



What you say can mean life or death. Those who speak with care will be rewarded. **Proverbs 18:21** (NCV)

My dear friends, you should be quick to listen and slow to speak or to get angry. ²⁰ If you are angry, you cannot do any of the good things that God wants done. ²¹ You must stop doing anything immoral or evil. Instead be humble and accept the message that is planted in you to save you. If you think you are being religious, but can't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and everything you do is useless. ²² Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it. ²³ If you hear the message and don't obey it, you are like people who stare at themselves in a mirror ²⁴ and forget what they look like as soon as they leave. ²⁵ But you must never stop looking at the perfect law that sets you free. God will bless you in everything you do, if you listen and obey, and don't just hear and forget. **James 1:19-25** (CEV)

...Reliable communication permits progress. **Proverbs 13:17b** (TLB)

➤ **MAKING YOUR WORDS LIFE GIVING WORDS.**

1. CHOOSE MY _____.

...friends, you should be quick to listen and slow to speak... **James 1:19** (CEV)

There is a right time and a right way to do everything... **Ecclesiastes 8:6** (TEV)

2. CONCENTRATE ON _____.

Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.
Proverbs 18:13 (ERV)

The way of the foolish man seems right to him, but the wise man gives ear to suggestions. **Proverbs 12:15** (BBE)

3. COMMIT TO _____.

Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive. **Proverbs 16:23** (TEV)

“SPEAKING CAREFULLY” MEANS BEING ...

- _____ – Ask: “Is my anger overcoming my intellect?”

If you are angry, you cannot do any of the good things that God wants done.
James 1:20 (CEV)

Stupid people express their anger openly, but sensible people are patient and hold it back. **Proverbs 29:11** (TEV)

A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted.
Proverbs 12:16 (LB)

If you cannot control your anger, you are as helpless as a city without walls, open to attack. **Proverbs 25:28** (TEV)

- _____ – Ask: “Are my words honest and fair?”

Lies will get any man into trouble, but honesty is its own defense.
Proverbs 12:13 (LB)

Kind words are good medicine, but deceitful words can really hurt.
Proverbs 15:4 (CEV)

- _____ – Ask: “Are my words helpful?”

When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you. **Ephesians 4:29** (NCV)

Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal. **Proverbs 12:18** (GNB)

4. CONFIRM COMMUNICATION BY _____.

And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. So don't fool yourselves. **James 1:22** (TLB)

But the Israelites did not listen. They kept on doing the same things they had done before. **2 Kings 17:40** (NCV)

It's not just _____ “I heard you!” but _____ “I heard you!”