

# *Are you an eloquent person?*

After 40 years in the desert, Moses' confidence in his own skills and professional education was very low. To lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, he would have to negotiate with the Pharaoh and motivate, organize and lead a nation of slaves. He was convinced that his success required eloquence. "Moses said to the LORD, 'O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.' The LORD said to him, 'Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say' " (Ex. 4:10-12). Of course it is good to learn to communicate as clearly and effectively as possible, but the success of the Christian message depends on the ability of God to speak through us. Dependence on God yields higher dividends than professionalism and eloquence.

In fact, the apostle Paul was convinced that sometimes eloquence could hinder God's work in the souls of the listeners. He wrote, "When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power" (1 Cor. 2:1-5).

Does it not matter how we present God's message? Does clarity, beauty, logic and conviction play no role in Christian communication? The apostle also asked for prayer that he might communicate God's message "clearly, as I should." Then he encouraged his readers to speak God's message, but with words "always full of grace, seasoned with salt" (Col 4:4, 6). Paul was aware that only God's Spirit could convert a soul, and yet he tried to "persuade" his listeners (2 Cor. 5:11). While depending totally on the Spirit of God to work, we should give the presentation of God's message our best efforts. Do you agree? Dependence on God or presentation quality - which is your strength? Maybe we should work at improving both.

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December 2011

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