

Quick to Hear, Slow to Speak”

“But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger,” - James 1:19

The Tongue

- + The Hebrew people knew how important it was to Guard the tongue.
- + Proverbs 13:13
 - “He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his life; but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.”
- + Proverbs 10:19
 - “When there are many words, transgressions is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”
- + Ecclesiastes 7:9
 - “Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.”
- + Ecclesiasticus 5:11
 - “Be swift to hear, and with patience make thine answer.”
- + “Let everyone” refers to all Christians should be responsible for their tongue and know that it is a Continuing duty.

Controlling the Tongue

- + “Quick to hear” or “Swift to hear” is referring to a person being Eager and Attentive to hear what is being said and wanting to Receive and Assimilate what has been heard.
 - This is speaking of Attentive listening.
- + “Slow to Speak” does not mean Slowness in speaking but is a call for restraint upon Hasty and Ill-considered reaction to what is being heard.
 - Not being quick to speak is a Safeguard against Hurtful and Immature reactions.
- + “Slow to Wrath” is what happens when we don’t respond in a Flash.
 - “Intemperate religious zeal is often accompanied with a train of bad Passions, and particularly with great Wrath against those who Differ from us in Opinion.” - James Macknight
- + “Wrath” implies a strong persistent feeling of Indignation and Active anger.
- + Mark 3:5
 - “And after looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart.”
- + Human anger never Practices the things that God can Approve.
- + Verse 20
 - “the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”