

Preacher Nuggets

By Dr. Dan Cheatham, www.devotional.net

There is a PRIVATE PROCESS that must precede PUBLIC PREACHING.

Before you can speak FOR God, you must be broken BY God.

Before one can minister LIFE to others, one must put SELF to DEATH! The way to get LIFE to work in others is to let DEATH work in us.

One preacher can speak the same message as another, yet the listeners burn in their hearts listening to the one, and the listeners endure the other. Why? One minister has submitted to the processes of God in his private life and has a broken tender heart through which DIVINE LIFE can flow. The other minister is not ministering LIFE and REVELATION, but is only giving an oratory out of his intellect or emotions.

Only by submission to God's private dealings can one be qualified for public ministry.

Genuine ministry of God's Word must issue from the HEART, not the HEAD... from the SPIRIT, not the EMOTIONS.

Words are useless unless they are carriers of genuine compassion.

Preaching HARD is futile unless it is coming from a SOFT heart.

Before you can GET UP in public to preach, you must be BEAT UP in private in your heart. (I'm not talking about getting beat up by the devil and living a defeated life here. Neither am I discussing being down on yourself or a spirit of condemnation. Rather I mean letting the Spirit of God plow deep within your character, your heart, and your attitudes.) Brokenness prevents breakdown. And humility prevents humiliation.

The only difference between a MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER in the corporate world and a called PREACHER in the kingdom of God is IMPARTATION. A motivational speaker can INSPIRE and INFORM. But genuine spiritual speaking also includes an IMPARTATION of something eternal and tangible into the listeners.

Dr. Mike Murdock says, Those Capable Of Transferring Information Are Also Capable OF Transferring Error. Caution is appropriate.

Someone has said concerning the call to preach: "Some were SENT; others just WENT." I agree. There is a vast difference between a wanna-be preacher and a genuine called-to-be preacher!

Someone has rightly said, "Private Renunciation better precede Public Denunciation, or else it is hypocrisy."

To stay in the ministry and be effective for decades, a man or woman of God must feed daily on God's Word and drink daily of His presence in prayer.

Always exalt Integrity even higher than Ministry.

Someone has wisely said that the three areas that trip up preachers are the same as they have always been: "The Gold, The Girls, and The Glory!"

S.W.A.T. Team against Preachers: S.atan's W.omen: A.dultresses and T.emptresses!

Early in one's ministry it is common for God to prove the man of God by seeing if he will minister God's Word and obey God without financial remuneration of any kind and without recognition from anyone. This is good because it builds character and pure motives in the minister. However, if one obeys God and grows in their anointing this should not continue forever.

Preachers must realize that speaking under the anointing is one thing; living by faith when you're not under the anointing is another!

The anointing on our lives will always INVIGORATE some and INFURIATE others. That is the nature of the anointing; it separates. Some are irresistibly attracted to our anointing; others are naturally repelled. Understanding this can prevent internal frustrations. Not every person, not even Christians, want to be in an atmosphere where they are challenged by a poignant anointing. Many would rather stay in their comfort zones and enjoy a little sermonette each Sunday in a climate which is more akin to a social or civic club.

Someone has wisely said, "More is CAUGHT than TAUGHT." So true! The pastor must be ever mindful of the condition of his or her own heart, because that is what the people will really receive, not just the surface appearance of our words. Someone else has put it this way, "We teach what we know, but we REPRODUCE who we are!"

One can preach the gospel, and God will honor that preaching for the sake of the listeners. But the same preacher can simultaneously be disqualified from enjoying the blessings that he preaches, by his own private disobedience.

God doesn't demand perfection out of his preachers, but He desires that they always be in pursuit of personal excellence.

Many preachers need to get trained, schooled, or mentored in the area of relational skills, managerial skills, and leadership principles. Some spiritual leaders are like bulls in a china shop when it comes to day-to-day communications with people.

The preacher MUST go where God sends him and NOT just where he prefers. Obedience in this area can be life prolonging and disobedience can be life threatening. Geography matters! As Mike Murdock says, "God made PLACES before He made FACES!"

The devil will try to get the preacher to get involved in ANYTHING besides his calling in order to neutralize the preacher or take him out altogether. A hobby, a habit, a besetting sin, a thought pattern, an obsession, a binge, an overindulgence in some area of life, a preoccupation with some business or daily activity, internet surfing, TV, overspending... just about ANYTHING can be distorted and out of balance and thus be used to divert the preacher's energies and focus... even good and wholesome things taken to extreme or used as substitutes.

The preacher must DEEPLY RESPECT his calling and guard it in prayer.

A season of fasting and prayer over a waning anointing or gift will resurrect it. A gift that used to burn brightly can be re-polished and renewed again.

Leaders who don't learn to live their lives by a daily LIST, become LISTLESS and unproductive.

A planned year is a grand year.
An unplanned year is a bland year.

A preacher must keep a balance between his:
PRAY - spiritual activities,
PAY - work activities, and
PLAY - family and recreation activities.

Many preachers want RESPECT from their followers, but don't understand that RESPECT is a two way street. There is such a thing as upward protocol. But there is also such a thing as downward protocol.

A preacher must have a PASSION TO KNOW HIM, and a PASSION TO SHOW HIM!

A preacher must read God's Word regularly in his daily devotions, even when there are days that he doesn't seem to get much out of it.

Pastors must be beware of preaching and teaching only using the topical format. There is a danger of only preaching our

favorite Biblical topics, and thus malnourishing the sheep over an extended period of time. So the wise pastor also uses the expository format where he preaches from a Bible chapter or a series on a Bible book so as to avoid imbalance. Tis wise to let the Bible speak more for itself on a variety of truths needful for victorious living. Besides most Christians don't read their Bibles regularly and need the well-rounded diet.

Some preachers expect an immediate assignment to a pulpit after graduating from Bible school, and are terribly disappointed if it doesn't happen. But the immediate ascension to a pulpit can actually be damaging to both the preacher and the people sometimes. More often a slow but sure exaltation into more spiritual responsibility is better for everyone. Bible knowledge is not equivalent to Bible wisdom. And there is a savory seasoning that only comes from starting in the trenches and at the grassroots. Experience and time tends to prevent the Plastic Preacher Syndrome or the Professional Pulpit facade.

Someone has said appropriately, "Many a preacher dug his own grave with a dinner fork." Diet and exercise ARE important for ministry longevity. Natural laws cannot be broken any more than spiritual laws can without repercussions.

Cherish the ones whom God has placed into your life to help you accomplish your vision. People are not just pawns to be USED to accomplish our own dreams. Rather they are precious jewels with dreams and disappointments of their own. Each should be acknowledged, listened to, celebrated, and appreciated for all that they do, and even more... for all that they are.

Every man of God must honor WOMANHOOD and uphold the dignity and purity of the same despite the prevailing lust and degradation of our modern day culture.

On the way to your spiritual dream, take time to celebrate the simple pleasures of living.

Extract great pleasure out of your little accomplishments and the little blessings from God.

NOTICE your wife!

NOTICE each of your children!

NOTICE each your friends!

NOTICE your tithers and/or partners!

NOTICE your own pastor or spiritual mentor!

Chill out and have some FUN, man!