Learn How to Preach

Joseph Sullivan
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See Online preacher training site at www.churchofchristpreachertrainingprogram.net
Chapter 1: Introduction

This book is for men who want to learn how to preach. Sadly it is not always easy for people to find help in a local church or from fellow saints in their area. Despite this book's focus on the novice. There is content for the preacher, who has experience and years behind him. He may enjoy reading the materials presented as well. Many of the concepts are basic. But certain points will help a person wherever he is at.

Sermon/Bible lesson creation:

This book will teach a man to prepare a sermon or Bible lesson. You will be shown different sermon types. You'll be encouraged to test them out, to see what fits. With time, you may want to move to other sermon formats, as you progress in speaking and thinking on your feet. Or you may want to just stay where your at. There is no right or wrong format for speaking.

You'll also learn about time length of a sermon and Bible lesson and how to shape your content to meet that timeline.

Oral delivery improvement:

This book will give you exercises to help you become proficient in creating sermons and Bible class lessons regularly. These exercises will enhance your sermon/Bible lesson creative skills, (through practice). You'll improve in speed in making sermons/lessons and in the quality of the content made, (again through the practice of these exercises). The work you do in this book, will enable you to become more fluent in oral delivery. You'll dramatically increase your knowledge base, as you progress through these exercises and repeat the outlined process.
Preacher duties:

You will be shown the duties of a preacher, (which are many). It's not (as some think) a Sunday/Wednesday only work. It requires an emotional investment. A investment for the lost, for the church, for the brotherhood. A preacher can sit around all day, every day and preach a canned sermon and canned Bible lesson, each and every week. He can do the bare minimal and coast.

But for those who think they have a Biblical responsibility to obey the teachings found in the Word, they will proactive. A preacher must be more then a sideline sitter. He must actively be working for the Lord, in the promotion of the Word.

Public speaking tips:

This book will give exercises for public speaking improvement. These tips will cover activities for improving, inflection, articulation, passion, vocal rhythm. You'll be asked to do the exercises regularly. But when you do the work, you will regularly see progress and growth.

The public speaking tips will also encourage you to record your reading for voice analysis. You'll hear how you sound when your reading with passion, when your reading with inflection, etc.
1 Timothy 4:16

"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

Learning Bible truth:

A preacher must be growing in Bible knowledge. To many Christians and may I say it even preachers don't know their Bibles. The exercises in this program will help ground a person in Bible truth. They will also increase one's knowledge base significantly. Through sermon prep work and active study, (from the advice in this book), a person will grow.

I'll also have a content detailing helpful Bible study material, that can help a preacher (develop in the Bible).
Exercises for retaining Bible facts:

To few in the church have a in-depth knowledge base. Most Christians don’t commit the Bible to memory. It is important in being able to give answers and a ready defense of the Word, to know the Bible in one’s mind.

A preacher should be able to share soul saving truth, from his mind. He needs to readily study and commit to mind the scriptures. This site will give exercises that will help make such a process possible.

Evangelism teaching resources:

This book will have carefully accounted methods, recorded stat’s, thoughtfully given advise on evangelism. You will be able to find motivational content, Biblical exhortations, online blogging story-lines.

Years have been spent in accumulating this information. The above items are just some of the resources, you will be able to find. This preacher training booklet has two partner sites, that are hosted by the same person of this site. When you read further into this website, you will learn about these resources.

They are worth checking out. People have been saved by using the tools outlined in them.
Let us remember why...

Before pursuing this noble role, you need to understand fully the reasons on "why" you are doing this work. If it is a reason for self advancement, ego, personal satisfaction, money, etc. You will not stay. Because this job will quickly dissolve you of such notions.

You need to be doing this for the cause of Christ first and foremost. You need to understand that this will be a sacrifice for you and if your married, for your family, too.

Many people are leaving the field of preaching work, for a secular job. Why is that? Is it the pay? Is it due to a lack of work benefits, (dental, medical, etc)?

Are preachers leaving this field of work due to nit picky brethren?
Know that must churches will have at least one negative/non supportive person, (if not more).

They will either say, you spoke too long, too short, your sermons were too negative, or judgmental or they will say the opposite, that you need to
Preach more old time "hell fire and brimstone." They will criticize your attire, your wife, (if married) and your family. They will gossip about you, get offended if you forget to shake their hand, etc. You get the point. Being a preacher calls for patience.

Patience in your teaching, (2 Timothy 4:2).
Patience in your interactions, (Ephesians 4:2).

Learn to not allow yourself to get bothered, by such people.
In this profession you will need to grow thick skin, (Ecclesiastes 7:9).

Now I am not saying all saints are like the above examples, (hyper critical and negative). Most, (hopefully) in a local church aren't. I am not saying all churches are difficult places. Some places are amazing. Yet some are not.

Do preachers leave the workforce for other reasons? Is it due to a lack of job security. Sometimes preachers get fired, (unjustly). It is important to know a "tent making" trade, (as Paul had -Acts 18:1-4).
This trade can be used to fall back on for a time, till another preacher job opens up.

Getting fired, can be prevented sometimes. Before taking a job, do careful research of a church, see if there is a "Deotrephe" in the congregation (As John warns about -3 John 1:9).

Such people worthy of this description are those who are power seekers and want to rule the congregation.
Find out the history of a church. Find out how they treated their last preachers. Find out if a church has a history of running off faithful men, (especially under a short time-span).

In the Bible, Jesus says, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me..." (Matthew 16:24).
Being a preacher is the ultimate form of sacrifice. It is a role that calls for denial of self and it's comforts.

