

An Oral Culture: Called Upon to Speak

Oral reports are one of the greatest fears people have, besides getting on an airplane. Therefore we want to get this fear out of our children, so that when the time comes, they will speak. When I was a high school teacher, that is how I taught my students — through oral reports. It wasn't so politically correct, but my students all came to me later and thanked me, because they were all *scared to death* to get up in front of the whole class to give an oral report, but they overcame their fear.

I gave each child a subject to give an oral report on, and allow the other children to ask questions. That way they could *hear* the material and not just read it and try to answer a multiple-choice quiz, a method nobody ever really learned by. *Faith comes by hearing*. Our Master was trained that way.

I hate to say it, but we have to have an apostolic injunction: we *must* train our children up in the way they should go in *speaking* in order to present the gospel.

They shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of (them); for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. (Isa 52:15)

Our children will someday be called to go before the kings of the earth, the presidents and potentates, and cause *their jaws to drop*, because they will have never heard of anything like this.

So this is why I want our children to learn to do oral reports, because not only does the child learn to speak, but the people listening to them *learn to listen*. Therefore they not only give oral reports, but everyone else listens to what is orally given, and there is even oral testing through the questions that are asked, and then the teacher is the judge.

I hated the grading system of A's, B's, C's, D's, and F's. It doesn't do well for our children to have a low opinion of themselves. So we want the children and the youth to give oral reports on particular subjects, and I think you already know which ones. There

are many topics in the *Two Ransoms* book that each child can give a report on. Everyone else will listen and can ask *specific questions* on things they didn't understand. And then the child who is giving the oral report can give the understanding, if he or she has it. Or if not, anyone present can give the understanding while the children are all listening. The teacher can also step in and help them understand things they don't understand. This needs to happen in every community. Our children and youth will give their oral reports.

When I was a high school teacher, I was teaching different subjects for the 8th and 9th grade. At the end of the year, the children came to me and thanked me, and then when they graduated years later, they came to me and said, "You have changed my life. I'm not fearful now to get up in front of people to speak. I've learned so much through that." A lot of these people went on to be "great" in that natural sense.

Through oral reports we learn to listen, as well as how to speak publicly, and not be afraid to speak. Certainly there are a lot of topics in the *Two Ransoms* book and the *Felled Tree Sprouting*, as well as in the *Stirring of the Heart* freepaper, such as "Where did the Gospel Come From?" The day will come that our Father will grant His Spirit to come upon those who are worthy to speak to the multitudes, for the gospel's sake, to cause the exponential growth that has to come in order for us to be all we are prophesied to be.

So the power to communicate *revelation*, to be able to enunciate and to not speak so quickly that others can't understand, comes from Him. Some of our children speak so quickly that I can't even understand them. But they have to be able to enunciate their words, to give witness, and so declare the truth. They have to be able to make it very, very clear. This requires a state of being definite in their proclamations.

These are the things we really want to focus on, so that one doesn't have to strain to understand the person when he is speaking, and that the one speaking is loud enough to be heard, considering wherever and whatever situation he is in. When someone is speaking to a crowd of 1000, he has to speak loud enough for those 1000 people to hear.

Whether they are speaking to 15 or 30 or 100, our children have to know how to lift up their voice. No one will ever have an excuse for not being able lift up his voice. No matter how squeaky you might sound, you can still lift your voice up.

The Spoken Gospel of Salvation

You can see in the *Two Ransoms* book how our Master was *doing His Father's business*, how He was able to *speak*, even to learned people, startling them in Lk 2:46-50. So we have an archetypal pattern there, which is to be imitated. It is an *exclusive example* for us, for our children to be able to grow up into the Head, as *their* archetype. As far as humanity is concerned, our Master is the model for how humans are supposed to be, *the archetype*, which also means the original pattern, or model from which all things of the same type are made; a prototype.

