

7.6

3. Seeking to encourage others...and one must be careful that this is genuine...but, as I have earlier stated, be willing to commend others for their part in a meeting and in so doing one builds self-encouragement and develops a sense of belonging in the group.

7.7

4. Preparation...especially in advance with regard to ministry and sharing edifying thoughts from the Word. Some strongly object to this. But this writer feels that there is nothing improper when it is of the Lord and for His honor and the pr-moting of the Christ-honor among His people. Such thoughts could come well in advance as well as at a meeting...just as worldly or self-seeking thoughts can come at either time.

I think the articles by Walter Liefeld in the issues of Interest (February, March--1978) are very worthwhile on this subject and I would recommend every brother reading them.

It is also recommended that we allow complete freedom in this area. But the prepared heart is not limited in time or place. Probably a bunch of oral illustrations will follow.

5. Learning the hymns:

7.8

The use and enjoyment of hymns is tied to an understanding and knowledge of hymns. One should read his hymnal well.. and use it for singing at home...If your meeting uses a hymnal without music (printed), you will find that there are music-printed editions of these for home use. But if your meeting uses a book with printed music...invite some other Christians in and have a song service in your living room. Knowing the hymns gives you more freedom in selection and suggestion and also enables you to enter more completely into the praise that the hymns are to bring forth. This is such a simple thing...and yet I find it is a suggestion not often followed or desired in many homes. The hymns used for worship should certainly be hymns used in our homes and the better we know them the more free we are to participate in the public meeting.

7.9

6. Be very punctual at the meeting...This means you know what has gone on and you have been part of it from the start.

C. Some additional points in favor of making one more responsive to public meeting settings:

7.10

1. A positive attitude...
2. Avoiding distractions (remember Lesson IV)
3. Facing your own lack (if there is one) of participation honestly...candidly...and being able to seek help and advice from your brethren.