

# 51: THE POWER OF MEASURED WORDS IN A NOISY WORLD

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In Week 11: Discipleship in Relationships

3 Min read



***“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.” — Proverbs 18:13***

One of the easiest ways to spot an inexperienced hiker is to watch how quickly he reacts when the trail changes. A sudden sound in the woods, a wrong turn, or unexpected weather can trigger immediate decisions before he fully understands what is happening. Experienced hikers learn something different. They slow down. They observe. They gather information before acting. The trail rewards patience far more often than speed.

The same principle applies to our words. Ever wonder why God created us with one mouth but two ears?

Proverbs 18:13 says, “If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.” In a world overflowing with opinions, reactions, arguments, and endless commentary, listening has become a lost discipline. Many men are preparing their response before the other

person finishes speaking. They hear enough to form an opinion and then rush to defend a position, offer advice, or prove a point.

What often goes unsaid is that impatience in conversation usually reveals something deeper than poor communication skills. It often exposes pride. We assume we already understand. We assume our perspective is sufficient. We assume we have the answer before we have fully heard the question. Men love to fix things.

Wise men understand that listening is not a weakness. It is a restraint. It is humility. It is a strength under control. Measured words usually begin with a listening heart first.

## **APPLICATION**

Most relational conflicts do not begin with bad intentions. They begin with an incomplete understanding. A husband assumes he knows what his wife means before she finishes explaining. A friend interrupts because he believes he already knows where the conversation is headed. A leader reacts to a situation based on limited information. In each case, the problem is not simply communication. The problem is impatience, sprinkled with a dash of pride.

One of the things rarely discussed is how often the desire to speak comes from the desire to control. We want to steer the conversation, protect our position, defend our reputation, or fix the problem immediately. Listening requires surrendering that control for a moment. It requires humility. It requires admitting that there may be information we do not yet possess.

On the trail, assumptions can lead a hiker down the wrong path. A marker that appears obvious may point somewhere entirely different when viewed from another angle. The wise hiker pauses, studies the terrain, and confirms the direction before moving forward. The wise disciple does the same with people.

Next time you're listening, try formulating your next question to learn more rather than rushing to offer your solution. Before offering advice, hear the whole story. Before defending yourself, seek understanding. Before responding in anger, ask another question. Measured words rarely happen by accident. They grow from a heart that values understanding more than being right. That kind of wisdom strengthens relationships and reflects the character of Christ every day.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

This week, practice listening longer than feels comfortable. Let others finish their thoughts before forming your response. Ask one more question before giving advice. Pay attention to moments when pride wants the last word. Wisdom often enters through listening long before it leaves through speaking.

## ***PRAY THIS...***

*“Father, teach me patience when listening, and help me not to rush my opinion.”*

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*Information lays the foundation—  
Practice builds the man.*

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