

Everyone one of us can speak in such a way as to present God's Word. Everyone of us can do that. But many of us could speak many man times as well as we do, if we would give thought and attention to how to improve our effectiveness.

I knew a young fellow who came to seminary--bright young fellow who got good marks but he always talked as if his mouth was full of mush! Very hard to understand what he was saying. I gave a course in public speaking at that time in which there were a few principles I tried to develop. I tried to look at each one and see how I could help him. I said to him, I wish you would take Longfellow's poem: "Thou too sail on Oh ship of State. Sail on Oh Union strong and great!" Say that trying to speak it very clearly. He said it just as clearly as anybody ever said anything. "Thou too sail on, O ship of state." He said, (muffled speaking) "I don't any time doing that though." (Laughter) He did do it and gave a talk that was far more understandable than anything he had done before.

I said, When you speak I which you could just get by yourself and say that poem over tow or three times and get yourself to speaking clearly and see what a difference it makes. "Oh that's just a waste of time" (muffled) He did not want to bother with it. Well, he became pastor of a church. In that church a few people said, His sermons are so full of spiritual meat; they are wonderful!" Most of the people said, I just can't understand him. I don't get anything out of it." So after a short time they lost interest in him there and they asked someone else to take over the church.

He was quite a bright fellow and so he got a position teaching in a Christian college. There he had a few students who said, What he gives us is marvelous. But most of them would not be bothered with it. After a time the leaders of the college decided there was not enough interest in his teaching to keep him so they dropped him. The last I heard he was running a motel out in New Mexico! The last I heard. Great mental ability. He had understanding of spiritual light. But he could not hear himself talk. He heard what was inside. Sometimes I think learning to speak is like if you were to throw a ball and there was an invisible wall there so you could not see through it. You throw(the ball) and you cannot see where it lands. You have to get others to tell you where it lands; how it is getting on; what is being accomplished.

But it is worth that effort. There was a man the Lord could have used tremendously, and would have used tremendously if he'd been willing to get down and analyse various aspects of his life and work and see how can I accomplish more for the Lord. There is a tremendous difference in the talents that the Lord gives us, but the question is not, Do you have a particular talent somewhere, but how do you develop it? No one of us can truly appraise the abilities we have.

I went to a church one time where a minister and his wife