



**A Spiritual Encouragement Message**  
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## **The Righteous Pause**

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Raising children has been one of my greatest joys in life. It has also been one of the most difficult tasks I've been given by our Lord. Managing a household while tired, stressed, and inundated with information. I mean, for every decision we make as parents, there is an equal "opinion" or study which disagrees with us. Should I spank my children, or should I use no corporal punishment whatsoever? The decision is yours! Thankfully, we have the greatest source of information for all things pertaining to life and godliness (**2 Pet. 1:3**).

So, as I raise my children, I am constantly reminded to get my nose in the word of God to understand how to deal with difficult situations. One verse that always helps me is found in the book of Proverbs.

**The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.**  
**(Prov. 18:17)**

You know the drill! The kids are quietly playing in another room or outside, then all of the sudden there's a loud yell and they come running. The first makes it to me is telling just how unrighteous her sibling has been. Usually, I can see that there is something missing, however, sometimes I find myself forgetting this Biblical principle of hearing two sides. In fact, in my emotional and natural response to the situation, I can rely too much on the superficial reactions. If one is crying and the other is not, I might lean towards the crying child and give credence to their story. Of course, this is natural. Why wouldn't we believe the one crying and the other who is not?

Well, because tears are not inherently a sign that indicates righteousness. In fact, tears can be manipulated, whether on purpose or through high adrenaline. More often than not, when I buy into the reactions and do not take the times to investigate the problem, I end up on the wrong side. I end up yelling at one child, while the other sits vindicated. As time passes, I learn more information and regret my decision.

We cannot easily stop our emotional reaction to terrible news. Especially in our modern culture, we have plenty to be upset about. However, there is a disturbing trend among Christians regarding national and global news. There is an almost immediate desire to “pick a side” in ungodly events. Just as I had done with my children, I can so easily take a side due to emotional sensation, reporting with a spin, and personal bias.

James writes, **Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger (Jam. 1:19)**

And, the preacher said, **Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools. (Ecc. 7:9)**

Folks, there are always two sides to every story. Christians, more than most, ought to keep this in the forefront of our minds. Every word we speak either enhances or hinders our witness for Christ. If we speak truth, we gain trust. If we share falsehood, we tear down our efforts. Let us strive to be those who are quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Let our anger be righteous in the sight of God and our action serve to bring justice to this broken world.

Before we watch the news and post our opinions on social media, let’s consider how many facts we have. What do we know? We are not going to stop reading and watching horror stories in the media. This world is broken and ignores the savior. Therefore, we would do well to practice the righteous pause before speaking. The righteous pause is what allows me to recall scripture before speaking. The righteous pause is what gives me time to pray to God. The righteous pause it what saves a lifetime of regret and heartache. It only takes a moment to ruin our life. And it only takes a moment to stop us from ruining it. How do you want to spend that moment? Please pray for me during these times and I will pray for you. I love you!