This job will take a great amount of carefully invested hours of work, to prepare for a Sunday and Wednesday. As a preacher, you are expected to have the answers, (that's why personal Bible study is so important). You will deal with problems and need to take a stand on false doctrine. You will be on call 24/7 - 365 days a year. Your time at a congregation may last 50 years, it may last 5, it may last 1. You need to keep your eyes open, work hard, build connections and contacts. Establish a reputation as a faithful preacher and be aware of other prospects, (regularly).
Expect the best but prepare for the worst. Be optimistic but be prepared.

The best way to ensure your time at a church, (though not a sure fire way) is to focus on building bonds, (which a preacher should do regardless). If a preacher loves God's people and is obedient to His commands, he'll naturally show such behavior in his life.

A preacher should work to get along with the negative people and bridge whatever gap there is. A preacher should have a weekly meeting in some social environment to "talk shop" and connect, with the elders. A preacher should host a potluck (monthly) for singing or Bible study at his house to connect with the congregational members.
A preacher should visit the sick and elderly. He should invite different family's to his home for a home cooked meal, from time to time each month. Bonds are important. Especially in job security. But also in simply following in love for God/saints, the Bible directives for hospitality.

Let a preacher make himself indispensable to the congregation.

If you can build websites, build an amazing one for the church. If you are good at writing articles, make colorful/detailed bulletins that will catch their attention.

If your good at soul saving, do that. If you grow the church, (if they have sense) they will not want to get rid of a "good thing."

If your the main "go to guy" for church repairs, they will feel a need for your expertise. If you are mentoring kids/young men in singing classes or in preacher craft, annually at the church, they will feel a need for you.

If your hosting VBS for the congregation or if you are hosting a Bible radio show for the church on AM, etc. you will make yourself look indispensable. You will make yourself look needed. These are just some examples...

Now a preacher should be zealous in using his talents to further the work of the kingdom, regardless.

If your passionate about the people, you visit them, your hospitable to them, you interact with them in the building and outside of the building, you build re pore.

If your zealous for good works, you create reliance on your ability and content.

Again these things should be done regardless. And you could still get fired someday. But these elements help to better increase the likelihood of securing your job, (even in the less then auspicious circumstances).

Of course I have seen preachers do nothing but sit in the pew and check the box for sermon delivery each Sunday, who do the bare minimal and have been preaching at a church for years.

But in the worse case scenario, we need to be prepared. Also, if your wanting to be the best you can be, your going to be cut from a different cloth then the "canned sermon" preacher, who sits around and does not, practice what he preaches, (Matthew 23:3).

Your going to need to be diligent in the matters of faith and doctrine, to not only preach on these truths, but live them.

It's hard to save yourself or your hearers, if you are not looking into the Word regularly and practicing it's truth, (1 Timothy 4:16).

At the end of the day, count the cost. Choose to enter this work for the right reasons. I've been told by preachers time after time, don't enter...
this work, unless you feel you have to. Because it is hard.

Most are leaving the field of preaching. Many churches are dying out. We need faithful men, honest men, hard working men, who can stand up for truth and strengthen the kingdom of God.

Are you such a man?

If your doing it for the love of the Word, for the God who saved you, for those in spiritual need, for the glory of heaven, than yes, you are such a man.

If you find fulfillment in these truths, you will be encouraged by your work.

If you find your fulfillment by the accumulates of men, the money the job offers you, it's security, being in the spot light, etc. you will leave this profession, sooner or later.

Again I ask you...are you the right man for the job?

Only you can answer this question.

- Joseph Sullivan (author)
Chapter 3: Sermon craft

Learn the craft of formulating a sermon and Bible class lesson

How to create content

Steps for gathering content:

1. First ask how do I want to present the content? Do I want to present the material in Expository format, Textual format, Topical format or Narrative format?

(Note: I will be using the word, "sermon" often but this advice can also be used for creating Bible class lessons).

For those who do not know what these terms mean...

A expository sermon is a sermon based/focused on a chapter or part of a chapter. The sermon is centered around the theme of what that chapter is saying. The sermon can use other verses/pasages from
other parts of the Bible to tie in that chapter's theme. This type of
sermon tends to have someone read the chapter, pause in certain parts
of the reading to explain what is being read. In that explanation, the
preacher may tie in other Bible passages from other areas of the Bible
to those verses, he just read.

The purpose of expository sermons are to get a congregation
acquainted with the Bible passages centering around a chapter and its
theme. Example: in using a chapter like Genesis 1:1-31, you can read
each verse talk about each verse and connect other passages in the
Bible to specific aspects of the verses your reading or the whole
underlining theme your tying the chapter to, which would be about
God bring about creation.
You can also use, historical, cultural, archaeological, (creation)
sciences, prophecy, etc. in your expository sermons, to connect a
certain passage being read from the Bible, with such content.

Note: all sermon formats can use external facts, (like those shown here).

If you want to dumb down and weaken your congregation, (which I've seen in the past,) you can use (other) external facts as an
entertainment device and preaching crutch.

The best sermon speakers and experienced Bible teachers, don't need to use such tools, to capture interest.
Refine your speaking art. Practice, practice, practice. You'll become exceptional, without sacrificing quality Bible content to be "interesting"
and "entertaining."

Don't become dependent on "secular" crutches. Examples of watering down the Gospel for secular inclusion in sermon formats, can be found
in such things as, pop culture, poems, secular quotes, pop psychology, secular stories, secular philosophy, jokes, etc.

I am not saying to never use such content, briefly if it is relevant to the theme presented. If someone drowned in the news and your talking
about hell and how short life is, then that story can be brought up. If your preaching on love, you can use a brief quote on love.

