

# PRINCIPLES FOR PREACHING

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## A. Preaching is very important (I Cor. 1:17-18 / Rom. 10:8-17).

There are three elements in a person's salvation:

1. God's Word (Rom. 10:17)
2. The Holy Spirit (John 16:7-11 / I Thess. 1:5 / I Peter 1:10-12)
3. The human instrument (I Thess. 2:1-13)

## B. The purposes of preaching:

1. To make new disciples (Matt. 28:19-20 / Mk. 16:15)
2. To get people to change to be more like Christ (Eph. 4:11-16)

## C. How to get people to change:

1. Inform their intellect – information.
2. Stir their emotions – illustration.
3. Challenge their will – application.

## D. Questions to ask yourself when preparing to preach:

1. Questions about the audience
  - a. Who are they (age, culture, spiritual status, economic status)?
  - b. What do they know?
  - c. What do they need?
2. Questions about the passage
  - a. What does it say?
  - b. What lessons are taught?
  - c. What does God want me to do?
  - d. What stories and/or illustrations can I use with this passage?
  - e. What other Scripture relates to this passage?

## E. Developing a sermon outline:

1. The introduction
  - a. Gain attention (question, story, current event, shocking statistics)
  - b. Introduce the subject (the attention getter really should introduce the subject)
2. The body
  - a. Give information, illustration, and application with each point.
  - b. Bible stories, true-life stories, and analogies or hypothetical stories can illustrate.
3. The conclusion
  - a. Review the main points of the message.
  - b. Let the people know, clearly and simply, what you want them to do.
4. The invitation – ask them to make a decision and make that decision known to you and others.  
Letting others know of their decision will help them, and it lets you know who to follow up on and pray for.

## F. Important principles for preaching:

1. Keep the message simple (clear logic and simple vocabulary) – *the common people heard Jesus gladly*.
2. Illustrate each major point and any truths that may be difficult to understand.
3. Make pointed, practical application throughout the message; and have one primary application overall.
4. Enjoy yourself – relax; be down-to-earth, yet reverent and sober.
5. Have variety in your pitch, rate, volume, gestures, and movement.
6. Make gestures meaningful, manly (sharp and firm), and enlarged.
7. Breathe using your diaphragm, and open your mouth wide when you speak. Speak with a lot of energy.
8. Depend on the Lord through prayer for guidance, strength, confidence, power, and compassion.
9. Preach with pure motives and desiring only the Lord's approval (I Th. 2:1-12 / II Cor. 4:15 / Gal. 6:14).