

Getting Your Message Across More Effectively

Organize your sermon in three parts, with the following:

- introduction
- main body
- conclusion

Note:

- get to the point quickly so that you demonstrate to your listeners that you are organized and know where you are heading
- make sure that your conclusion includes no new material but simply reiterates what you have already discussed.

If the audience is unfamiliar with your credentials, you will need to establish your expertise with the topic or the reason for your interest in the topic; the more passionate you are with your first few sentences, the more easily you will win over the interest of the listener.

All ideas put forward in the main body need to be linked together with smooth transitions to get the message across clearly and avoid confusion.

When you are stressing an important point, *pause* so that people have a chance to digest it and then perhaps even say it again.

A sermon that is well organized, succinct (to the point) and short is far more effective than one that drags on in a rambling fashion without any clear direction. Remember that the likelihood that many people will remember what you have shared becomes more remote if you tend to saturate them with hordes of information. *** Quality is better than quantity!

Therefore, aim to make it a memorable sermon. This can be done in a number of ways. Adding a touch of humour (if possible), will surely get most peoples' attention.

When you pause between sentences or phrases, avoid filling the gap with an 'um' or an 'ah'. These are particularly disconcerting as they detract from your message. This takes practise and discipline, but you can gain valuable experience in normal casual conversation with family and friends.

The more you research your topic, the more confident you will appear to be and the more convincing the message you are attempting to convey.

When announcing Bible passages that you are going to read out loud, announce the verse (and the version you are reading from) and then wait until people have had a chance to start looking for it ... before announcing it a second time. Before starting to read, wait for people to find it. If it is a rarely quoted book of the Bible or a very short book, assume that your audience are all fresh new believers, and therefore give hints as to where they can find it. This will hopefully ensure that you do not frustrate your audience, especially the new converts in your midst.

Voice projection and modulation;

- it is a tremendous help if you can get some excitement into your voice.
- you are best able to speak on a topic that you are passionate about; one that you have been interacting with God about for a sustained period.