Preaching in Christian Communities

**The Oral/Aural Writing Style**

I suggest that you write the manuscript out using the oral/aural writing style:

 Like this.

 Not the long sentences of written prose.

 But brief sentences.

 Words and clauses.

 Each one getting a line.

 This is the way we talk.

 The way we listen.

 How we hear.

 Develop your ear for speech.

 How words are heard.

 Or lip read.

Now and then you can get away with a longer sentence such as the one you are reading at this moment.

 But.

 That's for the eye.

 Not the ear.

 It makes for hard listening.

 And it makes for getting lost in the pulpit!

 Short lines

 are easier to follow.

 Especially,

 if you're nervous.

 Play around with this method.

 Play with language.

 Play with different ways of thinking.

 Of seeing.

 Of being.

 Of communicating.

 Kind of fun --

 isn't it?

 It will open you to the Spirit.

 And your congregation too!