

Faith that Works

Pt. 2 – How to Respond When Pressure Hits!

How to respond when pressure hits:

Quick to listen

Jam. 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen...

Slow to speak.

Jam. 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...

When I slow down before speaking:

I can separate facts from feelings.

I can choose better words.

Prov. 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

I can consider the outcome I want.

Slow to become angry

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

Anger is expensive.

Prov. 14:17 A quick tempered man does foolish things.

Prov. 29:11 A fool gives vent to his anger but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Anger is not the answer.

Jam. 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

“Anger doesn’t change anything. Action changes things. Do not confuse the two as many often do. In my view, it’s amazing how little all the righteously angry people actually do. They get worked up, maybe fire off some social media posts, and pat themselves on the back for being so righteous in their anger. In fact, they’ll get mad if you’re not mad enough about the things they’re mad about. (Brant Hansen, *Unoffendable*)

Eph. 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.

Faith that works listens first, speaks carefully and refuses to let anger win.