

**BOOK OF JAMES
RECEIVE THE WORD
JAMES 1:19-27**

In the early Church, the services were informal; and often the listeners would debate with the speaker. There were even fightings and wars among the brethren James was writing to. (James 4:1)

Oh how we need to be *SWIFT TO HEAR* and *SLOW TO SPEAK*...

III. WE NEED TO BE SLOW TO WRATH! (1:19)

Do not get angry at God or His Word.

Proverbs 14:29—"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."

In our Wednesday night study recently we saw in **2 Samuel 12:1-7** how the Prophet Nathan told David a parable to call attention to the sin in David's life. David didn't know it was a parable and got mad at the perpetrator in Nathan's story not realizing that his own sin was at least as egregious as the one he got mad at!

In the garden of Gethsemane, Peter was slow to hear, swift to speak, and swift to anger—and he almost killed a man with a sword.

Many Church fights I've either witnessed or heard about were usually the result of short tempers and hasty words.

There is a godly anger against sin! *Ephesians 4:26 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:"*

And the Word of God says that if we love the Lord, we must hate sin. *Psalms 97:10—"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil."*

But, man's anger does not produce God's righteousness. **(1:20)**

In fact, expression of our anger is just the opposite of the patience God wants to produce in our lives as we mature in Christ. **(James 1:3-4)**

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Somebody said, "*Temper is such a valuable thing, it is a shame to lose it!*" It is temper that helps to give steel its strength. The person who cannot get angry at sin does not have much strength to fight it.

But James is warning us here against getting angry at God's Word because it reveals our sins to us.

Don't be like the man who broke the mirror because he disliked the image in it!

People get upset with God's Word and rebel against God's Word because it tells the truth about them and their sinfulness and so they take offense to it!

IV. WE NEED TO BE PREPARED TO HEAR! (1:21)

James saw the human heart as a garden. Any of you that have ever had a garden understand that if a garden is left to itself, the soil will only produce weeds that will overwhelm and choke out any fruitful plants.

That's the picture that we see here. James urges us to pull out the weeds and prepare the soil for the implanted word of God.

The phrase "*superfluity of naughtiness*" gives the picture of a garden overgrown with weeds that are out of control. Just as you wouldn't think about planting a garden in ground that hasn't been tilled, it is foolish to try to receive God's Word into an unprepared heart!

How do we prepare the soil of our hearts for God's Word?

A. By Confessing Our Sins And Asking The Father To Forgive Us. (I John 1:9)