What I am saying is this, you're there to preach a Bible sermon. You're not there to inform the Lord's body about pop music, Emily Dickinson's
poetry, share motivational secular short stories or scary movie quotes, etc. If a sermon is largely revolving around such materials, instead of
the Word of God, it is no longer a sermon, it's something else.
A textual sermon, is focused on using just a Bible text or texts. An example of a textual sermon can be found in Matthew 5:8. This text says, "blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." When a preacher stands up and reads such a text, he can highlight that theme. If desired he can detail the circumstances and history surrounding that passage. After reading the passage from the sermon on the mount, on purity, the preacher can then us other Bible passages on purity, to tie together the beatitude of purity that is mentioned in Matthew.

A topical sermon is a sermon that talks about a theme or topic. Example: if a preacher wants to talks on a topic like love, he can use his concordance or type on the internet "Bible verses on love" to find Bible passages on this topic. He can arrange the sermon accordingly.

Certain sermon topics are easier to talk about then others, talking about moral themes are easier for example, then talking about people, places and things. Putting together a sermon about love, just requires finding Bible verses on the topic and tying the passages together.

Putting together a sermon about people, places or things will require more detailed research, reading whole passages and chapters to dig into the core of a Bible character, a Bible place or a Bible thing. This requires more time investment and study. To find chapters about a Bible character, a Bible place or a Bible thing, you can again use your concordance. If your looking for a Bible thing, "Ark of the Covenant" you can use your physical concordance to find this topic and the verses related to that topic. You can also go online. Many sites have virtual concordances.

I like using Biblehub for researching the meaning of a word in Hebrew or Greek, for finding parallel passages that relate to each other, for different translations, for find Bible passages to read and copy to my sermon format. Biblehub has a online concordance, a dictionary, etc.

What I tend to do when making a sermon: you can also, just type in "Ark of the Covenant Bible verse" in your search engine. And you'll find many Bible passages that will pop up. Most themes or Bible topics can be found online if you type in the theme/topic and include with the theme/topic the phrase "Bible verse" in the search engine.

A narratives sermon serves a purpose in bringing out a underlining theme of Biblical truth, through a Bible story. If a preacher talks on the story of Ruth (which can be done in a sermon, it's a short book), he can look at the story, verse by verse and add in his sermon what he wants to address for the verses of a passage being read. He does not need to cover each and every verse/passage or chapter of Ruth, the goal is to underline the main story themes of Ruth. In the Bible verses being read from Ruth, a preacher can tie in other Bible scriptures from other area's of the Bible that can connect to a theme being read. Narratives are great for conveying knowledge of Bible stories. They also serve as a way to bring to light the underlining themes of those stories.

A well balanced preacher will bring all these formats to light in his sermons and Bible lessons. A man who only speaks on topic's, will inform
others on key concepts of doctrine and moral truths, but will leave the audience ignorant on such broad concepts as the theme of redemption, the coming of Jesus, the miracles of God in the OT, the Lord’s intolerance of sin towards the Canaanite nations, the patience of Job, the courage of Elijah, etc. that can be found in narratives.

If someone only speaks narratives, the congregation will be ignorant of non story-line (doctrinal) themes, like divorce and remarriage, forsaking the assembly, Bible authority, the work of the church, the qualifications of elders and deacons, etc.

In order to preach the whole council of God, we need to do as Jesus did. He gave parables but he also gave frank statements on core doctrinal concepts.

Pick your preaching sermon style

When you want to write a sermon or Bible class lesson, pick a theme and then brain storm about what you want to accomplish. Do research online/offline to find scriptures and Bible related truths on a given theme.

Write down what you want to have in the sermon or Bible class lesson.

Before creating a sermon or Bible class lesson, it is important to first decide how you want to deliver your material. Many years ago, I struggled with the sermon making process. I could not figure out how to do sermon "outlines." It just would not fit, for the longest time. I had to find another venue for making sermons/Bible class lessons. I have since then been able to use outlines.
But sometimes a person need to start where they are at in our preaching process. I will be giving different formats to help you, where you are at in the speaking process and growth process. Know that each of these formats have their strengths and weaknesses. None of these formats are superior to another. They all have their qualities. They also have different limitations.

I'd encourage you to give each format a test drive and find out what fits with your personality and ability. You can always evolve and change your style later as you grow in the preaching process.

Learn your speaking style. When doing this process you will begin to feel yourself out. You'll learn what needs to improve and what you can capitalize on in the persona you have.

The sermon/Bible class formats that will be covered in detail:

- Article
- Outlines
  - A. Extemporaneous outline sermons

### Article Sermon:

A "article sermon" is a sermon that is article based. This format is good for introverted, detailed oriented preachers. It is also a useful venue of pursuit when making Bible class lessons. A 20 minute sermon article on Word Doc (at wording level 10) is about 2 pages, front and back. A 40 minute plus Bible class (article type) lesson is 4 pages, front and back. If you have ever wrote an essay in college or a letter, or been given a school assignment to write on a topic or theme, then writing an article should be a familiar process. For sermon/Bible lesson articles, especially those that will be shared, (with the congregation or online, etc) I recommend using Grammarly, or some online tool to check your spelling and grammar.

When preaching, a person should not just read of the "article sermon," If he practices delivering the content at least three times, he'll be familiar with the material. The preacher who is familiar with the content, can use the "article sermon" as a reference and guide, to look at and read from. But still be interactive with the church.

For spontaneous speakers, who are used to doing "sermon outlines," this article format maybe hard to do. But the experienced preacher should still try all formats, including this one. With time and practice, he will improve in "article sermons."

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The pro's of using "article sermons"

* You can stay on point and go into detail on heavy Bible themes and topic's. If you want to talk on the line of the Caesars who persecuted the
early church and stories of martyrdom, well this format will be better suited then "outline sermons." Do you want to speak on
the archaeological and historical proof of Jesus in the Bible, again the "article sermon" format should be considered.

* With "article sermons" you can make detailed handouts to give your congregation. This can help them follow you better when you preach. They can also take the material home to look at later or share with friends. My grandma, would save (through the years), the sermons her preacher preached. He used the "article sermon" format.

