

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for September 5-6, 1998**

**"Stop Kidding Yourself"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 1:19-27**

Response to trials test (James 1:2-18)

Response to the Word test (James 1:19-27)

Proper reception (James 1:19-21)

Submissive heart (James 1:19)

"Quick to hear" is not referring to our listening skills but rather to how we are responding to the Word (James 1:18, 21). Being "quick" is talking about our appetite for the Word. James is talking about someone who is eager, attentive, and ready to assimilate the Word of God.

"Slow to speak" (James 1:19)

"Slow to speak" does not mean that we should avoid boldly proclaiming the Gospel in the world (Acts 1:8; 4:8).

"Slow to speak" does not mean that we should avoid speaking the truth in love in the church (Ephesians 4:15).

"Slow to speak" (James 1:19) means that people should not speak for God if they are not prepared morally or biblically to do so (James 3:1).

The Word of God is to be held in a place of high honor. It should not be served on dirty plates or served up without proper attention to details (Ezra 7:10).

"Slow to anger" tells us that there are times when anger is acceptable and there are times when anger is unacceptable (Ephesians 4:26).

If we are going to be angry and yet not sin it must be an expression of God's anger and not ours (James 1:20).

The anger of God is His reaction to the violation of His laws which govern His universe and is therefore an expression of His justice (Romans 4:15).

The anger of man is our reaction to the violation of our laws which govern our universe and is therefore an expression of our arrogance or in other words man's anger is self-centered.

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We can righteously express anger when we as a spirit filled Christian observe an injustice involving God or others that compels us to act in their defense (Matthew 23:13; Mark 3:5; Mark 10:14).

It may be when we first get angry we may see ourselves as a warrior for Christ but the truth is that we might in fact not be representing God as much as we are representing ourselves. Rather than expressing the anger of God, we might in fact be expressing the anger of man.