

Small Group questions.

1. How important is God's word to you?
2. Share some practical ways of things that you do to show that God's word is important to you
3. Are you really spending time in the word, listening to God speak to your heart?
4. Are you experiencing comfort during trials because of God's Word?
5. Are you experiencing strength during temptation because of God's Word?
6. Did you learn something new today?
7. How are you going to apply this truth in your life?

Grace Norwalk. - 8/21/22. - Pastor Oscar Chavez
Are you really listening to God? James 1:19-20 - Pt. 8.

How important is God's word to you?

A survey from 2021 found that **11 percent of Americans read the Bible daily.** (98% of Americans claim to be Christians) Trends in reading habits over four years showed that the majority of Americans never read the Bible.

Christianity Today

Report: 26 million Americans Stopped Reading the Bible Regularly During COVID-19

Bible readership demographics

Bible readership varies across each demographic, with Millennials most likely to have never read the Bible, whereas the **most frequent readers** were those aged over 70 years old.

Changes in attitudes have not been drastic, but rather it seems that disengagement with the Christian scripture has been a gradual process.

Context:

- **Do not be deceived**, my beloved brethren.
 - **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.
 - **Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth**, that we might be **a kind of first fruits** of His creatures.
- James 1:19-20
- **Therefore, my beloved brethren**, let every man **be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to wrath**.
 - **for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God**.
 - **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.

James reveals three attitudes that are necessary for believers to rightly receive God's word

I. Be _____ to _____ the truth from God's Word.

V.19a Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be quick to listen

Quick= *tachy* - means

A very brief period of time, with focus on speed of an activity or an event." (Listen)

It carries with it a sense of urgency in both time and speed

If you want to succeed in life "Learn to listen to God"

Why is it so important to learn to listen if we want to be successful in life?

Not knowing how to listen many times our misunderstandings leads us to make the wrong decisions that we later regret, "If only I had listened, I would have avoided this or that"

Someone else said,

"Listen and you will be wise; the principle of success is wisdom, and it is often silence"

"Knowledge corresponds to speaking, and the privilege of wisdom is to listen."

Proverbs 18:13

¹³ *It is foolish and shameful to respond before listening.*

● Why should we be quick to hear God's Word?

1. As they were experiencing trials, is the Word of God that will give them comfort.

Psalm 119

⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.

⁵⁰ This *is* my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.

Psalm 119:76

O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, According to Your word to Your servant.

2. As they were experiencing temptations, the Word of God will give them strength to say no!!

● How did Jesus resist temptation?

3. As they have been deceived, the Word of God guide them to the truth.
¹⁶ *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren....*
¹⁹ *let every man be quick to listen....*
Being quick to listen shows humbleness on your part!!!

II. Be _____ to _____ your own opinion before learning God's Word

let every man be:

quick to listen, slow to speak,

Humbleness...

Wisdom...

Proverbs 17:27-28 ESV

²⁷ *Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.*

²⁸ *Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.*

III. Be _____ to _____ when the Bible calls you out

let every man be:

quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Why?

²⁰ *for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

V.19. Be quick to hear His word, understand it and applied it:

- His word will help you endure the trial...
- His word will help you resist temptation...
- His word will make you a productive Christian, you will add value to others...

God wants to make changes for the better in our lives, but He does it through HIS WORD!!, Are you listening?

How are you supposed to listen to God's word? James 1

²¹ *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

²² *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*