* These formats are great for producing Bible class lessons, outlines are less effective in showing detail and in-depth content.

* Writing "article sermons" can have the positive duel aspects of being used for other things, like blog articles, bulletins, eBooks, evangelism materials, etc.

The con's of using "article sermons"

* It takes more work to appear extemporaneous and spontaneous in sermon delivery.

* For those who use this format, it will take more time to make a sermon or Bible class lesson.

* You will be reading of the article, from time to time, even if practiced 3 times before the actual delivery, (reading from your material for Bible class lessons, works just fine, but for sermons, it's less appealing).

Outline Sermon:

A sermon outline has markers (numbers, like 1.2.3.4. and letters, like A. B. C. D, Roman numerals, I, II, III, IIII, V, VI, VII, or bullet points, • ) to show specific brief statements highlighted in the outline. See example to your left.

A 20 minute sermon outline on Word, (at wording level 10-12) is about 1 page, front and back. A 40 minute plus Bible class (outline type) lesson is 2 pages, front and back.
Remember with Bible lessons in Bible class, you still may not always get finished, due to people asking questions, giving comments, conducting opening prayer, etc.

This type of sermon requires being more nimble on your feet. Not everything will be written down. You'll have to think on your toes in adding transitions from one point to the next and a good speaker will also be somewhat extemporaneous in detailing the points given.

Example: in the template you will see B. 1. Let's say the outline is about salvation. You can say, in this part of the outline, "we need to be saved, as the people at Pentecost were," you can also have the Bible passage mentioned of Acts 2:38. In reading Acts 2:38 and in speaking on the concept of the people of Pentecost, their will be a need to speak spontaneously/ad-lib in the dialogue.

These outline sermon "markers," (numbers, like 1.2.3.4. and letters, like A. B. C. D, Roman numerals, I, II, III, IIII, V, VI, VII, or bullet points, • ) are there for you to highlight your points. They serve as guiding posts, to keep you on topic and lead you through the sermon. When you talk on your highlighted points, you'll find (in outline sermon) the need to think quickly and speak extemporaneous.

Now (for outline sermons) the more comfortable you are with such speech, the less content (not referring to Bible truth, I'm referring to written down personal statements given in regard to the preaching of the truth, ) will need to be written down. The more uncomfortable you are with this format, the more wording can be written down. You will see that different preachers have different sermon outline formats. Some have passages of writings and some a few phrases.

Neither are bad. It depends on the personality of the preacher and their social interests of speaking.

See the website "executable outlines" for great outline sermon examples from church of Christ preachers. This link will help detail, how to put together this type of sermon.  http://executableoutlines.com

I like to add in my "article sermons" and in the different outline sermons I preach, the scriptures from the Bible passages, I will speak on, to the sermon format. I like using the Bible, but it's easier to have them written down in my sermon for quick access. This is a personal choice. Find out what works for you. Don't forget to give people time to turn to the Bible passages you mention in your sermon. I mention the passage I will read at least 2-3 times. I read it clearly and I don't rush the reading.
The pro's of using "outline sermons"

* This format will give you more fluidity in your speech.

* You will spend less time making a sermon than you would in sermon article writing.

* Your more engaged with the audience and the audience is more engaged with you, then they would be if your using a sermon article.

The con's of using "outline sermons"

* Though outlines maybe more engaging then article sermons, they are not as detailed. If you really want to inform a group on a matter that requires intensive study and application, article sermons are the best.

* If you want to pass out material to your congregation for them to follow in Bible class or in your sermon, outlines are not as useful as written article sermons/lessons.

Extemporaneous outline sermons:

Note: extemporaneous sermon creation and delivery is advances work. You may want to review this later down the road and practice it later. The choice is yours.

For those who want to expand and test different avenues with this idea. If you want to aim for being an extemporaneous (sermon) speaker. You can add content and leave a space open for spontaneous speech, that is related to the content of the sermon.

Example: An outline can have B. 1. detailing the scripture about the resurrection appearance of Jesus appearing before Mary Magdalene. And subsequent facts related to the passage, you wished written down and shared. Then, in the following outline of B. 2. you can be spontaneous. It maybe hard, but with time, words will come (in relation to the theme) and you will become quicker on your feet. You can and should (also) think about idea's you want say for the spontaneous parts of the sermon. Such idea's will ferment in your head. In the thoughts your thinking about in the spontaneous part of the sermon, you can think about speaking... about how startled Marry must have been and over joyed, to think her friend and Master was before here...etc.
Then B 3, you can again give your Bible passages and written content, then in B 4, you can again give spontaneous thoughts on what was read in B 3. And that is how such a sermon is given, you go back and forth from written content to extemporaneous speaking.

It may be choppy at first, but when you practice a sermon at least 3 times and let the extemporaneous thoughts sit in your head, the idea's thought out will develop and come together. You'll find with multiple deliveries that extemporaneous sermons can become polished and detailed, in it's delivery. When delivering the sermon to test it out, practice speaking the sermon at least 3 times. You will find the spontaneous parts will begin to develop, each time you deliver the sermon.

Extemporaneous sermon outlines are an advanced sermon delivery format. The more a person is comfortable with article sermons and regular sermon outlines, the more they can test these waters and see how they interact with extemporaneous sermon outlines, (in delivery).

The pro's of using "extemporaneous outline sermons" (for those who get this mastered)

* Spontaneous sermons, with practice can become powerful in performance.

* They are more emotionally connective and motivational.

* Such sermons require less work then a "article sermon" or a regular "outline sermon."

* This format will grab the audiences attention.

The con's of using "extemporaneous outline sermons"

* You can't go into as great of detail as you could with article sermons or even regular outlines.

