



## Speak Less Do More (James 1:19-27)

**Subtitle:** *The Entire Bible in 9 verses or 191 words*

### **The Advice that Works Every Time!**

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath**; for **the wrath of man** does not produce **the righteousness of God.**” James 1:19-20 NKJV

### **James 1:19-20**

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#### ☑ **Swift to Hear**

- ☑ The Scriptures have so much to say about your willingness to listen before you speak. Personally, in communicating, I have learned to ask questions before I offer any input. Thoughtful questions with patient listening is a great way to fuel excellent communication. I like to think of it this way: *“The quality of your*

*relationships is mirrored by the authenticity of your questions.”*

- ☑ Why? Ah...good question. When you ask authentic questions (questions you really want answered), before you offer the abundance of your words, you are actually saying this: *“I care about what you think, feel and need, over what I think, feel and need.”* And people do not care what you think until they think that you care!
- ☑ Are you seeking true happiness? *“Trust that God provides everything you need and you will relate to others in such a way that they perceive you are not looking for them to meet your needs.”* How would this look? *“He **who heeds the word wisely will find good**, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.”* Proverbs 16:20 NKJV
- ☑ **Scripture Fuel!**
  - ☑ My Sheep Hear My Voice! (See: [Racial Profiling](#))
  - ☑ *“**My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* John 10:27 NKJV (read John 10:1-30)
  - ☑ *“But He said, “More than that, **blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!**””* Luke 11:28 NKJV
  - ☑ *““Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine**, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:”* Matthew 7:24 NKJV

☑ ***“The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.”*** Proverbs 15:31-33 NKJV

☑ **Slow to Speak**

☑ Who has not heard this from their mother or elder? Think before you speak! *“When a man waits to speak, the odds that what he has to say being of value to those who are listening increases exponentially!”* It is a good thing when I man speaks at the right time and not a moment sooner; and not a word more than necessary!

☑ **Proper Timing**

☑ ***“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”*** Proverbs 15:23 NKJV

☑ ***“The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”*** Proverbs 15:28 NKJV

☑ ***“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”*** Psalms 46:10 NKJV

## ☑ Limited Words

☑ *“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”* Proverbs 10:19 NKJV

☑ *“He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.”* Proverbs 17:27-28 NKJV

## ☑ The Power of Words

☑ *“The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little. The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom.”* Proverbs 10:20-21 NKJV

☑ *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”* Proverbs 18:21 NKJV

☑ **Later in James:** *“Even so **the tongue** is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”* James 3:5-6 NKJV

## ☑ Imparting Grace!

☑ *“Therefore, putting away lying, **“Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,”** for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin”:* do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, **and evil speaking be put away from you,** with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:25-32 NKJV

#### ☑ **Wise Tongues or Foolish Mouths**

☑ *“A soft answer turns away wrath, **But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.** The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. **A wholesome tongue is a tree of life,** But perverseness in it breaks the spirit. A fool*

*despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent. In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, But in the revenue of the wicked is trouble. **The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool does not do so.** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But the prayer of the upright is His delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But He loves him who follows righteousness. Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, And he who hates correction will die. Hell and Destruction are before the Lord; So how much more the hearts of the sons of men. **A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.** A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, **But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.**" Proverbs 15:1-14 NKJV*

**Slow to Wrath**

- "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise. A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent man covers shame. He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit. There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the***

tongue of the wise **promotes health**. The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment." Proverbs 12:15-19 NKJV

☑ "He **who is slow to wrath has great understanding**, But **he who is impulsive exalts folly**." Proverbs 14:29 NKJV

☑ "A **soft answer** turns away wrath, But a **harsh word** stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1 NKJV

☑ "**Make no friendship with an angry man**, And with a furious man do not go," Proverbs 22:24 NKJV

☑ "Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For **anger rests in the bosom of fools**." Ecclesiastes 7:9 NKJV

#### ☑ The Wrath of Man

☑ "A **wrathful man stirs up strife**, But he who is slow to anger allays contention." Proverbs 15:18 NKJV

☑ "An **angry man stirs up strife**, And a **furious man abounds in transgression**." Proverbs 29:22 NKJV

#### ☑ The Mature Response!

☑ "If the spirit of the ruler rises against you, Do not leave your post; For **conciliation pacifies great offenses**." Ecclesiastes 10:4 NKJV

☑ ""**Be angry, and do not sin**": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:26-27 NKJV

- ☑ *“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.”*  
Ephesians 4:31 NKJV
- ☑ *“But now you yourselves are to **put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.**”* Colossians 3:8 NKJV
- ☑ **The Righteousness of God**
- ☑ There is really only one way to demonstrate God’s righteousness and that is through Christ and becoming like Christ!
- ☑ **God’s Righteousness**
- ☑ *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.”* Romans 10:1-4 NKJV



## Life as a Christian in 7 Verses or 161 Words

“Therefore **lay aside** all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls. But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves**. For if **anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer**, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But **he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it**, and is not a **forgetful hearer but a doer** of the work, this one will be **blessed in what he does**. If anyone among you **thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart**, this one’s religion is useless. **Pure and undefiled religion** before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows** in their trouble, and to **keep oneself unspotted from the world**.” James 1:21-27 NKJV

### James 1:21-27

☑ *“Therefore **lay aside all filthiness** and overflow of **wickedness**, and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to **save your souls**.” James 1:21 NKJV*

☑ **Lay aside all filthiness and wickedness**

☑ It is easy to become re-entangled with the sins that used to dominate our lives! DON'T DO THAT!

