

10 Suggestions to Help Your Biblical Preaching

1. It helps me overcome nervousness *to pray before* I preach for people who're going to listen.

It also helps to have a cheerleader out there rooting for you (your spouse, family, friends). And it helps if you learn to *enjoy* preaching. ☺ If *you* don't enjoy it, your audience won't! ☹

Learn to speak with self-confidence. Inside us, it's got to be *God*-confidence! You can *improve* your self-confidence if you study hard and do your homework to be sure about what you're preaching. You are *God's* Rep—*His* Spokesperson for the hour—preach *well* on *His* behalf! Impress people as someone who has something to say—get up, say it, and sit down!

2. The art of preaching is knowing what *to leave out*.

The *shorter* a sermon the harder it is *to prepare*. The *longer* a sermon the harder it is *to listen to*. The *more* time you devote to editing and polishing a sermon, the more your sermon will *improve*.

3. The best preaching speaks *clearly and simply* so people can *understand us*.

Most preachers kid themselves about how much people *really* listen to or understand their sermons! Many pastors don't preach to children or youth people, but that's the *real* test—if *kids* and *teens* can listen to you and understand you, *anyone* can!

4. Constantly be on the lookout for illustrations and humor—beg, borrow and steal them!

My 2 best sources for good illustrations are books and newspapers (on-line news stories).

5. Practice your delivery in a mirror or on a video to become more natural and personal.

6. Every sermon should touch the mind, the heart and the will.

We reach some people thru their minds, so a sermon needs to contain information and facts that make them *think*. We reach other people thru their hearts, so a sermon needs to contain stories and language that touch their *feelings*. And we reach other people thru their wills, so a sermon needs to challenge them to *decide and act*. The best sermon will do *all 3*!

7. We don't have to choose between Biblical content and cultural relevance!

We can *both* preach the Bible and present its message in a way modern audiences will listen to, understand, believe, learn, and obey. That means we must work *harder* than other preachers who choose to focus their sermons on *either* the Bible *or* contemporary culture.

We are blessed to have so many tools and options in media to help us communicate! I use videos and skits *rarely*. I am working to improve my ability to use the *spoken word* well!

8. The *only* Bible many people get all week is what they hear in the pulpit, so make it count!

We are preaching the Bible at a time when most professing Christians do *not* read, know or understand the Bible.

Learn to *read* the Bible well.

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9. Keep preparing *new* sermons, especially if you don't preach often.

Constantly working on new sermons forces you to stay fresh and keep learning!

10. The 7 Hearts Chart has helped me understand my job in preaching:

♥ **God's Heart** [As He is revealed in Scripture and thru His Spirit]



♥ **The Heart of God's Word** [Sound Biblical interpretation]



♥ **The Hearts of God's People He spoke to in the Bible** [Biblical history & culture]



♥ **My Heart as a Preacher** [Know, trust, obey, & love God]



♥ **The Heart of my Sermon** [Both preparation and delivery]



♥ **The Hearts of God's People in my Church** ["Church" culture]



♥ **The Hearts God's People touch** [Contemporary culture]

***Do you have other observations or questions about Biblical Preaching?**