

“Fear Not! Preparing Devotionals and Messages”
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A. PREPARATION PRINCIPLES

1. **Select a topic/subject.**
2. **Determine your purpose and central idea.**
3. **Analyze your audience and occasion.**
4. **Gather your speech material.**
5. **Make an outline.**
6. **Build with illustrations and examples.**
7. **Evaluate your speech for all elements.**
8. **Familiarize yourself with your speech.**
9. **Be flexible if the Holy Spirit changes your direction.**
10. **Approach speech with confidence.**

B. PERSONAL DEVOTIONALS

1. **What do you share?**
 - a. **testimony** – sharing a personal experience; not telling your whole life story
 - b. **devotional** – brief inspirational thought with scripture focus and personal application
2. **How do you share?**
 - a. **From your heart** – your own experience or insights
 - b. **In an orderly way (outline)**
 - c. **Develop an introduction, main idea, conclusion**
 - d. **Use personal examples**
 - e. **Make practical application**
 - f. **Boldly share the gospel**
 - g. **Give hope and encouragement**
3. **Principles of Delivery**
 - a. **Effective delivery involves the whole person.**
 - b. **Effective delivery involves the whole situation.**
 - c. **Effective delivery communicates ideas without identifying techniques.**

- d. **Effective delivery establishes rapport with listeners.**
- e. **Effective delivery uses all modes of communication (visual/auditory, verbal/nonverbal).**

*** Always let the Lord speak through you effectively!**

C. BIBLICAL MESSAGES

1. Study

- a. **exegesis – the careful, systematic study of scripture to discover the original, intended meaning; reading from the text;**
 - (isogesis – reading into the text)
- b. **hermeneutics – biblical interpretation**

2. Preparation

- a. **What did the text mean to the biblical audience?**
 - (1) **Background Analysis**
 - **Historical context (larger text, social/cultural issues)**
 - **Literary context (genre – narrative, poetry, parable, etc.)**
 - (2) **Content Analysis**
 - **Paragraph**
 - **Verse**
 - **Word study**
 - **Outline**
 - **Commentary comparison**

b. What are the differences between the biblical audience and use?

Consider the differences:

- **Culture**
- **Language**
- **Time**
- **Situation**
- **Covenant**

3. What is (are) the biblical principle(s) of this text?

Timeless principle is not bound by culture; it's relevant yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

4. How should individuals today apply the biblical principle?

- **Command to obey**
- **Example to follow**
- **Promise to claim**
- **Warning to heed**
- **Teaching to act on**
- **Truth to believe**
- **Prayer to pray**
- **Blessing to receive**

D. DELIVERY

1. Methods of Delivery

- a. **Manuscript** – written out word for word and read
- b. **Memorized** – written out and memorized word for word
- c. **Impromptu** – on the spur of the moment, no preparation
- d. **Extemporaneous** – prepared ahead, presented from notes

2. Style of Delivery

- a. **Be yourself** – don't copy others (learn from others)
- b. **Be feminine** – don't try to imitate male speakers
- c. **Be a student of language** (proper grammar, no slang, etc.)
- d. **Be comfortable** – not forced or stiff
- e. **Be willing** – speak often (do anything to practice)

**Ex: RK when hearing funny speaker, sweet speaker –
God said be who I created you to be**