- ☑ How? Focus on Christ! It is easy to avoid sin when sin is not the focus. For clarity...it's not about avoiding sin, or overcoming sin. Don't give sin one ounce of energy; focus all your energy on Christ and there will be zero room for sin to be considered!
- ☑ How? Take every thought captive. It's your brain—act like it!
- ☑ *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ *“casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**,”* II Corinthians 10:5 NKJV
- ☑ Going back to your sin and getting stuck there is a bad idea. It's not just a bad idea, but it actually shows you never had deliverance in the first place.

☑ Translation: You were not a Christian! In the parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-14), those who show up for the feast who are not there for the right reason are expelled as non-guests. Y'shua taught us that His sheep hear His voice and those who follow false shepherds were NEVER His sheep in the first place (John 10:1-30). And don't be surprised, the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30) predicted this would be the case.

☑ *“For **when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.** While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.”* II Peter 2:18-21 NKJV

☑ **Receive the Implanted Word with Meekness**

☑ Meekness: Absolute unmitigated power under humble control. At the time of Y'shua's betrayal, He could have defended Himself with an unstoppable army of angels. He could have, in a single word, swiftly and decisively defeated His enemies, but He chose instead to obey His calling! *"How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, **that it must happen thus?**"* Matthew 26:54 NKJV

☑ *"But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or **do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?**"* Matthew 26:52-53 NKJV

☑ **Implanted Word:** Christ in you the hope of Glory. With THE Word of God implanted in you, you have all you need!

☑ *"I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, **and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ,** for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His*

*saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”*  
Colossians 1:24-29 NKJV

☑ **Save your Soul!**

☑ The benefits of a life with the Word of God implanted in your heart is here and now, on earth. You do not need to wait for eternity to experience the salvation of your souls!

☑ **Save (from: sózó):** To save, heal, preserve, rescue. **From:** deliver out of danger and into safety; used principally of God rescuing believers from the penalty and power of sin.

☑ *“But be **doers of the word**, and **not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a **hearer of the word and not a doer**, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and **immediately forgets what kind of man he was.**” James 1:22-24 NKJV*

☑ **Doers, not just hearers...**

- ☑ The great deception is that you became a Christian with some mental exercise. There was this confession and that is all it took. Well, that is true from one perspective. If that confession was authentic and inspired by a true encounter with Christ, then that confession was the first fruit of your faith.
- ☑ However...if there is no visible fruit in your life, evidence that the confession was real, then quite simply, the confession was not! Again we can refer to His true sheep, and legitimate guests at the wedding feast, and wheat vs. tares. Wheat produces fruit and tares do not.
- ☑ *“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**”* Matthew 7:18-20 NKJV
- ☑ **What do you see when you look in the mirror?**
- ☑ It is clear that we are supposed to see Christ staring back at us when we look in the mirror. What do you see? If you have convinced yourself you see Christ, there is one way to check if what you are seeing is real. Walk away from the mirror! Then what? If you act like Christ, then what you saw was real. If you don't, then you are deceiving yourself!

☑ *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is liberty**. But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into **the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV*

☑ *“But he who looks into **the perfect law of liberty** and continues in it, and is **not a forgetful hearer but a doer** of the work, **this one will be blessed in what he does.**” James 1:25 NKJV*

### ☑ **The Perfect Law of Liberty**

☑ True freedom is when you have surrendered all options. When your only choice is to obey God, you are truly free!

☑ *“Stand fast therefore in **the liberty by which Christ has made us free**, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1 NKJV*

☑ *“Therefore **if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**” John 8:36 NKJV*

### ☑ **Forgetful Hearers**

☑ When you have encountered the true and living God, you don't exit that encounter and go back to your old

life. What does your new life look like? It looks like you DO NEW THINGS! You don't just talk about being a Christian, you act like one!

☑ **Blessed for doing the work**

☑ The blessings will abound! And the payoff is priceless!

☑ *“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone **builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it**, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, **he will receive a reward**. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”* 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 NKJV

☑ *“If anyone among you thinks he is **religious**, and does not **bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart**, this one’s **religion is useless**. Pure and **undefiled religion** before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows** in their trouble, and to **keep oneself unspotted from the world**.”* James 1:26-27 NKJV

☑ **Useless Religion**



- ☑ If we go back to where we began today. If you are quick to speak and slow to listen, the likelihood of your words bearing any good fruit is minimal. If you operate like that you are deceiving yourself if you believe your spiritual activities are useful to God.
- ☑ **True Religion**
- ☑ True religion shows up in obedient actions. What actions may you ask? Things like taking care of widows and orphans, and keeping yourself pure, not stained by the sins that used to so easily ensnare you.
- ☑ And finally, don't get religious about true religion! James gives us a few examples here, not a definitive and specific action plan; it is not meant to call every Christian into the orphans and widows ministry.

### **NEXT TEACHING**

Star-Struck (James 2:1-13)