

## Quick, Slow, Slow

James 1:19-21

In 1:19, James identifies with the recipients of this letter. He counts himself among them. He is their brother, and they are his brothers and sisters. They share the same Father above who gave them all spiritual life and who put them together in His family. See 1:16-18.

These much-loved believers in Jesus were living in trying times. They were enduring trials and battling temptations. Theirs was a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. See 1:2-4 and 12-15.

When we are suffering, we are tempted to do the **exact opposite** of what James says next. When we are mistreated, hurt, vulnerable, grieving, and/or afraid, it's easy to be slow, quick, quick **instead of** quick, slow, slow.

And yet... James says that **all of us** ("every person") are to live this way, even as we may suffer. Even when we are under pressure, God calls all of us who are His own to do the opposite of what comes easy for us. "And untold damage is done when these good and wise commands are not kept by any of us."



\_\_\_\_\_ **EARS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TO HEAR**

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." -Proverbs 12:15 (ESV)

"Most people, however, including many leaders, are terrible listeners. They actually think talking is more important than listening."

"Listening takes sacrifice. Listening takes humility... It is not a little thing."

Per 1:21, there is someone else we need to be quick to hear. It is God himself. We need to remove all sin from our lives so that we can humbly receive His saving Word. We must evict all sin from our lives so that God's Word can really move in and go to work. Which shows, games, books, music, activities, etc. do you need to put out of your life so that you are able to effectively receive God's Word?



\_\_\_\_\_ **LIPS: NO** \_\_\_\_\_ **TO TALK**

"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." -Proverbs 12:18 (ESV)

“Healing words are the opposite of the cutting, irresponsible words.” (NET Notes)

“Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”  
-Proverbs 29:20 (ESV)

“Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.”  
-Proverbs 13:3 (ESV)

 \_\_\_\_\_ **NOSE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TO** \_\_\_\_\_

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,” -Exodus 34:6 (ESV)

אָרְךָ “slow/long”

אֲפִים “to anger” — the word is related to “nostril, nose, face”

We are like the LORD when we are slow to anger.

“The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.” -Proverbs 12:16 (ESV)

“The fool is impatient and unwise, and so flares up immediately when anything bothers him.” (NET Notes)

Let us remember: “...the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” -James 1:20 (ESV)

Are you quick, slow, slow? This is the way of wisdom. This is the way of the brother or sister who fears the LORD and follows Jesus Christ. This way of living is made possible by God’s grace in our lives. What we can’t do on our own God can accomplish through us.