

## Introduction

1. Christians are the firstfruits of God’s creatures ([Jm. 1:18](#))
  - a. Christians are brought forth by the word of truth according to God’s will ([1 Pt. 1:22-25](#))

## I. Swift to Hear

1. The word “swift” indicates with speed or quickly ([Mt. 28:7-8](#) “quickly”; [Jn. 11:28-29](#) “quickly”)
2. The word “hear” indicates the need to listen ([Mt. 13:9](#))
  - a. A wise man hears and increases learning ([Pr. 1:5](#))
  - b. Do I listen before I speak? ([Pr. 18:13](#))
  - c. Do I draw near to hear in the house of God? ([Ecc. 5:1](#))
  - d. Do I hear the rebuke of the wise? ([Ecc. 7:5](#))
  - e. My faith is dependent on my hearing capabilities ([Rm. 10:13-17](#))

## II. Slow to Speak

1. The word “slow” is the exact opposite of swift
2. The word “speak” means, “*to use the tongue or the faculty of speech; to utter articulate sounds*” (Thayer 368)
  - a. Be careful with the tongue ([Jm. 3:1-12](#))
  - b. In the multitude of words ([Pr. 10:19](#))
  - c. Do not be rash with the mouth ([Ecc. 5:2](#))
    - i. Let us think before we speak ([2 Cor. 10:5](#))

## III. Slow to Wrath

1. The word “wrath” describes a “state of relatively strong displeasure, with focus on the emotional aspect” (BDAG 720)
  - a. This word is connected with anger in the negative sense ([Eph. 4:31](#); [Col. 3:8](#))
  - b. It is also connected with anger in a positive sense ([Mk. 3:5](#))
  - c. In any case, if we are angry do not sin ([Eph. 4:26](#))
  - d. Anger can cause great harm ([Pr. 14:17](#), [15:18](#), [27:3](#), [29:22](#))
2. The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God and so must be jettisoned ([Jm. 1:20](#))

- a. Why? Wrath can result in revenge which does not belong to man ([Rm. 12:19-21](#))
- b. Why? Wrath impacts the ability to lead ([1 Tim. 2:8](#); [Tt. 1:7](#))
3. We want to be slow to wrath and anger
  - a. Anger rests in the bosom of fools ([Ecc. 7:9](#))
  - b. There is great understanding in being slow to wrath and anger ([Pr. 14:29](#), [19:11](#))
  - c. Better than the mighty ([Pr. 16:32](#))
  - d. Keeps one from being vulnerable to every attack ([Pr. 25:28](#))

### **Conclusion**

1. Christians are the firstfruits of God's creatures ([Jm. 1:18](#))
  - a. Let us act like it by being swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath