

# Public speaking with prayer

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Cat got your tongue? Do you freeze in front of a crowd or avoid speaking in groups? Do you worry about saying the right thing? Do you think of the perfect response two hours later?

Speaking is an integral aspect of daily life. We may be comfortably communicating our ideas when we know our audience. But when the audience is hostile or unknown, we begin worrying about how others are receiving us.

Moses felt this way. He did fine leading sheep. He called to them. They followed. Perfect communication! But then God asked him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. This involved talking to a hostile audience, Pharaoh, and convincing a large unknown audience that he was acting at God's command. Moses couldn't imagine anyone listening to him.

God had a two-part answer. First, he basically told Moses it would be his works not his words that would convince Pharaoh and the children of Israel that he was under the authority of Almighty God. Through the power of God, the rod in Moses' hand became a serpent which then turned again to a rod. Then Moses' hand became leprous and was instantly healed at God's command. These signs of divine authority were God's method of communicating to an unresponsive audience.

But Moses was still worried. "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."

God's answer helps anyone praying about public speaking, "Who hath made man's mouth?... Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." (Exodus 4:10-12)

We are not the source of creative expression and catchy phrases. Divine Mind is the source of all good ideas. Man expresses these thoughts. When we turn to the one unlimited divine Mind, we hear ideas. Then

communication becomes more a matter of listening to God and sharing this inspiration with others.

What interferes with ease of communication is thinking more about ourselves than listening to God. How we look, how we sound, are we forceful enough, too forceful, saying too much, too little...all these thoughts are like static interfering with Mind's clear inspiration.

To improve our speaking ability, let's rely on God teaching us what to say and when to say it. Waiting on God keeps us from speaking unwisely. Relying on God's guidance gives us wisdom beyond our own ability. Then we will be fulfilling the Bible command "Be ye holy in all manner of conversation." (I Peter 1:15)

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