

**Introduction:**

**Resilient:** the ability to withstand or recover from a difficult situation.

*<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.*

James 1:21-25 (NIV 1984)

**How to experience God's power**

- **Freedom** to become the joyful, mature, Christ-like, person who “lacks nothing” (James 1:2-4) requires a \_\_\_\_\_  
**from** sinful practices and relational patterns; and a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the Word implanted in our hearts.

*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.*

James 1:21 (NIV 1984)

**How do we wholeheartedly cultivate God's Word within us?**

1. We must specifically \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word to our lives.

*Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

James 1:22 (NIV 1984)

2. Because exposure without application = \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

James 1:23-24 (NIV 1984)

3. Because immersion with application = \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.*

James 1:25 (NIV 1984)

- “Looks intently” = evaluate
- “Continues to do this” = meditate
- “Does not forget” = memorize
- “But doing it” = application
- Result = “he will be blessed (favored, happy, satisfied) in what he does.”

**Summary**

In the midst of difficult circumstances (1-12), powerful temptations (13-18), and emotionally challenging relationships (19-21), the man or woman who regularly feasts on God's Word via listening, reading, studying, memorizing and meditation for the purpose of obeying what is said will be "set free" to become the joyful, winsome, loving person he/she longs to become with God's hand of favor upon all they do.

**The power of God's Word:**

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,*

1 Peter 2:2 (NIV 1984)

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV 1984)

*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable through the living and enduring Word of God*

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV 1984)

*<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 8:31-32 (NIV 1984)

### Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced the power of deception in your life? What brought you out of the deception?
2. From what sinful practices do you need to radically repent?
3. What hinders you from wholeheartedly cultivating God's Word in your life?
4. What are some practical ways you can specifically apply God's Word in your life this week?

### Resources:

- *Growing Deeper with God* – Daily Discipleship with Chip, at [livingontheedge.org](http://livingontheedge.org) & the Chip Ingram App
- *How to Hear God's Voice in Scripture*, online course, at [livingontheedge.org](http://livingontheedge.org) & the Chip Ingram App
- *Living by the Book* – Howard Hendricks