

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. 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 1:19-21

Like A Luxurious Garden

What are you quick to listen to? What and who has your attention? I'm not exactly sure what you mean. **What thoughts occupy your mind? Who is speaking into your life?** I would like to think that your thoughts occupy my thinking and that you are speaking into my life. **Now you are beginning to understand my questions.**

I want you to be quick to listen. You might ask "To what, do you want me to listen?" You already know the answer. Yes, I do. You want me to be quick to listen to you and your word. **Yes, I do.** How will I best be able to do that? **Now, that is a very good question. You are like a garden. I want my word to be planted in you so that it will flourish and grow. You will never be able to live the righteous life I desire for you unless you are listening to my word. As you listen I will plant my word in you. You are right to ask how will you be able to be quick to listen to my word.**

I will gladly answer that question for you. To listen you must listen. That sounds obvious doesn't it? Yes, it does. **You can't be speaking and listening attentively at the same time.** I get it. **Do you really? The more you speak the less you will be able to hear and listen to me. The one who speaks thinks he knows. The listener listens because he does not know. I want you to have the attitude of a humble listener. I want you to be hungry and eager to hear from me. I'm here to listen. Yes, you are and that is very good.**

There are two things that will also hinder your ability to hear from me. They will try to prevent you from living the righteous life I have given you to live for me. What are they? The first one is anger. How well can you hear from me if you are angry about something? When I'm angry I can't hear from you at all. **Yes, that's right. Will you set aside all your anger so that you can listen to me?** Yes Lord, I will.

What is the second thing that will prevent me from hearing from you and living the righteous life you want me to live? **This one is the direct opposite of the life I want you to live. I want you to get rid of anything that is morally filthy and evil. Take a close look. Do an inventory with me. Ask me to show you if there is anything in your life that displeases me. I will show you what must go. Together we will uproot what I don't want planted in your life. Then in the new space available I will plant my word into your life so that my word will continue to grow and flourish in you. That's what I want Lord. Yes, I know. I will make your life like a luxurious garden and you will flourish for me.**

Lord, help me to remove anger, moral filth, and evil from my life so that I will be able to attentively listen to you. Plant your word in me and cause it to flourish and grow so that I will be like a luxurious garden bearing fruit for you. Amen

Wisdom*Quick To Listen*

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

NIV

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Quick To Hear*

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

ESV

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Quick To Listen*

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

NLT

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Swift To Hear*

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

NKJV

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Quick To Listen*

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

NRSV

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Lead With Your Ears*

Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

MSG

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Quick To Hear*

Understand [this], my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear [a ready listener], slow to speak, slow to take offense and to get angry. For man's anger does not promote the righteousness God [wishes and requires]. So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls.

AMP

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Best To Listen*

Dear brothers, don't ever forget that it is best to listen much, speak little, and not become angry; for anger doesn't make us good, as God demands that we must be. So get rid of all that is wrong in your life, both inside and outside, and humbly be glad for the wonderful message we have received, for it is able to save our souls as it takes hold of our hearts.

TLB

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Quick To Hear*

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

NASB

James 1:19-21

Wisdom*Willing To Listen*

My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily, because anger will not help you live the right kind of life God wants. So put out of your life every evil thing and every kind of wrong. Then in gentleness accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts, which can save you.

NCV

James 1:19-21

Quick To Listen

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Wisdom – James 1:19-21

In Context: *Read James 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. 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 1:19-21

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

My dear brothers, | take note | of this: | Everyone | should be | quick to listen, | slow to speak | and slow | to become angry, | for man's anger | does not | bring about | the righteous life | that God | desires. | 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 1:19-21

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, help me to remove anger, moral filth, and evil from my life so that I will be able to attentively listen to you. Plant your word in me and cause it to flourish and grow so that I will be like a luxurious garden bearing fruit for you. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How hard is it to hear what the Lord wants to say to you when you are angry?

How will being quick to listen to the Lord help you from becoming angry and saying what you regret?

Why is it so hard and almost impossible to listen to the Lord when you are doing all the talking?

Why is a humble person known more for listening than for all their talking?

How will being slow to speak give you time to hear what the Lord wants to say to you before you speak?

What anger, moral filth, or evil needs to be removed from your life so that you can hear from the Lord?

When are you allowing the Lord to speak to you so that He can plant His word in your life?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Rid your life of anger, moral filth and evil so that you can listen to the Lord and allow Him to plant His word in you.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will plant His word in you and cause your life to grow and flourish for Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord is planting His word in your life and causing you to grow.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you put away anger, moral filth and evil so you can humbly listen to God and let Him plant His word in you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will put away anger, moral filth and evil so I can listen and allow you to plant your word in me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what do you want to plant in my life today as I humbly and attentively listen to you?
