

# The Book of James

Jas. 1:22-25

Faith

IN

ACTION!

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

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.

We continue looking at the Christian and his battles, realizing what a believer's relationship with faith looks like:

1. A believer is saved by grace through faith;
2. A believer lives life by walking by faith;
3. A believer learns to be tested by faith.

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

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

B. The Temptations of the Christian Life, 1:13-16

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

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

B. God's Word is Likened to a Graft, 1:19-22

1. To Effect a Change in our Talk, 1:19-20

2. To Effect a Change in our Walk, 1:21

a. What to Reject, 1:21a

b. What to Receive, 1:21b

The Book of James is a practical book expressing how, and why, faith affects the life of a believer. In the beginning of chapter one, James explains the testings and temptations experienced by believers regarding faith after salvation. He continues by emphasizing how important the Word of God is in affecting a change in the believer's talk and walk. As he finishes chapter one, he likens the Bible to a looking glass and its effect on believers. The life of a believer reflects the effectiveness, or lack thereof, that the Word of God has in daily influence.

## C. God's Word is Likened to a Glass, 1:22-27

### 1. A Challenging Experience, 1:22-24

#### a. A Foolish Condition, 1:22-23a

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

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer...”

- ❖ The imperative verb, “be,” is directed to professing believers. There is a definite connection of the Bible’s influence to a believer’s life.
- ❖ If there is no connection of such an influence, then the result is a foolish condition of self-deception.
- ❖ A true believer of Christ is also a doer of His Word, not a hearer only.
- ❖ “That which is heard in the holy place must be lived in the market place.”

*The Letters of James and Peter*, p. 69. William Barclay.

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.”

- ❖ A “hearer of the word” that is not a “doer of the word” is only concerned about “appearance,” and eventually goes “his way,” forgetting “what manner of man he was.”

Prov. 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death. (Prov. 16:25)

- ❖ A “way that seemeth right” is the way of a being self-deceived.

- ❖ What looks acceptable to a person in the mirror may not be what is acceptable to the Lord.
  
- ❖ A mirror speaks the following truths:
  - A mirror is not deceptive in reflecting its image.
  - A mirror is not to blame for what it reflects.
  - A mirror allows personal grooming, adjusting for a better projection.
  - A mirror that is distorted produces distorted images.
  - The Word of God, like a mirror, maintains the same qualities for the reader.
  - The mirror of the Word of God is our guideline for spiritual growth and change.

1 Jn. 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

Eph. 5:26 That he might sanctify and **cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

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*, he being not a forgetful hearer...”

❖ A mirror is useful, but a believer “looks” into “the perfect law of liberty,” knows what is genuinely believed, and is consistent in life – “continueth *therein*” – “...he being not a forgetful hearer...”

**Original Word:** παρακύπτω **Transliteration:** parakuptó

**Definition:** to stoop sideways, to stoop to look **Usage:** I stoop, peer in, look down, look intently.

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

- ❖ Believers are to behold, stoop down and observe “the perfect law” that completes the believer.
- ❖ Believers are to behold, stoop down and observe “law of liberty” that sets a believer free.

2 Cor. 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

❖ As a believer peers into the Word of God, the effect should be a motivation to obedience, doing what the Word of God directs.

**Original Word:** ἐπιλησμονή

**Transliteration:** epilēsmoné

**Definition:** forgetfulness **Usage:** forgetfulness, oblivion.

*epilēsmoné* (from *epilanthánomai*, "neglect") – properly, forgetfulness (failing to notice), emphasizing the natural effects that go with (*build on*) **the neglect (note the *epi*, "upon")**.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1953.htm>

- ❖ To be one that is NOT forgetful, a believer must be honest in scrutinizing self, seeing the reality of the spiritual condition, be it good, bad, or fruitlessly neutral.

(2) A Question of Doing, 1:25b “...but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

- ❖ Consider the contrast – “...but doer of the work...” – not a religious person nor a busy-body, but someone living daily the precepts of God’s word, doing His will.

Josh. 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

❖ The implication in this passage is that a true believer exhibits a life-style of faithfulness to obedient service for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb. 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded **better things of you, and things that accompany salvation**, though we thus speak.

1 Jn. 3:10 In this **the children of God are manifest,** and the children of the devil: **whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,** neither he that loveth not his brother.

2 Pet. 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for **if ye do these things,** ye shall never fall:

## Summary

- ❖ A sense of humility is implied in two things regarding the “glass”:
  - Admitting imperfections reflected by the mirror of God’s Word;
  - Stooping to investigating the Bible, and then following it.
  
- D. A true believer maintains a lifestyle of obedient activity in following God’s Word.

Psa. 19:7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

## Conclusion

Rom. 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

21 Because **the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do **we with patience wait for it.**