

RELATIONAL FUNDAMENTALS

James 1:19-20

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” (James 1:19-20 NIV).

1. SLOW TO SPEAK

- **Stop talking**
- **Practice not interrupting**
- **Ask “Why am I talking so much?”**
 - Fear
 - Loneliness
 - Lack of control
 - Struggle to trust God

2. QUICK TO LISTEN

- **Humility**
- **Love**

“I have seen how cruelly My people are being treated in Egypt; I have heard them cry out to be rescued...” (Exodus 3:7 GN).

The Skill of Listening: How to Become a Master Listener

- **Look at the Person**

“As (Jesus) went along, He saw a man blind from birth...” (John 9:1 NIV).

“Jesus looked at him and loved him” (Mark 10:21 NIV).
- **Ask Questions**

“Do you believe that I am able to do this?” (Matthew 9:28 NIV).

“What about you? Who do you say that I am?” (Luke 9:20 NIV).
- **Offer and Appropriate Touch**

“And Jesus was filled with pity and reached out and touched him” (Mark 1:41 GN).

“Then people brought little children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them....Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ When He had placed His hands on them, He went on from there” (Matthew 19:13-15 NIV).

3. SLOW TO ANGER

“Stupid people express their anger openly, but sensible people are patient and hold it back” (Proverbs 29:11 GN).

“People with quick tempers cause a lot of quarreling and trouble” (Proverbs 29:22 GN).

“A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up” (Proverbs 15:1 GN).