

What Am I
Missing?

Quick to Hear, Slow to Speak, Slow to Anger

James 1:16-21

1. Quick to hear

- a. Since we were brought forth by the word of God, we should appreciate the skill of listening.**
- b. It helps us to better understand/hear the brother or sister who may need help or who may be correcting us (Mathew 18:15-17).**
- c. Our ability to hear says something about our hearts (Luke 8:15).**

Quick to Hear, **Slow to Speak**, Slow to Anger

James 1:16-21

1. **Slow to speak**

a. **Proverbs 10:19 & Matthew 7:1-5**

- **Many times we rush to judgment and say too much.**

b. **Proverbs 15:1**

- **Remember Rehoboam's mistake?**
- **It's not about humiliating the other person.**
- **Christ's warning (Matthew 12:34-37).**

Quick to Hear, Slow to Speak, **Slow to Anger**

James 1:16-21

1. **Slow to anger**

a. **Proverbs 14:29**

b. **Ephesians 4:31**

- **Quick tempers are equivalent to silliness/stupidity.**
- **It's more than what we say or even how we say it. Our attitude/heart does matter.**
- **Christ's warning (Matthew 5:21-24).**

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

It describes God

Romans 2:3-4 Do you suppose, O man--you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself--that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

- **It's our motivation behind patience. God wanted us to repent and we should share His desire for others.**

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

It describes Jesus

Matthew 12:17-21 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, My servant whom I have chosen, My beloved with whom My soul is well pleased. I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets; a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not quench, until He brings justice to victory; and in His name the Gentiles will hope."

- Remember Jesus' words: Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls ~ Matthew 11:29

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

It is greater than riches

1 Timothy 6:10-11 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

- If you had to buy gentleness, how much would you pay for it? Are the rich always known to be gentle?

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

Paul viewed it as a responsibility

1 Timothy 1:15-16 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.

- Amazing! We're instruments of His patience.

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

It is the mark of a real man and leader

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:7 **But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.**
2. 1 Timothy 3:2-3 **Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.**
 - Men, if it's expected of Paul it's expected of us . . . embrace it! Real men and leaders know how to be gentle.

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

It is how we communicate

1 Peter 3:14-15 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

It's what's expected when gentleness is absent

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- Jesus gave a **STRONG** rebuke in Matthew 23, but don't forget, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!"

Patience/Gentleness: What's the BIG DEAL?

It is expected to maintain unity

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Many times we don't think about gentleness & patience in connection to unity. We don't think of them as the "hard hitting" issues in the body.

Patience/Gentleness: **What's the BIG DEAL?**

It is what we need from one another

2 Corinthians 6:3-13, . . . We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

- **Who hasn't needed a heart opened to them?
Paul certainly yearned for joint affection.**

What it all comes back to . . .

Colossians 3:12-15 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.