Lk 2:46-50 is the prototype, the perfect example given to us and our children. Our Master is the *paradigm*, the pattern, the outstanding and clear typical example for us. This is what we want to establish so that there won't be any *shift* from this original pattern. In the first-century community, this was how they started out, but there was a paradigm shift, and you see how it became the *Nicolaitan system*. Then only one man was doing all the talking, and the children were just sitting there, and so they grew up listening, but not speaking. We are taught by Paul in 1 Cor 14 that we are able to *speak*. The Holy Spirit can *use us and our children* to speak, if we have trained our children in that way through oral reports.

Growing in Wisdom and Stature

Our children must *increase in wisdom and stature* as our Master did (Lk 2:52). You can see that even our Master had to *increase* as a human being, doing everything in Proverbs 1 and 2, gaining understanding, insight, knowledge, and discretion. He had to increase in *righteousness, justice, equity, and every good thing* (Pr 2:9), as do our own children. We are commanded in Proverbs 2 to *lift up our voice*. We have to cry out in

order to have these things, or else we will never have them. They are not given to us automatically, but by obeying all of Proverbs 2, which our Master had to do also. I'm sure that Yoceph and Miriam trained Him in that way. So our children have to increase in all the ways listed in Proverb 2, up to attaining *discretion* (Pr 2:1-11).

What does it say in Lk 2:52? Someone read it with a loud voice!

He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

There it is: *He increased*. He was in favor with our Father and with his parents, as our children are to be. Increasing in stature and wisdom is what our children are to do, also. We must learn what *stature* means, because our children are to *increase in stature and wisdom*.

Then Yahshua went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. (Lk 2:51)

He was in *subjection to His parents*. Now, if you look up that word *subjection*, it means *obedience*. So then, our children also have to live in obedience to their parents. We understand what the archetype of a dominant mother is by Miriam. She was a dominant mother:

“What are you doing here? Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been searching everywhere, anxiously, for you!” (Lk 2:48)

We have to understand that our Master had to *obey* His parents, and that is how He grew in *stature*, to maturity, becoming fully developed. Our children have to be fully developed, but they will *never* be fully developed unless they learn to *speak*. One of the things that fully develops them is being able to speak by giving oral reports. By having done it continually, no longer is that fear in them — the ungodly, awful fear that restrains us from speaking in the minchot.

Sometimes, only two or three people speak because the rest are fearful. They give in to fear, which is an evil spirit, therefore our Father can't use them to speak. Therefore the rest of us never learn and never grow either; we will never *grow up into the head*.

How do we do that? How are we to grow up in every aspect? We will only do so by *speaking the truth to one another in love* (Eph 4:15). That's how you hear, and that's also how you learn. *Faith comes by hearing* (Rom 10:17), and our Father speaks through each and every one of us.

So then, we grow by hearing. We grow in *faith*, to full stature, just as our Master had to grow to full stature, to maturity, to become *fully developed*. When He was twelve years old, He continued in subjection to His parents, and *through obedience* to them He continued to grow in stature, just as we grow through Eph 4:15 in every aspect of our personality.

We've heard it from the beginning how we must grow in every aspect of our personality — socially, mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally. We have *all* got to do it. We're *here* to do it. There's no better place on earth to do it than right here in Community. And it happens when we speak to one another every day, encouraging one other day after day. What if we don't do it? We'll have regret, because we didn't use every opportunity we had to be *all* that we're supposed to be, in every aspect.

Our Master became everything that He was supposed to be, didn't He? After He was baptized, He *set His face like flint* (Isa 50:7), so the Dove never left Him, and at the right time He went to the cross.

So *full stature* means *to be developed fully*. Everything is ripened. You don't eat anything until it is ripened, until it is fully developed, fully made fit to eat. To make *His image known* is to make Him *visible to all*, which means our image has got to be made visible to all, *to the ends of earth* (Isa 49:6). That way no one will be able to make a mistake. Everyone will be able to be saved or condemned by what they see. They are responsible for what they *see and hear*.

That they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn; and then I would heal them. (Mt 13:15)

So first of all you've got to see. Then you have to hear. Then you can understand.