* I know of preachers who slip up in extemporaneous sermons, when they try to go in-depth into hard doctrinal matters. It's easy to do, if the content and topic requires a great deal of details from the Bible and written down facts. Such sermons are better based in article sermons or at the very least in regular outline sermons.

* Yes, this format will motivate and inspire, which if that is what your aiming for serves it's purpose. But if you want to go into meaty subjects and serious doctrinal/grounding applications, that require alot of specific detail in delivery, this format is not the best for those occasions. If you want to uplift and talk about heaven, this works, but if you want to go into the fundamentals of premillennialism, this format is not the best.
Chapter 4: Verbal Work

Preaching Exercises to improve in oral delivery.

Keys to Delivery performance

These preaching tips are for those who are not "church preachers" but want to improve in this field. Many young men and older men, may want to preach, but don't have a platform for such vocal training and exercise practice. Note: these tips can also help the seasoned preacher, improve, as well. Especially if combined with the page content in "Public speaking exercises." Both both novice and experienced preacher, should combine the public speaking content.

If you want to improve in sermon making and delivery here are some exercises to do. Note: this is hard core. It is designed to make you grow in
this process and grow quickly. It is not meant to be easy. It is meant to help you. I know it works. Test it out for yourself and you will see it begin to work as well. After a season, you’ll not be the same.

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Long Term Exercises: (note: these "monthly" exercises are for individuals to do. Unless a church has a long term preacher program that would be able to include such formats for training).

1. First month... practice a sermon each week for a month. Learn the process more thoroughly by doing the work.
   
   A. Once the sermon is made, get a video camera and record yourself, delivering the content. Yes, it might be sloppy. Mine was a mess. But you need to see yourself, to learn about your facial gestures, your vocal speech patterns, (clarity of speech, confidence, volume, etc).

   When you speak a sermon/deliver it, you may want to make corrections, afterwards. This is part of the refining process. This is useful in enhancing the quality of the content and in cleaning up mistakes.

   Note: for delivery, I have installed a stop watch app on my cell phone, that I can monitor to make sure I don’t go over time. This is good to have on hand to use in your content delivery. Use a phone app or a device you can easily look at, (without being obvious) while speaking. This process will come in handy when your speaking at a church.

   Having a video, (especially one you can look at while speaking) can speed up the learning and improvement curve of visual and audio delivery. For when you speak your not only talking with your voice, but with your body language and behavior. Set up a recording stand, get a video camera.

   B. After you delivered the sermon once, deliver it again two more times on video camera. When you continue to analyze (for improvement) the video presentations, you WILL watch yourself grow. Doing this helps one become familiar with the content and internalize the material. Doing this gives the content a more polished and spontaneous delivery when presented. And your less likely to make mistakes, when speaking to an audience. To many preachers, even those who have been doing such work for years, misspeak from time to time, due to not giving the material adequate preparation time. Practice, practice, practice.

   Sad, some preachers, after 50 years are still just as dry and inarticulate as the first time they preached. Simple reason for this, they are not trying to improve. They are not analyzing their content under a microscope. They are not seeking to change from the way they deliver their content. Make improvement your goal. When you do this, as time passes, you will notice a great difference between your first video and the last video you made.
C. I’d also encourage you to share what you write concerning these materials in some type of public forum, wife, friends, or a social media platform like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc. This builds accountability.

D. I also exhort you to speak to an audience. You may not have a church to preach at. But to help you overcome stage fright. And help build "speaking" confidence, PUBLIC speaking is important.

Practice speaking one of your sermons, (each week) on Facebook live or YouTube live. If you don’t have one of these accounts, set it up. Again the more you do such PUBLIC activities, the less timid and anxious you will be. This will help prepare you for public speaking at church.

Second month...

2. After you have done the above exercise for a month, then in the following month, start trying to make two sermons a week, each week for a month. Rinse and repeat the above exercises of the first month.

Third month...

3. Once you have invested 2 months in making sermons, for the third month add a Bible class lesson to your load. Create and deliver two sermons and a Bible class lesson each week for a month. Practice speaking the content 3 times on camera.

I know delivering a Bible class lesson on camera is not the same as delivering such material to a Bible class. A class is more interactive. But this will still get you used to the format of lengthy delivery (40 plus minutes) and give you lesson materials to create and talk on. The delivery process of 3 times, will enhance your Bible lesson skill set, as well.

AGAIN, repeat the exercises of the first month.

See if you can handle this work load. For this is a big part of being a preacher. Making sermons/Bible class lessons and delivering them is what a church expects of you. And it is what you must be able to do.
Side notes for personal development: (Optional yet prudent)

4. Watch/listen to people in the motivational speaking genre. Like those who are on YouTube. Watch how they speak. Take notes. Watch/listen (online) to articulate preachers and those who give in-depth/meaty content in their presentations. Take notes.

5. Work out with weights at least 3 times a week for an hour or more times a week, for less lengthy periods. This builds testosterone. After a few months of working out like this, you will notice more primal energy, a deeper voice, a stronger presence, a more intense delivery. If you stop working out, you will lose this testosterone and these qualities. A healthy preacher can do more for the Lord, then a preacher who has health issues. So exercise may be optional, but it is still a discerning choice to make.

6. Eat healthy, take care of self. If your tired, weak, etc. this will affect work performance and sermon delivery. Your better to God as a healthy man, then in the hospital.

Spiritual rituals to do:

7. Pray for God to be used in you. Always make that the first priority for the service you are doing.


9. Like anything, if you don't keep this up, (studying, sermon prep/delivery, etc.) you will lose it. You'll lose your edge, your accumulated skill set in speaking, etc.
Public speaking tips:

These exercises should be done for 15 minutes in the morning daily.

Read the Bible or read some poetry. While reading record yourself on audio or on a video recorder. Watch and listen to the recording after your done. When you do these below exercises, with time, you will watch yourself grow.

