

A.P.T.A.T.

Excerpts from Expository Exultation, by John Piper, pg 110-118

John Piper's acronym A.P.T.A.T. gives practical steps that he uses in seeking the "supply of the Spirit" for the act of preaching.

"We are to preach *by the Spirit*. We are to do it. And yet another is to do it through us. This is profoundly supernatural and wonderful. It is the great goal of life -to live, and yet to live that another is living in us and through us so that the other gets the glory. (Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor. 15:10; 1 Cor. 3:6-7; Phil. 2:12-13)" pg 110

Admit you can do nothing without God (John 15:5).

I admit, "Father, I am utterly dependent on you now as I step into this pulpit.

Pray for help (Psalm 50:15).

I might just say "Help me!" But usually I am feeling some particular burden or challenge or weakness or need. So I ask for specific help.

Trust a specific promise (2 Chronicles 20:20).

...keep a precious store of promises in memory, ready to be trusted precisely at this point.

Act (Philippians 2:12-13).

Even though I am trusting the promise the God is going to be the decisive power in this preaching, I use my mind to discern the moment, and I use my will to decide now to go to the pulpit ..."by the strength that God supplies" (1 Peter 4:11).

Thank God for his provision and goodness (Psalm 106:1).

I don't know all the good things God did or will do through the message. But I do know that I am alive. I didn't completely botch the message. I felt his favor and his freedom -sometimes more, sometimes less. I saw fresh things in the text, even as I preached. I felt the sweetness of the truth of the text more intensely as I opened it than when I was studying it. I heard several sincere expressions of folks who were helped. I feel, even now as I write this, the incalculable privilege of being an ambassador of the King of the universe. And so I say again, "Thank you."