



Growth Group Questions
October 19, 2025
“More Than a Glance”

CONTEXT

Most scholars understand that the author of James was the half brother of Jesus and an important leader in the early Church that was in Jerusalem. It was a difficult time as he led because of a famine and persecution from the Jewish leaders. We learn about his life through Acts 12 and 15 and Galatians 1-2. He was a great leader until he was eventually murdered.

This letter is written to gather all of the wisdom through his leadership as he repeats the teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount and from the book of Proverbs. His desire is for all of God’s people to live according to the teachings of Jesus and Scriptures so that they may live and thrive through wholehearted devotion to Jesus.

The imagery we find with a mirror is an illustration of actually putting the Word of God into practice. The Self-Deceiver will not practice what they hear and therefore do not live a life that is transformed. Someone who looks into the perfect law of God’s Word and continues to reflect on it will become a “doer” of the Word and is therefore blessed.

As we look upon this Scripture we realize that the author, James, wants us to understand the whole story of the Bible as the people in his church were often Messianic Christians because it is the foundation for our understanding of both the teachings of Jesus and the Way going forward as His followers.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 13:17-18

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds

and return to Egypt.” ¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 1:1-3

¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

James 1:22-25

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ 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.

Joshua 1:6-9

⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷ “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

QUESTIONS

1. What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says that “all Scripture is God-breathed”? (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. In 2 Timothy 3:16, the Apostle Paul gives us four practical benefits of the Scripture for our lives: teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. Can you think of an example of how a particular passage of Scripture has benefited you in one or more of these ways?
3. In Psalm 1:1-3, we are told that those who “delight in the law of the Lord” are blessed. What does it mean to delight in God’s Word?
4. In James 1:22-25, we have the analogy of a mirror used to describe how we may read the Bible. What do you think James is saying to us through this analogy?

5. James tells us that we are to look “intently” into God’s Word. (James 1:25) What does that mean to you? Why do you think we sometimes find it difficult to read the Bible in this way?
6. Why does James tell us that it is self-deceptive to be only a “hearer of the word” rather than a “doer of the word”? (James 1:22)
7. How does reading the Bible with intention help us to grow spiritually?
8. What are some practical ways you can increase the intentionality with which you read the Bible?
9. What are some practical ways you can move from being just a hearer of the Word to a doer of the Word?