

BANG
YOUR
HEAD HERE

The
Frustration
of
Communication

My dear brothers, take note of this.
Everyone should be quick to LISTEN,
slow to SPEAK, and slow to become
ANGRY. Man's anger does not bring
about the righteous life that God
desires. *(James 1:19-20)*

To “**listen**” = a) attention/perception
b) response/obedience

- listening to **people**...
Interest/empathy/patience
- * major issue = interested
mostly in **self**

- listening to God.. humility, excitement, openness

* major issue = our attention is diverted by “life”

We are often quite SLOW to “listen”
to God

- God is invisible; therefore, silent
- ignorant of his “voice”
- uninterested in hearing his
instruction
- fearful of what obedience may
mean for us

“Slow to speak” means that a reply is not rushed or given without thought. SLOW does not require a LONG interval of time, but that may sometimes be necessary. The time taken (short or long) indicates seriousness and truthfulness.

TIME (slowness) prevents **interruption**, allowing the response to be helpful or **precise**.

He who answers before listening, that is his folly and his shame.

(Prov. 18:13)

Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent.

(Prov. 17:28)

See a man who speaks in haste/. There is more hope for a fool than for him.

(Prov. 29:20)

TIME (slowness) allows the mind to clarify and the emotions to recede.

TIME (slowness) permits prayer.

TIME (slowness) enables
reflection upon the commitment
of promise [being considered].

THESE WILL ENABLE ME
TO “SLOW DOWN” RATHER
THAN RUSHING INTO ANGER.

Desire for peace

**Determination to be filled with
the Spirit, rather than the flesh.**

Realization that when anger
is made subject to patience,
sometimes it is discovered
not to be needed at all!