

The Book of James

Jas. 1:19-21

faith

IN

in
ACTION!

Jas. 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

We continue looking at the Christian and his battles, realizing what a believer's relationship with faith looks like:

1. A believer is saved by grace through faith;
2. A believer lives life by walking by faith;
3. A believer learns to be tested by faith.

I. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BATTLES, 1:1-16

A. The Testings of the Christian Life, 1:1-12

B. The Temptations of the Christian Life, 1:13-16

II. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BIBLE, 1:17-27

A. God's Word is Likened to a Gift, 1:17-18

1. A Gift that Brings Divine Light, 1:17

2. A Gift that Brings Divine Life, 1:18

a. According to the Will of God, 1:18a

b. According to the Word of God, 1:18b

c. According to the Wisdom of God, 1:18c

The Holy Spirit begins this book with three tests:

- (1) The first test was a response to trials, 1:2-12;
- (2) The second test was a response to temptations, 1:13-18;
- (3) The third test was a response to truth revealed in the Word of God, 1:19-27.

- ❖ James declares that a believer's faith is exhibited by a **reception** of the Word of God.
- ❖ James also declares that a believer's faith is exhibited by the **reaction** to the Word of God which is reflected by an obedient life for the glory of God.

Jn. 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**
32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**

James speaks of three pertinent areas of our **new behavior** as Christians:

- (1) Be swift to hear – that is, to tune in.
- (2) Be slow to speak – that is, to tone down.
- (3) Be slow to wrath – that is, to sweeten up.

B. God's Word is Likened to a Graft, 1:19-22

1. To Effect a Change in our Talk, 1:19-20

1 Pet. 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

- a. Be Swift to Respond to Speaking, 1:19a
“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear...**”

Original Word: εἰμί **Part of Speech:** Verb – **Imperative**

Transliteration: eimí)

Definition: I exist, I am **Usage:** I am, exist. (**let**)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1510.htm>

- ❖ A conscientious appeal to “beloved brethren” is an imperative statement to promptly, without delay, hear intently the words and know the will of God.

Original Word: ταχύς **Transliteration:** tachus

Definition: quick, swift **Usage:** quick, swift, speedy, ready, prompt.

taxýs (an adjective) – **swift (speedy), without unnecessary delay.** (*taxy*).

[This root (*tax-*) emphasizes the idea "promptly" (without unjustified time-lapse). <https://biblehub.com/greek/5036.htm>

❖ A believer is directed to hear from God. The “noise of the world” for worldly people drowns out their hearing from God.

Mark 4:24 And he said unto them, **Take heed what ye hear:** with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

Mt. 13:16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: **and your ears, for they hear.**

- ❖ Jesus told the religious crowd that their confusion was due to not hearing Him.

Jn. 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech?
even **because ye cannot hear my word.**

- ❖ How can people hear the Lord?

➤ **God Will Speak Through the Scriptures.**

❖ When reading the Bible, there are five questions we can ask ourselves as we study the Scriptures:

(a) Is there a lesson to learn?

(b) Is there a blessing to enjoy?

(c) Is there a command to obey?

(d) Is there a sin to avoid?

(e) Is there a new truth to carry with me?



God Will Speak Through sermons.

Rom. 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher?**

Isa. 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because **the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings** unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

1 Pet. 4:11 **If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God**; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Cor. 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, **it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**

➤ God Speaks Through the Spirit.

Zech. 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, **but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Psa. 46:10 **Be still, and know that I am God:** I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29 **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith...”**

Rev. 3:6, 13, 22 “**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith...**”

Prov. 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, **even his prayer *shall be* abomination.**

Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that **I will send a famine in the land**, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD:**

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Gal. 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* **by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**

b. Be Slow to Respond to Speaking, 1:19b-20

❖ After the believer “Tunes in,” he must learn to “Tone Down.”

(1) A First Principle, 1:19b “...be...slow to speak, slow to wrath:”

❖ A great hindrance to hearing is simply speaking.

❖ To be “slow to speak” is to contemplate a response, preventing an emotional outburst.

Original Word: βραδύς **Transliteration:** bradus

Definition: slow **Usage:** slow, slow of understanding.

bradýs – properly, *slow*, as in taking time to *deliberate* (Js 1:19); unhurried, while still moving forward *after* considering all the facts.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1021.htm>

Prov. 10:19 In **the multitude of words there wanteth not sin**: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.

Prov. 13:3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: *but* **he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.**

Prov. 17:27 **He that hath knowledge spareth his words:** *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

28 **Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise:** *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

Prov. 21:23 Whoso **keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.**

Prov. 29:20 Seest thou a man *that is* **hasty in his words?** *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

Eccl. 5:3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and **a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.**

❖ The “rule” is to be slow to wrath.

Original Word: ὀργή **Transliteration:** orgé

Definition: impulse, wrath **Usage:** anger, wrath, passion; punishment, vengeance.

orgé (from *orgáo*, "to teem, swelling up to constitutionally oppose")

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3709.htm>

Prov. 29:22 **An angry man stirreth up strife**, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Mt. 12:36 But I say unto you, **That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

Eph. 4:26 **Be ye angry, and sin not**: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Eccl. 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: **for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.**

Prov. 16:32 **He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty**; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

English Standard Version

But I say to you that **everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment**; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

But I tell you, **everyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment**. And whoever says to his brother, Fool!' will be subject to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, You moron!' will be subject to hellfire.

New American Standard Bible

But I say to you that **everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court**; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

New American Bible

But I say to you, **whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment**, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raca,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna.

Mark 3:5 And when **he had looked round about on them with anger**, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Mt. 5:22 But I say unto you, That **whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause** shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Summary

- ❖ Believers, as new creatures in Christ, are held to a higher standard than unbelievers.
- ❖ The new nature is manifested by being swift to speak and then slow to react.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 4:18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

20 For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power.

21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and *in* the spirit of meekness?

- ❖ How a believer responds is relevant to the situation and a reflection of self-control.