

*The Letter to the
12 Tribes*

James

Jas. 1:23-27



Jas. 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James

INTRODUCTION, 1:1

I. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BATTLES, 1:2-16

A. The Testings of the Christian Life, 1:2-12

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2. The subtlety of temptation, 1:16

From verse 17 until the end of chapter one the Book of James is emphasizing the importance of the Word of God.

II. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BIBLE, 1:17-27

A. God's Word is Likened to a Gift, 1:17-18

1. A gift that brings divine light, 1:17

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(2) He is unchangeable, 1:17e



- 2. A gift that brings divine life, 1:18
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 - 2. To effect a change in our walk, 1:21-22
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 - c. What to resolve, 1:22

Be a participator not a spectator!

Jas. 1:22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only**,
deceiving your own selves.

C. God's Word is Likened to a Glass, 1:23-27

1. A challenging experience, 1:23-24

a. A foolish condition, 1:23a – “For if any be a hearer
of the word, and not a doer...”

Jn. 8:47 **He that is of God heareth God's words**: ye therefore
hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.



Isa.8:20 To the law and to the testimony: **if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**

Rom. 3:4 God forbid: yea, **let God be true, but every man a liar**; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

b. A forceful comparison, 1:23b-24 – “he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”



Original Word: κατανοέω

Transliteration: katanoeó

Definition: I take note of, perceive, consider carefully, discern, detect, make account of, behold

katanoéō (from 2596 /*katá*, "down along, exactly according to" and 3539 /*noiéō*, "to think") – **properly, to think from up to down, to a conclusion; to consider exactly, attentively (decisively); to concentrate by fixing one's thinking " 'to perceive clearly' (kata, intensive), 'to understand fully, consider closely' "** (Vine, Unger, White, *NT*, 123). 2657 (*katanoéō*) **expresses real comprehending** – "thinking *decisively* to a *definite* (clear) understanding."

[2657 (*katanoéō*) has "the notion of considering *attentively* (note the *kata*, 'down into,' " *WS*, 349).]

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2657.htm>

James

The Word of God is like a mirror:

- A mirror will not lie.
- A mirror is an unbiased reporter – it just shows the truth.
- A mirror is personal, showing us ourselves.
- A mirror assists in grooming, to help us prepare for the public.
- A mirror is best used with light.
- An unused mirror does us no good.
- Running away from the mirror does not change our looks.

Short-term memory of practicing Scriptural principles will lead to a short-circuiting of a Christian's testimony to the world.

2. A changing experience, 1:25-27

a. A call to behold, 1:25

(1) A question of discerning, 1:25a – “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein...*”

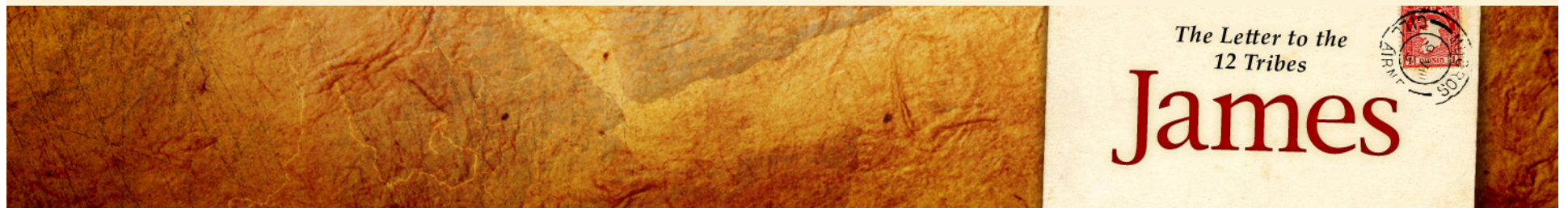
Original Word: παρακύπτω

Transliteration: parakuptó

Definition: I stoop, peer in, look down, look intently.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3879.htm>

If a believer will look intently into the principle of liberty, and then remain there, continually, he will live a blessed life!



