



Part 2 – September 16, 2018
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The words we speak are incredibly powerful! They can build up, encourage, motivate or tear down, hurt, and cause horrible scars. It's time we understand the words we speak carry power.

James 1:19, My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

- People want to be heard...
- People want to be understood...
- But even if we don't ever agree, would you please just listen to me?

Listen More

Wisdom begins when we listen more and talk less.

In all relationships, the most important thing we could do is learn to be quick to listen.

Luke 6:31, Do to others as you would have them do to you.

It will always be hard to listen until we slow down.

“Listening is loving the neighbor as oneself. Their concerns and problems are sufficiently important to be heard.”

“Quick to Listen” = Present Active Imperative = this means we have to keep at it.

Today's challenge: quick to listen in two specific areas:

With Others

With God (Psalm 46:10)

Talk Less

Being slow to speak is embracing the common-sense principle to “think before you speak.”

The easiest way to talk less is to ask questions.

Our natural tendency is to be slow to listen and quick to talk.

Proverbs 10:19, Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

Relationship Principle: When you are wrong, admit it; whenever you are right, shut up!

If you are not careful, you can “right” the person right out of the door.

Calm Down

James is not saying, “Do not get angry.” That is unrealistic.

The word, translated “anger,” refers to a deep-seated anger.

Anger = drawing hasty, misinformed, and relationally destructive conclusions.

Proverbs 16:32, Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

An angry spirit is never a listening, teachable spirit.

Ultimate Divine Agenda

James 1:20, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Anger produces an ugly, unrighteous life.

Matthew 5:22...

My Agenda-----Your Agenda----God's Agenda (the one that matters)

James 1:21, 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.

An unwillingness to listen, a sinful tongue, and unrighteous anger are moral evils.

May the Spirit of God soften our hearts, and may we walk in humility by the planted Word in our lives.