Practice reading in four different ways to enhance those ways. Read a passage below with the focus and aim to
improve in your speech in that area.

1. Read a passage first with the focus on speaking with passion/feeling. The more you do this, the more such tones will be reflected in your speech.

2. After doing this above exercise, read another passage with articulation, (clearly pronouncing the word).

A thing to do, that I recommend, (though silly), is to turn your finger sideways, and place that finger into your mouth. Note: "Demosthenes (384 BC–322 BC) was the greatest orator of ancient Greece. He overcame stuttering by speaking with pebbles in his mouth to improve articulation." I am not saying to put rocks into your mouth, that may not go well with you, as a choking hazard. But if you put the side of your finger into your mouth and try reading a passage, you will notice a improvement with articulation.

Also, practicing tongue twisters can help. It can help you become more nimble on your feet with word play. This can become useful, when reading hard to pronounce names in the Bible, etc.

Here are some tongue twister exercises, (www.smart-words.org/tongue-twisters.html). More tongue twisters can be found on Google, etc.

3. Read a passage with inflection, (inflection means to give a word life. If you say "love," make them feel the meaning of the word, if you say "forest," make them feel the meaning of the word, etc).

For improving in inflections: I'd suggest this exercise. Imagine in your mind an image of people/friends caring for each other, (in behavior) if your trying to invoke vocal inflection in the word "love."

If you mention the word, "forest," think about a forest and the senses involved in being in a forest. It may be hard, but the more you just intend to invoke a word, the less effort/concentration you will need to invoke it. The more you practice the better you get. With time such behavior will come naturally.
Read with rhythm, this may be hard, but practice, practice and more practice, will lead to results. May sound awkward and not sound right doing this exercise at first, (as with any of the above exercises), but the more you practice, the more natural you will become in this exercise.

If your not sure what "rhythm" speech is, go to YouTube and watch the motivational speaker, Les Brown [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlUMrzwmbyo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlUMrzwmbyo)

Rhythm has tempo, kind of like music, it moves up and down, it pauses, it moves with beat and life. Watch other motivational speeches/video's to listen, to "rhythm."

Do these exercises regularly. The more frequently you do this the more you will improve in public speaking. (If you read the pages before this one, you will be shown keys to dealing with social anxiety and nervousness, in the public forum).
Chapter 5: What a Preacher must be

What a Preacher must be in the field of preaching and ministry

* A Preacher needs to be following the commands of God. If he is to have any credibility in his life and sermons. No one listens to a hypocrite.

A preacher needs to...

1. A preacher needs to prepare sermons, this requires study, sermon creation, practice and the actual delivery to the audience. (See other pages on this site for more details on sermon prep). A preacher needs to have the whole message/council of God declared to the saints, not just the parts he likes, *(Acts 20:27 / 2 Timothy 4:17)*. He should not water down the Gospel, change the Gospel, ignore certain aspects of the Gospel. He needs to preach the whole truth. Not parts of it.

Certain speaking styles, like narrative preaching, (alone) make it
hard to talk on doctrinal truths. Nothing wrong with narratives, Christ used them, but he also spoke plainly about moral themes and doctrinal elements. A well balanced preacher will speak in different formats. Expository, Textual, Topical, Narrative. For details on these formats see the page, "Sermon Craft."

In the preachers work and in his life, he needs to be prayerful, (Colossians 4:2). A preacher needs to be prayerful in His Bible studies. For he will have to give an account before God, on what he teaches, (James 3:1). In his sermons preparation and in his personal study he must be diligent in study, so as to be approved of God. He must study to handle the precious truth correctly, (2 Timothy 2:15).

A preacher must be honest (Revelation 21:8) and fervent (Romans 12:11) in sermon delivery.

A preacher must be willing to rebuke, correct and take time to personally train others, (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and to tell the elder's of church the needs of Bible based discipline, (1 Corinthians 5:1-12).

2. A preacher needs to find quality lesson materials to teach or personally prepare Bible lesson content. It is a disservice to talk on a topic and have no interactive Bible resources for the saint to study before class. When the saint has nothing to take home and has nothing to look at as a aid for the content being presented, it limits the preachers effectiveness. Yes I know, making Bible lessons is a long process. But it's part of the job of a preacher. If it is too much, find online lessons, in the brotherhood or purchase lessons at a faithful Christian Bible store.

3. A preacher needs to write a weekly bulletin. I like using Canva, (www.canva.com). This site has graphic's, templates, pictures, etc. It's free. On Canva you can find bulletin templates (under "Newsletter") and create them according to your wants. Then download the template. You can use that template for writing bulletins each week. If you don't like this site, their are plenty of bulletin templates online to pick from.

4. A preacher needs to be able to baptize the lost.
If you've never baptized someone before, watch this YouTube video on how to baptize,

see video www.youtube.com/watch?v=63EWslig1TU
5. A preacher needs to be able to marry others. He needs to make sure he is legal. Different states have different requirements. See link https://getordained.org/state-marriage-laws.

They provide helpful info. Of course, it goes without saying, I don't endorse all the details of the link mentioned.

A marriage ceremony sermon should not be longer than 20 minutes. Some couples may want a even shorter one. Like any sermon, gear the marriage sermon around the Bible. Also focus on the ceremonial themes you are to speak on during this occasion. Talk about the couple, about their love, any stories they don't mind sharing, etc. Make the main focus and core speech about what the Bible says on marriage, love, sex, commitment, etc.

A good site on the steps for conducting a marriage ceremony can be found below. I have a slight disagreement with the 2 step. Certain things a preacher must not do, even if the cultural beliefs of the couple stipulate otherwise. This site will also show you how to legally marry people. www.wikihow.com/Conduct-a-Wedding-Ceremony

Here are sermons (for gathering idea's) from faithful Gospel Preachers on Weddings.

