

MAIN IDEA: Live by the Spirit (not the world's anger). How? Here are four goals to work on.

I. First, desire to receive all God has for us (17)

- A. He gives only good gifts
- B. we want to receive from Him
- C. we must hear Him... His word saved us (18)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, to control ourselves to be able to receive (19)

Consider: After reacting in anger, have you ever realized that God had wanted to do something cool?

Note: Things such as anger can block our ability to hear Him.

Ps. 37:8, CEV: Don't be angry or furious. Anger can lead to sin.

Eph. 5:26-27, 31, NLT: ²⁶ And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

- A. Be quick to listen to Him

Quick: ready (to listen), prompt (listen now, not 2 days later)

- B. Be slow to speak
 - 1. so we don't "react" from our old nature
 - 2. so we can actually hear Him speak
- C. Be slow to anger (19, 20)
 - 1. our anger doesn't produce God's righteousness
 - 2. our anger can lead us to sin
 - 3. our anger can hinder our hearing God

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, to be a good-quality receiver (21)

- A. By repenting of our sin (cleaning house of static makers)

EX: FCC... hair dryers, sewing machines, electric drills, doorbell transformers, light switches, smartphone chargers, power supplies can cause TV, radio, cordless telephone interference

- B. by choosing to humbly accept His word
 - 1. His authority vs. ours or someone else's
 - 2. His wisdom vs. our own or someone else's
 - 3. what He says is right vs. what we feel is right

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Finally, to do what He says (22)

- A. hearing wise counsel doesn't change our lives
- B. following wise counsel changes our lives

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

Matthew 5:22, NLT: ²² But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

ALTAR: