

*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)*

## **Into Practice**

**What do you think will happen to you if you continue to look intently into my word?** That is a very good question. I know that if I continue to look intently into your word I will be changed by it. **How so?** Your word will change my heart. Your word will transform my mind. Your word will guide my life. You will use your word to mold and shape my life. You will use your word to make me into the person that you have called me to be. **That's right. So, it is not a waste of time of your time to continue to look intently into my word.** There is nothing that I consider to be of higher value than to meet with you in your word. **That's an interesting way that you said that. You are not merely studying my word?** No, certainly not. **You are meeting with me in my word.** Yes, that's right. **You are meditating on my word. You are praying my word. You are letting my word dwell in you richly.** Yes, I am.

**You know that my Holy Spirit will take my word and apply it right to your life, right now.** Yes, that's exactly what I am counting on. I know that your word is like a sword in the Holy Spirit's hand. He will use your word to fight in me, with me, and for me. **What do you mean by that?** Well, putting your word into practice will set me free. The world and all its principles, values and practices will lose their grip on me as I take hold of your word. Your word will strengthen me and make me able to stand against temptation. Just as your word fought for you against the devil and all his evil so also will it fight for me. **Yes, it will.**

**How has my word blessed your life?** Your word has changed my thoughts, words, and deeds. Your word has changed the desires of my heart and the goals of my life. Your word has given me hope and meaning and purpose in life. **How so?** Now, I want to live my life fully for you. Now, I want to go and do what is pleasing to you. Now, I want to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Now, I am looking forward to a future and far better day when I will come to live forever in heaven with you. In the meantime, I will continue to put your word into practice with all the strength that you will give to me. **That is very good.**

*Lord, I have no desire to merely listen to your word. Every day I will look intently into your word. Show me what you want me to see and know. Help me go and do all that you are teaching me. Set me free and bless my life by your word as I put it into practice. Amen*

**Blessing***Looks Intently*

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

**Blessing***Looks Carefully*

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

**Blessing***Look Into*

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

**Blessing***Looks Carefully*

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

**Blessing***Looks Intently*

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

**Blessing***Looks Into*

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

**Blessing***Looks Into*

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

**Blessing***Catches A Glimpse*

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

**Blessing***Looking Steadily*

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

**Blessing***Carefully Study*

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

# Looks Intently

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Blessing** – 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 (NIV)

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

Lord, I have no desire to merely listen to your word. Every day I will look intently into your word. Show me what you want me to see and know. Help me go and do all that you are teaching me. Set me free and bless my life by your word as I put it into practice. Amen

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

How are you making it your daily pattern to look intently into God’s word?

**How has daily looking intently into God’s word helped you to remember and put it into practice?**

What is something that the Lord has recently taught you from His word?

Why would it be a tragic mistake to know God’s word, but fail to put it into practice?

How is knowing God’s word and failing to put it into practice a form of self-deception?

**How has the Lord set you free as you have put His word into practice?**

**How has your life been blessed as you have continued to look intently into God’s word?**

**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 you can put it into practice.

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

Have faith that the Lord will set you free and bless your life as you put His word into practice.

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

Share with another person or your small group how you are developing the practice of looking intently into God’s word.

**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?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

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

*May you look intently into God's word so you will know and do what it says.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

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

*Lord, I will look intently into your word so I will know and do what it says.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, what can I see, know and do from your word today?*

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