be Doers Of The Word*

But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth]. For if anyone only listens to the Word without obeying it and being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror; For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like. But he who looks carefully into the faultless law, the [law] of liberty, and is faithful to it and perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he shall be blessed in his doing (his life of obedience).

AMP

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Doers Of The Word*

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

NASB

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Be Doers Of The Word*

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

ESV

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Be Doers Of The Word*

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

NKJV

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Act On What You Hear!*

Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

MSG

James 1:22-25

God's Word*A Message To Obey*

And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. So don't fool yourselves. For if a person just listens and doesn't obey, he is like a man looking at his face in a mirror; as soon as he walks away, he can't see himself anymore or remember what he looks like. But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it but he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does.

TLB

James 1:22-25

God's Word*Do What God's Teaching Says*

Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves. Those who hear God's teaching and do nothing are like people who look at themselves in a mirror. They see their faces and then go away and quickly forget what they looked like. But the truly happy people are those who carefully study God's perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God's teaching says. Those who do this will be made happy.

NCV

James 1:22-25

Do What It Says

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

God's Word – James 1:22-25

In Context: *Read James 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Do not | merely listen | to the word, | and so | deceive yourselves. | Do what | it says. | Anyone | who listens | to the word | but does not do | what it says | is like | a man | who looks | at his face | in a mirror | and, | after looking | at himself, | goes away | and | immediately forgets | what he | looks like. | But the man | who looks intently | into | the perfect law | that gives freedom, | and | continues | to do | this, | not forgetting | what he | has heard, | but | doing it |--he will | be blessed | in what | he does.
James 1:22-25

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I know that I look at a mirror a lot. With a very quick glance I have been embarrassed because I missed what I needed to see. Help me to look intently in the mirror of your word so that I will be able to hear and do your will. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How is God's word like a mirror that will help you to evaluate all that you think, say and do?

Why is a quick glance into the mirror of God's word an inadequate way to let it evaluate your life?

What have you failed to notice in your own life because you were not looking intently into God's word?

What would help you to develop the practice of daily looking intently into the mirror of God's word?

When has looking into God's word helped you to change something about your thoughts, words and deeds?

How has hearing and doing God's word on a daily basis brought His blessing into your life?

Why is there no benefit in hearing but failing to put God's word into practice in your life?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it your daily pattern to look intently into God's word so that you will be able to put it into practice?

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God will bless your life as you look intently into His word and put it into practice.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how hearing and doing God's word has blessed your life.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you look intently into God word and do what it says so that He can bless your life.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will look intently into your word and do what it says so you can bless my life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I look intently into your word and put it into practice as I follow you today?
