



James 1:19-21

Removing self-centered anger by humbly
replacing it with God-centered truth

Spiritual fruitfulness is aided by not overreacting (1:19-20)

“¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers:”

- Spiritual fruitfulness is the desire and blessing of every follower of Jesus in the church.

“let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;”

- What should characterize humble followers of Jesus is being *“quick to hear.”*
 - Psalm 25:9
 - Wisdom is shown when one’s first impulse is to listen to what someone is saying.
 - Being *“quick to hear”* indicates there is a sincere desire to understand what the other person means by what they say.
- *“slow to speak”* suggests reflection on what was said and preparation of what is to be said.
- Rash reactions and verbal domination is not helpful in communicating truth.
 - Proverbs 10:19
 - Proverbs 17:27
 - Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

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- “*slow to anger*” reveals a willingness to yield to the direction and purpose of God.
 - Proverbs 14:17
 - Proverbs 14:29
 - It is impossible to persevere in the faith with a heart filled with irritation and criticism.
 - But it is possible to reign in our emotions by the power of God and the truth of His word.
- “²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”*
- Walking in the knowledge of God’s love and care for His children empowers us to remain calm in trial by listening attentively to opponents as well as encouragers.
 - Understanding others leads to patience, resulting in Spirit-controlled and insightful words being shared.
 - Those longing to honor the Lord seek to promote the righteousness of God in the lives of others as well as their own.
 - Reacting in the flesh does not put the compelling power of gospel righteousness on display.

Sin is successful driven out by truth that is received with humility (1:21)

“²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness”

- The question that should enter our minds is do you consider an unwillingness to listen, a quick and dominating tongue and an easily irritated disposition to be *filthiness and rampant wickedness*?
 - These issues have a baseline connection with the flesh.
 - The flesh grows strong with complacency and indifference.
 - When the flesh is in control the Spirit of God is not.
- We are to rid ourselves of selfish and insensitive ways, understanding them to be vile and disgusting.
 - Ephesians 4:17-24
- Refinement is what we do because of who we are.
 - Galatians 5:24

Sin is successful driven out by truth that is received with humility (1:21)

“and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

- The way we are transformed is by humbly receiving and applying consistently the word of gospel truth.
 - Receiving the word is not a passive endeavor.
 - We are stirred by the Spirit of God to understand our meekness.
 - Instead of arrogantly speaking, we listen, learn and prayerfully apply the word.
 - 2 Peter 1:3-4
 - Receiving the implanted word is an active endeavor.
- The power of the word of God can save your souls.

Questions to Consider

- Are you quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to become angry?
- Are you allowing a self-righteous heart to justify irritation and anger?
- In what ways do you see the manifestation of your flesh as filthiness and wickedness?
- Do you need God to work in you to help you to become a humble pursuer of truth?
- Will you commit to take the word of God and diligently go to war with your flesh?



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