Shimon of Shimon — Our Master said we have to raise Him up. Then, “*If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to Myself.*”

That means we have to be *a city on a hill*. What does it mean to be a city on a hill? The city has to have all of its aspects, all of its departments. But the key thing in what our Master said about a city on a hill is that it can't be *hidden* (Mt 5:14). So we can't be hidden; we have to be *visible*. That's why we have to grow up, so that we can be that city on a hill. We have to train our children to do that. Certainly, we cannot just do this by ourselves. If we're not training our children, we're not going to grow up. We might be intelligent, but we won't be spiritual. And it's difficult to discern between the two.

Stature, as in Lk 2:52, is a quality or status gained by growth and development, or achievement. Our Master grew in *stature and favor with God and man*. It's just as we have said, we have to have *His glory* upon us, or else we won't be *avored, respected* by each other. If we have *glory*, then we will be *one* as the Father and Son, because we'll respect one another on account of the glory on each and every one of us. Glory is not what you say, but how you say it; not what you hear, but how you hear it; not what you do, but how you do it. That was our Master's glory. *Stature* is not only in the eyes of God, but it has got to be man, also. That's why we've got to be saved.

The Most Excellent Way to Learn

So this is just a little bit about why oral reports are essential for our children, and why they are the best way of learning. There is nothing greater. It just so happened that was my experience when I taught school. I was the only one who taught that way, and the administration didn't particularly like my way of teaching, but the children did.

Savav shel Yachin — Our Master could confidently proclaim, “*I only do the things that are pleasing to My Father.*” He could say that because He had *learned* how to gain that favor, and He *learned* what our Father needed Him to do.

Oral reports is the most excellent way to learn, which is to grasp, discover, understand, acquire, and attain. Giving and hearing oral reports is the best way to learn.

You can read and read and read, and it's good to read, but after you read you give an oral report. Then our children will *read and understand*. Often, we just read and we don't understand, and can't even pass the test. But if you read with giving an oral report in mind, and expect specific questions to come at you from all your fellow students, then you're going to understand it as much as you can, in order to give an answer. That is why it is the most excellent way to learn, the most essential aspect of our life in Messiah, to be able to be *all He wants us to be*.

Yachin — I can really see how incomplete the connection is without listening, as far as oral reports are concerned, and how even that ties into teaching. You can hand the child the book, and he can read the book, but apart from getting him to repeat it back to you in the form of an oral report, you have no idea what he learned. It's not "theirs" until they speak from what they read.

And they've got to be taught to listen as much as they're taught to speak. One is giving an oral report, and the rest are listening so as to ask intelligent questions, so they can learn more themselves, or even to *test* the child who is giving the oral report, in a good way. So it's not just speaking, but listening as well.

To not listen is an indication of *disrespect* toward the person who is speaking — you start thinking about something else, or looking out the window. It even happens in our minchot. This is an indication of disrespect for our Master, also, as *He is the one speaking* through us. The Holy Spirit is the one speaking. So let's all teach our children *that*. If they know that, they will have the proper fear, which is the beginning of wisdom — *the clean fear* of Him. We want our children to have a *clean fear*.

Hilkiyah of Yoceph — Requiring our children to speak communicates to them that we really care about what they're getting. If we don't require them to speak, then it is not required of them to listen either. Care is what they respond to: that love, that proper fear of authority.

Shelem shel David ben B'riyth — I think that this is one of the most important things to inculcate into our teachers, how it is all about a relationship with their students. Somebody cares about you, demands something from you. When we give something from our own *soul* to them,

they know they are important, because it takes us time to do that, time to speak so as they can understand, and to inculcate it into them. That's how our children know we care about them, knowing they're more important than just being told sit down take a test. *"Talk to me! I want to know what's in your heart. I want to teach you, and give you everything I have."*

Soreph Gamaliel — This most valuable of skills is not going to come easily and in my experience, is going to be opposed. I have some very expressive youth in my class, but when I give them something to read, like a Freepaper article, they sit for long hours looking at their blank page. It takes much encouragement for them to actually write anything. What Yônêq is talking about is giving them the belief in themselves that they can speak and overcome. The thing that is going to come to them is, naturally, to be silent and doubt themselves.

So I just see that it is going to be a labor to do this. I watched a youth prepare for a major role in a play. During practices, several times she burst into tears and said, *"I can't do it!"* but in the end, she did it and it was glorious.