

## Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

- 1) Be quick to **hear** the **Word** of God – 1:19 ἀκοῦσαι *acoustic*
  - Our natural inclination is to run from God and His Word.
  
- 2) Be quick to hear **wise** counsel – 1:19  
Why is it important?
  - Because listening shows **value**.
  - Because every person has been made in the image of God and has intrinsic worth (imago dei).
  - Because you don't know it all.
  - Because you can learn something from others.
  - Because listening to others can avert **disaster**.
  - Because **refusing** to listen to others is a sign of pride and God destroys the proud.
  
- 3) Be slow to speak: **weigh** your words – 1:19; Proverbs 10:19; 17:27-28; 2 Peter 3:9
  - Because our words matter to God – Matt. 12:36-37
  - Because our words **affect** others – Proverbs 12:25; 15:1-2; Proverbs 25:25
  
- 4) Be slow to **anger** – 1:19-20  
Why? Because our anger is opposed to God's righteousness. – 1:20  
  
What is righteousness? Conformity to God's character and all that He commands.
  - Our wrath does not bring about God's will.
  - Our wrath attempts to subvert God's authority.

## Ways we try to deal with anger:

- Excuse it: fractures relationships.
- Stuff it: eats away at us.

*"If you have an anger problem or a bitterness problem, it is really a gratitude problem." – Kevin DeYoung*

Q: What about 'righteous anger?'

A: Justice is righteousness worked out; revenge is selfishness spilled out. Romans 12:19-21 *"Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*

Q: So how should I respond?

A: Put away everything that doesn't belong in your life and **humbly** receive God's Word. 'put away' – 1:21; Eph. 4:22; 24-27; Col. 3:8-10, 12-15