

Garlock, JohnKeys To Better Preaching

13. Am I Anointed?

This closing chapter names the third indispensable element of a good sermon: the touch of God, also called anointing or inspiration. The earlier chapters taught structure and illustrations, but this one insists that without God's presence you only have a speech, not a message. It explains that anointing cannot be earned by formula, yet a preacher can prepare himself to receive it.

Key takeaways

- Three essentials make an effective sermon: vivid illustrations, memorable structure, and the touch of God. The anointing is the most important of the three.
- Technique still matters. Being spiritual is no excuse for ignorance — 'anointed ignorance is still ignorance.' Brother Hibbard blended homiletic principles with seeking God's touch.
- There is no formula for the anointing; God gives it to simple and learned alike. But you can prepare your heart (repent, forgive), mind, sermon, and body to be a better candidate.

- The anointing is God's powerful presence — not loudness, frenzy, personality, or perspiration. It can be loud or quiet, and may rest on the preacher or on the words themselves.
- Pray for anointing throughout the whole preparation process, not as something poured over a finished message.

Passages worth keeping

“First, I reads myself full; then I thinks myself clear; then I prays myself hot; then I just lets go!”

A plain picture of preparation that invites God's touch.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Samuel 17:38–39** -- Saul's armor didn't fit David — like borrowed methods that don't fit a preacher.