

# James 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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.** The blessed hearer looks intently (parakypsas, παρακύψας) into the perfect law of liberty (nomon teleion ton tēs eleutherias, νόμον τέλειον τὸν τῆς ἐλευθερίας), continues in it, and becomes a doer who acts. James fuses Torah language with gospel freedom: the law fulfilled in Christ liberates rather than enslaves when obeyed by grace.

The verbs emphasize perseverance; the one who stays (paramenas) in the Word experiences blessing in doing. Reformed theology affirms the third use of the law: guiding believers into joyful obedience empowered by the Spirit.

## Historical Context

James addresses believers wrestling with Mosaic law's role. As Jerusalem's leader, he affirms the law's continuity in moral demands while celebrating liberty from ceremonial bondage—harmonizing with Paul's teaching in Galatians 5. Diaspora Christians needed assurance that obedience to Christ's law leads to true freedom, even under oppression.

The term "law of liberty" counters the accusation that James is legalistic; he presents obedience as liberation from sin's tyranny, not capitulation to legalism.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does viewing God's commands as the 'law of liberty' reshape obedience?
2. What disciplines help you look intently and continue in the Word?
3. Where might you need to persevere in doing despite cultural pressure?

## Interlinear Text

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ο δὲ παρακύψας εἰς νόμον τέλειον τὸν τῆς  
G3588 But whoso looketh into law the perfect G3588 G3588  
G1161 G3879 G1519 G3551 G5046

ἐλευθερίας καὶ παραμείνας οὗτος οὐκ ἀκροατὴς  
of liberty and continueth therein he not hearer  
G1657 G2532 G3887 G3778 G3756 G202

ἐπιλησμονῆς γενόμενος ἀλλὰ ποιητὴς ἔργου οὗτος  
a forgetful being but a doer of the work therein he  
G1953 G1096 G235 G4163 G2041 G3778

μακάριος ἐν τῇ ποιήσει αὐτοῦ ἔσται  
blessed in G3588 deed G846 shall be  
G3107 G1722 G4162 G2071

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 11:28** (Word): But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

**John 13:17** (Parallel theme): If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

**1 Peter 2:16** (Parallel theme): As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

**James 2:12** (Word): So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

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

**1 Corinthians 15:58** (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**1 Timothy 4:16** (Parallel theme): Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

**Proverbs 14:15** (Word): The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

**Romans 11:22** (Parallel theme): Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

**Romans 8:15** (Parallel theme): For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.