

The matter of public speaking deserves work. I had a fellow in that class who always talked as though his mouth was full of mush. It was very hard to understand just what he said. What he said was worth hearing. He had a real good mind. He went from here to teach in a college where he taught some required courses. In these most everyone by the end of the semester thought they were getting good material. In his elective courses soon he had hardly anyone in them because most people would not bother to get used to his manner of speaking. Eventually they dropped him. Even though he had excellent material.

In ~~my~~ class I tried to bring it to his attention. I said, You must learn to speak clearly. Take this poem of Longfellow's --Thou too sail on, O ship of state, sail on O union strong and great. He could say it just as clear and distinct as anybody. It was excellent. I said, Everytime you speak you get alone by yourself and say that stanza through, and get yourself in the swing of speaking clearly. He looked kind of grim as if he didn't like what I was saying. After all he could hear inside of his head what he was saying. Everybody else ought to be able to understand him even if he did talk this way! He spoke well when he read the poem and I guess in class he did well. But he just would not take it because he did not realize. He thought what he heard inside his head was what people outside were hearing.

The purpose of preaching is not just to take some fine ideas and express them to ourselves. It is to take these fine ideas and get them into people's hearts and minds. They are to show people how they can be saved through Christ. They are to build up in people's minds and hearts the desire to go out and reach others for the Lord. I've heard of fine evangelical churches where the gospel is preached every Sunday, where people sit there 20 years and hardly get up and do anything for the Lord. There's something wrong with that preaching. It may be sound and true as can be, but if it is effective preaching it will stir in people's hearts the determination to do something, and give them a realization of a world going to hell and of people who need the message of salvation.

They should not be satisfied to have it simply themselves. But to step out and give it. But if they step out and give it with sadness and gloom, it will probably have no effect. But if they have the fruit of the Spirit and a real love for people. Not just a desire to give them the message, but a love for them as those who need the message. A love in their hearts. If they have the joy not from the fact they are successful but because their names are written in heaven. God can and will use them and their preaching will be tremendously important in motivating people to step out and accomplish for Him. The motivation is far more important than the methods. If you have the motivation, the determination, and if you are willing to think things through and try to find the answer, God will lead. Read the books on methods. Get the magazines. Get the understanding of the different phases of life, because in many cases a knowledge of these can be important. But most important is this Book God has given us.

When I looked (lifted?) that up I couldn't help thinking of a paper that I came across in which a man said, I must have the