

but we can learn to speak effectively. Now I have not given much attention to speaking myself in recent years. The Lord has called me to study the Word and to write the results of my study. My book on Isaiah was published last year. I put the fruit of thousands of hours of study into that book. I believe that's the particular thing the Lord has called me to do. But you know about 40 years ago I used to become very frustrated. I would go to a church meeting and most of the people were my friends. I don't think there was hardly any body there who had anything against me. They were very friendly. But when some issue would come up and I would get up and tell them what I thought about that issue, and sometimes I would tell them pretty strongly about it, they would go right on the other way. You'd think I wasn't there. I became very frustrated, and I decided that I must improve my way of speaking.

I went to the YMCA and took a course in Public Speaking. I took it because I could meet with people I did not care a snap what they thought about me. I did not even know them. And so I could make a fool of myself and not be afraid. Most of us are so afraid of making a fool of ourselves that we don't look naturally. I could there just let myself loose. I worked on public speaking. When I got through working on that every week for a period of 2 or 3 years, I was probably 3 times as good a speaker as I was before, and at least twice as good a speaker as I am now. But, you know, I used to go to that same meeting and something would come up that I wasn't greatly interested in. I did not care a great deal what they felt, what they thought.