6. A preacher needs to be able to make a "sermon" funeral address. This details the man's life, who he was, where he was born, who he married, his family/children, his job and his friends. It will share some uplifting stories.

The funeral will share what the man did, in the context of the good he did. A funeral address will speak what the Bible says on life and death in matters of eternity. Like most church sermons, today, the time for a eulogy is geared for around 20 minutes. A good funeral address will mention the cross and close with the plan of salvation. A prayer can follow this. Then an invite can be given to people to come up, (if anyone is interested/inclined), to share stories or positive facts about the deceased.

See this site for the steps of a funeral service. https://m.wikihow.com/Officiate-at-a-Nondenominational-Funeral-Service

Here are sermons (for gathering idea's) from faithful Gospel Preachers on funerals.
7. A preacher needs to visit those in the church, who are sick and hospitalized. He needs to visit the elderly, the spiritually weak (Matthew 25:31-46). He needs to visit those who are not coming to church or those who have fallen away. Also, he should come over to see those who have visited the church.

How to do this: you call, ask if you can come over. If they say yes, you come. You can bring a card, flowers, some cookies, etc. depending on the context of the visit and the occasion. You don't have to stay too long. The point is to visit them and let them know you care. A visit and a talk can go a long way to encourage others.

8. A preacher should write others: He should encourage the church members to do this as well. A preacher should write cards and notes to the sick, the visitors, the discouraged, the spiritually weak and to those who have recently fallen away.

9. A preacher should be there when the church has a work day. As well as other church related activities. If elders are behind an effort the preacher should support their efforts. If a saint is doing work to benefit the church, as a leader and example, he should be there, (if possible) for moral support. If a member is having a singing, or having a group to visit the elderly, etc, as a leader/example, he should support God's people. When a preacher is missing during VBS, or a potluck, or at a door knocking event for a gospel meeting, it says to the elders and to the church, he's not really invested emotionally in God's work or in "us." Obviously, a preacher can't be there for everyone, for every activity, all the time, but his attitude/heart needs to be focused on supporting, God's people, the spiritual leadership and the church.

10. A preacher should be at the building to open it and close it for worship services. He should be the first one people see. He should be the one people see when they arrive. He should be helping the elderly, greeting visitors, holding the door open and shaking hands. He should be one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. When a preacher is the last to arrive, right before church starts and is the first to go, it sends a signal to the congregation of his emotional investment level and interest. When the preacher is one of the first to arrive and last to go, it sends the opposite message.

11. A preacher should be doing Bible studies at his house or another's home. This is useful in grounding the saints and in saving souls. Also, to help the young people of the church, a preacher should focus on singing's and short devotionals with the youth of that church.

Besides this, a preacher should focus on doing (general) hospitality. This is important, (1 Peter 4:9). Having a family over to the house after church for a meal or inviting a couple out to eat with you, builds bonds of affection.
12. As exemplars of Jesus and of trying to follow His Word: we need to do outreach, *(Matthew 28:18-20).* A preacher should be finding ways to grow the local and universal church. He should look for ways to reach the lost. This is what NT preachers did. And is what we must do too.

Evangelism idea's...

Contacting visitors who are at church, invite them to a home cooked meal with family and a Bible study.

There is a wide range of methods to reach the lost: going door knocking, doing overseas work, working at "Street Preaching," learning "Friendship Evangelism" and more...

You can start promoting the truth online in Media/Social Media through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.

Try different stuff. Find your niche. Find ways and methods that can reach others for the Lord in His work of helping the lost, *(Jude 23).*

13. A preacher needs to be open to constructive criticism and willing to take BIBLE advise, *(2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

14. A preacher needs to be willing to help and support the new convert spiritually. If a new Sister in Christ is sick, he needs to call her. If she is in the hospital, he needs to visit. If she misses church, he needs to write her. If the new convert, can't get a ride to church and her car is broken down, he needs to be willing to pick her up. The preacher needs to study with the new Sister and ground her in the Word of God, *(Hebrews 6:10).*

15. A preacher needs to watch out for false teachers, preachers, brothers, who want to pervert the truth, *(Acts 20:28-30).* He must reprove false doctrine, but do this with love *(Ephesians 4:14-15).* A preacher must have zero tolerance for err, *(Titus 1:13-14).* If a false teacher refuses to stop speaking error and is trying to undermine the church and the saints, the faithful gospel preacher, must warn others of this (unrepentant) person, *(2 Timothy 2:16-18).*

The eldership needs to be notified and steps need to be taken to remove the false teacher from the body of Christ. The false brother must be disfellowshiped, *(1 Corinthians 5:1-13).* The more time passes the more the false teacher can influence members of the church towards his teachings and towards his favor. This process of removal must be done carefully, thoughtfully and quickly.
A preacher must hate evil, (Romans 12:9) and love the Word dearly, (Psalms 119:97). If he does, when the truth is defiled, (by false teaching) it will personally/emotionally hurt the godly man. The preacher must deal with such sins, in love. But he must take such sins seriously as well.

The faithful Bible preacher must not associate with brethren who teach error, (Romans 16:17-19). He must teach the saints to do this Bible command, too,

Note, when I say "false teachers," I am not talking about some ignorant thing a person says in Bible class or a faux pas a teacher might say, by mistake. I'm talking about deliberate, deceitful, habitual behavior a person does to undermine the truth.

16. A preacher needs to respect and submit to the local church leadership he is under. He needs to follow the eldership in the leadership decisions they make. He can't sneak around and try to undermine them, behind their backs. A preacher should not ignore their leadership and guidance, (Hebrews 13:17). It is our duty to treat such men with honor,

Note: I am not talking about elders who support false doctrine or evil behavior, but even in this, the matter should be up front and dealt with openly and maturely. Not with duplicitous behavior.
Helpful Bible study aids

For sermon idea's and for personal growth/grounding. Here are church of Christ links.