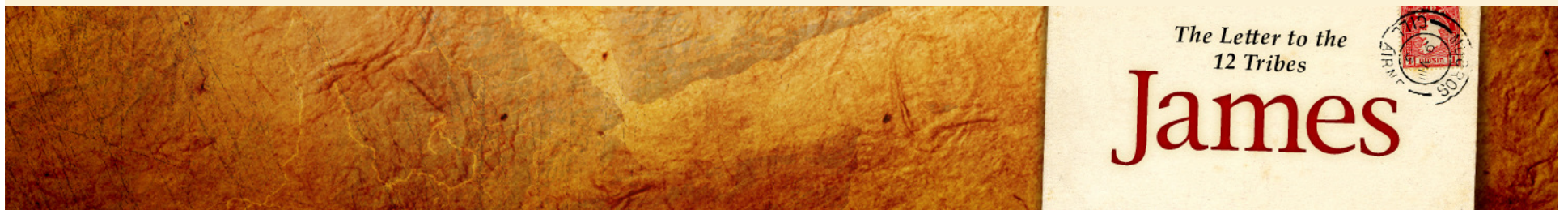
Original Word: τέλειος

Transliteration: teleios

Definition: perfect, (a) complete in all its parts, (b) full grown, of full age, (c) specially of the completeness of Christian character.

Cognate: 5046 *téleios* (an adjective, derived from 5056 /*télos*, "consummated goal") – *mature* (consummated) from going through the necessary stages to reach the *end-goal*, i.e. *developed* into a consummating *completion* by fulfilling the necessary *process* (*spiritual journey*).

[This root (*tel-*) means "reaching the *end* (*aim*)." It is well-illustrated with the old pirate's telescope, unfolding (extending out) one stage at a time to function at full-strength (capacity effectiveness).] <http://biblehub.com/greek/5046.htm>



True freedom is the ability to do what pleases God, in spite of our fleshy shortcomings.

The power of such liberty rests in the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through the believer.

2 Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but **of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

Gal. 5:1 Stand fast therefore in **the liberty** wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Gal. 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so **fulfil the law of Christ.**

Mt. 11:30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Original Word: παραμένω

Transliteration: paramenó

Definition: I remain by, abide with; met: I persevere in, I continue.

3887 *paraménō* (from 3844 /*pará*, "from close-alongside" and 3306 /*ménō*, "abide, remain") – properly, remain close-beside (near), i.e. *abide* ("continue alongside") in a *close-working* relationship (partnership); a "*stay-close* remaining."

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3887.htm>

Psa. 70:4 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and **let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.**

Psa. 119:117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and **I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.**



James

Dan. 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast *him* into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto **Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually**, he will deliver thee. ...

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spake and said to Daniel, **O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee** from the lions?

Jn. 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**

Jn. 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love.**



Acts 1:14 These all **continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 2:42 And they **continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship**, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 13:43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, **persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.**

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* **exhorting them to continue in the faith**, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.



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Col. 1:23 If ye **continue in the faith grounded and settled**, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

2 Tim. 3:14 But **continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of**, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

1 Jn. 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for **if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us**: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.



(2) A question of doing, 1:25b – “...he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, **this man shall be blessed** in his deed.”

“...a doer of the work...shall be blessed...” = a worker shall be blessed for doing – not “saved” for doing!

b. A call to behave, 1:26-27

(1) A pretended religion described, 1:26

(a) The test, 1:26a – “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue...”



Original Word: θρῆσκος

Transliteration: thréskos

Short Definition: religious

Definition: (refers probably to a careful observance of religious restrictions), religious (probably in a limited sense), devout.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2357.htm>

(b) The truth, 1:26b – “...but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.”

(2) A practical religion described, 1:27

(a) Unstinted giving, 1:27a – “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this...”

(b) Unstained living, 1:27b – “...To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

Deut. 10:18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

Isa. 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Zech. 7:10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

Psa. 68:5 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, *is* God in his holy habitation.

James argued for a clear, simplistic reality of what true spirituality is. We are not to deceive ourselves into thinking that we are spiritual if our obedience to God is only superficial.



James

Summary

Acknowledgement of truth is worthless without action of the truth.

A true Christian will practice his faith in a manner showing the love of Christ toward others.

Such participation will include a life marked with the holiness of God, rejecting the worldview of the heathen.

A believer's commitment to God will include obedience to His Word and His will.



Conclusion

Psa. 19:14 **Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,** be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.



Take My Life and Let It Be Frances R. Havergal, 1874

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
*Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.