

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)

Freedom

I certainly want to live in freedom. I definitely want to live a life that you can and will bless. **Those are good desires that you have in your heart. What must you do if you want to live in freedom? What must be your habits if you want to live a life that I can and will bless?** That is a good question. Obviously, you are referring to more than one habit. **Yes, I am.** First, I must make every effort to hear your word. **How will you make every effort to hear my word? How frequently will you make yourself available to hearing my word?** I will hear your word by reading your word. I will hear your word by studying your word. I will hear your word by meditating on and memorizing your word. I will hear your word by praying your word. These are some of the ways that I will make every effort to hear your word. I will engage in these efforts to hear your word every day as I come to meet with you in your word. I will sit silently and in solitude before you so I can hear you speaking to me through your word. This is the first habit. This habit will help me to hear your word. I will develop this habit of listening to you. **That will be very good.**

The second habit that will help me to live in freedom and allow you to bless my life will be to put your word into practice. I can expect to receive no benefit from your word by hearing it but failing to put it into practice. **That's true.** So, I will make every effort to put into practice all that you have shown me from your word. I will follow and obey you. I will do what you ask of me. I will allow your word to form the thoughts of my mind, words of my mouth and the deeds of my life. This is the second habit. Putting your word into practice will bless my life and make me fruitful as I love, follow and serve you. I will develop this habit of putting your word into practice. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I will not merely listen to your word. I will not deceive myself. I will not forget all that you have said to me. Thank you for richly blessing my life and helping me to live and walk in freedom as I make every effort to both hear and put your word into practice. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Gives Freedom*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Sets You Free*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Law Of Liberty*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Law Of Liberty*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Law Of Liberty*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Law Of Liberty*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Law Of Liberty*

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

Becoming Like Christ *The Free Life*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Law For Free Men*

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

Becoming Like Christ *Makes People Free*

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

Gives Freedom

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – 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?)***

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

Lord, I will not merely listen to your word. I will not deceive myself. I will not forget all that you have said to me. Thank you for richly blessing my life and helping me to live and walk in freedom as I make every effort to both hear and put your word into practice. Amen

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

What benefit will you receive from God’s word if you only hear but do not put it into practice?

How is hearing but not putting God’s word into practice a form of self-deception?

When have you made the mistake of hearing but not putting God’s word into practice?

What has helped or hindered you from both hearing and putting God’s word into practice?

How are you making every effort to both hear and put God’s word into practice?

How has both hearing and putting God’s word into practice given you freedom?

How has God blessed your life as you have both heard and put His word into practice?

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

Make every effort to both hear and put God’s word into practice so you can live in freedom.

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

Have faith that you will live in freedom as you hear and put God’s 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 hearing and putting God’s word into practice.

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 live in freedom as you hear and put God's word into practice.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, I will live in freedom as I hear and put your word into practice.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I live in freedom today as I hear and put your word into practice.
