

KEEN OBSERVATION

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Perhaps you have done that little exercise where you are asked to look at a picture for a short period of time and then, when it is removed, answer some questions about what you saw. I never did very good. I don't know if it was due to a faulty memory, or that I just didn't seem to concentrate on the right things. The exercise is designed to see how well we observe and remember what we see. Looking at something is one thing; remembering what we have seen is quite another. It takes keen observation for us to remember the things we have seen. This is true spiritually as well.

“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” (James 1:22-25). It has been stated that when we look into the word of God, it is like a mirror in which we can see our true condition. Perhaps, but James is not saying that we see ourselves when we look into the law of liberty. What we see is the contents of the law of liberty – God's perfect will.

God's word is what we must not forget. It is not enough just to hear and see, but we must remember what we have observed and be doers of the word. After we observe our outward appearance in a mirror, we then go on about our daily business, immediately forgetting what we saw. That is why we must keep checking a mirror over and over throughout the day. We must develop better memories when it comes to looking into God's word. This makes study and meditation so vital to our lives. Only then will our lives be transformed so that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2).