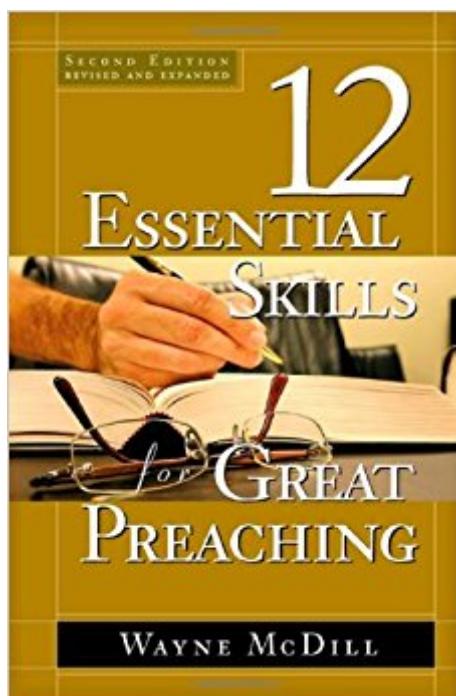


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# The 12 Essential Skills For Great Preaching - Second Edition



## Synopsis

In this newly expanded second edition of 12 Essential Skills for Great Preaching, Dr. Wayne McDill draws on decades of experience as a preacher and homiletics professor to inspire other preachers to live up to their God-given potential. Here are twelve proven ways to pack more content and effectiveness into every sermon, covering all of the bases from general preparation to the end result of increasing each listener's faith. Recent seminary graduates and seasoned pastors alike will identify skills that need personal improvement, and McDill encourages them to strengthen such areas at their own pace and in whatever order they feel is best. Every chapter in this new edition has been revised and updated. Also included are additional worksheet helps and sermon examples.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wayne McDill is Professor of Preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and has nearly twenty years of experience in teaching students that art of preaching. He has his Th.D. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is active in the Academy of Homiletics and Evangelical Theological Society. McDill has authored four books including the 1994 B&H release *The Twelve Essential Skills of Great Preaching*. He lives in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

The book is very helpful when it comes to the actual skills of putting together an expository sermon. In regard to the preparation of expository sermons, the author was well equipped and did a successful job presenting the steps in a logical, clear, and concise fashion. This student was first acquainted with this book in early undergraduate work. It has helped to scaffold sermon

preparations ever since, 13 years. McDill bases this work on twelve essential skills to help preachers provide more and better content in their sermons. Other authors have presented various works with a variety of numbered steps, but McDill presents a solid case for his method. McDill records his observation that while God calls His preachers, preachers have the responsibility to develop specific skills through "discipline, hard work, and a commitment to clear thinking and Bible-based sermons." The authors writes that this particular book was designed with a format of self-improvement, further stating that it is a do-it-yourself approach which will preachers concentrate on their own respective skills, at their own pace, and in the areas they see need to be strengthened. McDill's written purpose for writing this book consists of identifying and strengthening the specific skills needed for more effective sermon preparation. It is easily determined that the author is successful. By focusing on the content of the sermon, he succeeds in providing a volume that deserves a place on every pastor's bookshelf. One of the greatest assets to this work is found in its step-by-step layout. It is very user-friendly. Within the pages of the book, McDill provides a series of worksheets which can be easily reproduced for the preacher to maintain. The worksheets provide an organized method by which preachers can file sermon work on each text. One of the greatest and most powerful sections of the book helps preachers to develop illustrations. If the preparer follows the categorical structure of the natural analogies and illustration section, he has an idiot proof method for producing illustrations which match his personality rather than borrowing from others and pounding square pegs into round holes. A natural analogy takes a relationship, circumstance, event, or other factor in the natural realm and parallels it with a theological concept. McDill notes that an incarnational principle must guide us today as we seek, through preaching, to be channels of God's ongoing revelation. He rightly notes that we must look for analogies that will help our hearers understand the idea and are grounded in our respective arenas of life. This skill is vital in connecting with audiences and is the same style of preaching that Jesus often used with parables, which took a common situation, event, or person's position and used it to instill a heavenly truth. After reading this work, I would highly recommend it to anyone who is looking for a manual on sermon preparation. The book can prove useful for laypersons and senior ministers alike. I use this work on a weekly basis. I also use it to strengthen my weaker areas.

I have read several books on preaching and this one definitely fits the bill. It's imaginative, philosophical, practical, and invigorating all in the same volume of text. It's not long and wordy but gets right to the point. No matter how long you have been at the preaching desk, there is something in this book that you will find enlightening. For years I have been trying to find a book that "spells

out" the practices of sermon preparation and writing. This book does just that. Especially helpful is the Motivated sequence outline, and specifically the analogy and scene/story chapters. Many times preachers during their sermon preparation contract a disease that I call "IMAGINATION BLOCK." You know, that's where you simply cannot come up with that perfect example, illustration, metaphor, or even application that really brings home the point your trying to make. McDill shows you, in a step-by-step way, how to find enlightenment in this area from your own experience. What a refreshing change to the ethereal, ambiguous books i've read before where understanding the first two chapters is an exercise in futility. Preachers need down-to-earth counsel on understanding how our people receive and conceptualize the word of God, and the best way to help facilitate that reception. This is what McDill's book describes and proscribes in detailed fashion. This is a must buy for every preacher who is sick and tired of trying to figure out, "Just how do I approach this text, or that Psalm, this epistle, or that retorical prologue?" In short, BUY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT!"

#### AS DESCRIBED, ON TIME DELIVERY

Essential for anyone to Bible study and organize college essays.

Great book calling preachers back to expository preaching in order to produce healthy and growing churches. This book provide practical steps as well as inspiration to produce preachers that consistently preach well. Danny Tice

I Think that this book is a great resource and guide to those who are just entering ministry or those who have been in the ministry for decades. This book is not perfect and may have things that not everyone would agree on but it does get you from start to finish in the sermon prep phase. Delivery is another issue which this book does not speak much on.

This book serves as a valuable tool for pastors to take with them into the sermon preparation process. McDill provides excellent step by step instructions for each element of the sermon preparation process.

I read 12 essential skills for great preaching for a class called "sermon and preparation" The book really does go into great depth on how to prepare a sermon. It is most concerned with the sermon effectively communicating with the audience and it considers this from every angle. Great book. It

has helped me to design better sermons.

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