Truth magazine has in-depth Bible articles written by articulate and knowledgeable men. www.truthmagazine.com/category/archive-contents

WVBS has videos to help with grounding concepts (baptism, Bible authority, church worship, etc.) in study. www.youtube.com/user/worldvbs

Executable outlines has outlines for use. I recommend looking at this site to learn how to formulate outline sermons. http://executableoutlines.com

Biblestudyguide is a great resource site for sermon preparation. The site has free concordances, dictionaries, commentaries, Bible lessons, and more. www.biblestudyguide.org

Apologetic press has helpful free articles on creationism, sciences, archaeology, prophecy, atheism, etc. As well as other Bible themes. www.apologeticspress.org

Note: Apologetic press also has high quality videos on these topic's as well. www.youtube.com/user/ApologeticsPress

David Padfield: is a faithful preacher of the Word. He has made an exceptional website. He has free Bible study eBooks lessons, debates, tracts, articles, sermons, to use. David has on his site, "Preacher Training" PDF books. www.padfield.com/index.html

Gene Taylor: is a church of Christ writer, teacher and preacher. He has high quality, free Bible class lesson books. The content can be accessed, downloaded at the following site. www.centervilleroad.com/classbooks.html

Bookstores in the Brotherhood:
These stores have a wide variety of useful Bible study aids.

Truth Magazine  https://truthbooks.com
Florida College  http://bookstore.floridacollege.edu/
Bible retention tips:

1. Mark up your Bible with scriptures. Find a page in the Bible that talks on Baptism for salvation, for example, then find other passages and write them all in that page location. Have a "post it flag" sticker, marked on the page area. This makes the passages on a certain theme, easy to reference. Make it a point to quickly learn the passages through this page. It can be a go to source when doing Bible studies and needing quick references.

2. Read your Bible daily at least an hour. Meditate on the words read. Make it applicable and pray on what you read. Try to create a desire and longing for the Word, through maxims, tell yourself to, "crave reading His truth." Tell yourself "you love His truth." Tell yourself "you desire His truth." If you say these things with conviction, desire and belief in the statements made, you will grow in the maxims spoken.

3. Memorize a passage each week. Write down the desired passage on a note card. Take the note care with you, as you do your work through out the day. When at a stop light, read it, when washing your clothes, read it, when at the church building, take the card out and read it, when

Bible study memory tools:

In the 1920-50's preachers were called "walking Bibles." Now days, many are weak in Bible doctrine. They can't defend fundamental concepts or share salvation with a lost sinner.

As a preacher, people will be looking to you for answers. You will need to be able to give a ready defense of the hope that is within you, (1 Peter 3:15). To do this, you need to get emotionally intimate with the scriptures. It needs to be a relationship of commitment. For such a connection with the Word, you must first choose to love the truth, (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

You must desire to hide the truth in your heart, (Psalm 119:11). To truly belong to God, you must be invested in following Christ's teaching, (John 8:31).

The Bible must be valued more then any other book or opinion of man, (Galatians 1:10). If your willing to defend it, love it and commit it to your mind and life, then you will truly esteem God's Word above all else.
in the doctors office, read it, when walking around the block, read it, etc. Do this exercise daily. You'll be surprised in how you grow each week in Bible knowledge, when you do this.

When memorized. Write down the verse in a note page, to review with the other memorized passages at the end of the week.

4. Further down the road, when ready, pick a theme and try to write a short article from the Bible passages on that theme, this will require a lot of study and research, this will create learning. When comfortable with that, try to write a longer article or sermon on a specific Bible theme. Make this a more regular routine, as you get comfortable with the process.

5. Regularly teach a Bible class, either a new convert class, a kids class, a ladies class, a church class or a home study group class, if possible. Their is no better way to learn then through this method.

6. The more you read the more you will want to read, for the more you read the more you will grow spiritually. This will create stronger Bible convictions and principles. Regular Bible study will help you learn to cherish the Bible above anything else this world can offer or give.

FAN this desire, feed it, love it, nurture it.
Evangelism

A preacher should also be an evangelist. Sadly to few actually do such work. But in order to grow the church and set the NT example/pattern, it is important to seek sources to grow in this area. A preacher is an example and is to emulate what he preaches, as an example of leadership.

Evangelism resources/tools

Below are useful links that will detail successful methods, give free tools, motivational tips and much more. *(Note: the teacher of this book, has put these websites together after careful study and personal investment).*
Campus work/street work

This site will detail the aspects of such work. It has a informational blog, free materials and an eBook on street/campus work.

Click here www.churchofchriststreetcampusevangelism.com

Evangelism methods and tips

This site will outline a wide range of profitable methods of outreach. You can also find motivational info as well as free resources.

Click here www.churchofchristevangelism.com
Conclusion: about the Author

Hello, my name is Joseph Sullivan. I'm a man in his 40's who has been preaching online and internationally, through media.

I've preached and have worked in the slums of California, teaching gangs, the addicts and homeless the Gospel.

I've been trained in preacher training programs. Sadly, many places don't host such workshops.

This book is not meant to be an exhaustive source on the subject of preacher work and sermon craft. Nor is this book a substitute for a (annual) preacher training program at a church. The goal of this site is to simply help shed light on useful tools, that can help someone in this field.

One of the main problems I had in my early years, had to do with formalizing an outline. I also struggled with public speaking. I had no one to turn to, for support.

The concepts here, are meant to help you and to give the answers you are looking for. If you want to learn more about me, read my evangelism blog and intro. www.churchofchriststreetcampusevangelism.com

I pray this book helps you in the Lord. May God bless your zeal and dedication to the exaltation of His Word.

Sincerely,
Joseph Sullivan