

## Become a Listener

“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry ....” James 1:19 \*\*\*  
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**The Bible says we should be quick to listen. There are three things that generally hinder our ability to hear what others are saying:**

**1) Presumption** – This is when we *think* we already know what the other person is going to say; yet, the Bible says, “He who answers before listening – that is his folly and his shame.” (Proverbs 18:13 NIV)

2) **Impatience** – This is when you interrupt and jump to conclusions: “There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking.” (Proverbs 29:20 NLT)

3) **Pride** – This is when we become defensive and unteachable: “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.” (Proverbs 12:15 NIV)

**What does this mean?**

Here are three HEARING AIDS:

- **Listen with your eyes** – Research suggests that about 80 percent of communication is non-verbal. Our facial expressions and body language tend to tell the real story.
- **Listen with your heart** – Be sympathetic. Tune in to the emotions behind the words.
- **Make time to listen to the people around you** – You show people how much you value them when you take time to listen. Imagine how your home or where you work might be transformed if you make an effort to be “quick to listen.”