

Be Not Hearers Only!

The Word:

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 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 someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:19-27 NIV

How often do you forget what you look like? When I think about it, I look in the mirror to make sure I haven't changed - my eyeliner isn't smeared (it usually is), my hair isn't messier than I thought it was (it usually is), or my shirt isn't stained by something I ate (it usually is). But I never look at the mirror because I've forgotten what color my hair is or because I've forgotten where my nose is or because I can't remember if I have ears or not... I know my features. I can recognize myself in a picture of 10, 100, or even more if I could zoom in close enough to see clearly.

So what's the warning here? Today's key verses are here again for reference:

“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 someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” James 1:22-25

The command is to do what God says. If you do what God says - without forgetting - you will be free and blessed in what you do. Only by the power of God can your life be changed. Any other power is useless for real life change - even “sheer determination” is useless and wages war against the peace God offers. Only by God’s power are we changed.

I want to be clear that this is not a “prosperity gospel” verse. Looking intently into the perfect law that gives freedom CHANGES what you do - it makes you look more and more like the One Who made you. You will be blessed by DOING - by obeying the Word of the Lord that gives freedom. What a promise!

The only question now is: what has God’s Word said to do that you may have forgotten or postponed? Go and do it intently, and be blessed.


Prayer:

God, I praise You for Your perfect Word given to us and kept by Your Divine protection for us to read in this age. You are good, and You never change. Help us look more and more like You as we look into Your perfect Word that changes us! I trust You for Your Word, that if I will do my part of intently looking to You, You will do Your part of creating life-change. I praise You endlessly that You promise in the Bible that Your Word never fails but that it succeeds in what You say - I praise you that You want me to succeed in knowing You.

Worship:

“Power to Redeem” by Lauren Daigle https://youtu.be/1TNU9_wfvf0 [youtu.be]

“Where I’m Standing Now” by Phil Wickham <https://youtu.be/zcAV7-b9wMQ> [youtu.be]

Love you all 

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