

TTT 397. "Your Voice Matters" Tips for new and inexperienced speakers. Part 2. 14 January 2025

Teaching Tip 397 | "Your Voice Matters" - Tips for new and inexperienced speakers. Part 2 - Spirit Power is What You Need. | Malcolm Cox

Introduction

Where do preachers and teachers of Scripture get their strength from? Before we talk about the 'hows' of preaching and teaching, we must understand where the power lies. Therefore, before we encounter our first tip next week from my friend Roger Packham, I want to say a few words about the power of the Spirit.

Spirit Power

Consider these amazing words from the Apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 2.1-5

“When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.”

What is he saying? That he had something to say. In saying it, he decided not to rely on eloquence or education (although he had both at his disposal). He felt weak and afraid. He trembled. All first-time and inexperienced speakers can relate to that!

Why should anyone listen to Paul? He was a persecutor of Christians. Doubtless, there were those in Greece who had been traumatised by his campaign of extermination. No wonder he felt weak and fearful. He felt inadequate for the task. No matter. He spoke anyway -- with the Spirit's help.

There is a connection between speaking about God and his provision of power. Consider this promise from Jesus connecting the Spirit's power and witnessing:

Acts 1.8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.””

Also, this comment from Paul to the Thessalonians directly associates the impact of his preaching with the Spirit:

1 Thessalonians 1.4-5

“For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.”

An objection could be raised. Perhaps Jesus and Paul are referring to the miraculous gifts of the Spirit. That may be part of the picture. However, are we legitimised in divorcing preaching from the Spirit? I hardly think so. Notably, the result of the church prayer meeting is the following:

Acts 4.31

“When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.”

What if your ability to speak about God doesn't rely on your eloquence or strength but on the power of the Spirit working through you? Are you willing, like Paul, to step forward in faith—even when you feel weak or inadequate—and trust that God will provide the strength and power to make your message impactful?

Reflection

The Spirit is your not-so-secret sauce for preaching and teaching with confidence.

Question

How might your willingness to step out in faith and speak about God, despite your fears or perceived inadequacies, open the door for the Spirit to work powerfully through you?

Additional Scriptures

2 Corinthians 12.9-10; 2 Timothy 1.7; Zechariah 4.6; John 14.12

Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

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God bless, Malcolm

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