**How to Preach**

1. Preaching is not the same as making a speech. With a speech, the speaker determines what should be said. With preaching, God determine what will be said. Therefore, one cannot preach without spending much time in prayer asking for the Holy Spirit and spending time reading the Bible to receive His guidance. One could ask God, “What do you want me to say, what is the most important message I can give this week? Or, what Bible passage or topic do You want me to speak on this week”?
2. Every sermon has only ONE point, ONE major concept (or people will forget what was said). After selecting your passage (or topic) start writing and rewriting this one sentence, that summarizes the main thought, making it as concise and simple as possible.
3. Next, subdivide this one concept into 2-4 sub-points. Each sub-point **must** further explain and clarify that main sentence. When preaching from a passage, that passage usually provides the outline (number of sub-points).
4. Each sub-point needs to have the **CIA** (**c**larify, **i**llustrate, and **a**pply). Clarify (explain) what this passage means. Illustrate this sub-point with a “human interest” story that shows someone who acted on (lived) this principle. Lastly, apply this sub-point to your audience. Ask, what should they do, based upon this sub-point.
5. **Only after** one has done the above (main concept, subdivide, CIA), write the introduction. What question(s) or story would motivate people to listen to the concepts you are about to share. This story needs to be about a person who did something similar to what you are about to preach about. This story/questions should motivate people to consider what you are about to say.
6. Next, write out your conclusion. (1) Summarize your main concept, (2) appeal to them to do something based upon this sermon, (3) perhaps share one more story that illustrates your appeal (points 2 and 3 can be reversed). (See John 12:32)
7. **Let’s practice** on John 14:23; “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’” What is the main concept (We can be intimate with God)? What are the sub-points? (1) Intimacy comes from keeping His Word, (2) Heavenly Father will love us, and (3) God will reside within our hearts/lives. How would you explain these sub-points, illustrate each concept, and apply that sub-point to their lives? Next how would you earn the right to be heard with your introduction? How will you conclude this sermon – how will you apply these points in their lives? How will you appeal to your listeners?
8. **Practical tips**: internet sermons; use sparingly, don’t claim to be the author – give credit, rarely will a “canned” sermon have the impact of a “live” sermon!