“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” Emulation Assignment

Time to try your hand at writing your own sermon, but first we need to take a closer look at how Jonathan Edwards whips his congregation into shape. This stuff was seriously scary to people at the time. What makes it effective?

1. **A sense of urgency**: If people don’t believe there is actually a problem or error in their ways, they are not very likely to change. Look carefully at Edwards’s diction and identify **two** examples where his word choice creates a sense of urgency.
2. **Personal investment**: “But that would never happen to *ME… YES IT WILL!”* People need to understand the content of the sermon as **personally relevant** to their own lives if it is going to be effective. Identify **two** examples of how Edwards elicits this investment from his audience.
3. **Evocative images**: The man has some serious skills when it comes to imagery, simile, and metaphor. Identify what you feel to be the **four** most memorable images and consider why those images would have been particularly effective for his audience.
4. **Offer a solution**: This is where you get them to do the thing you want. We clearly know what Edwards’s solution is here, but how does he make it both appealing and pressing? This section will also add to the overall sense of urgency in the sermon.

**Brownie Points:** Also be on the lookout for examples of anaphora and balanced parallelism.

**Part 2: “\_\_\_\_ in the Hands of an Angry \_\_\_\_”**

**Now it’s your turn:** Write a brief sermon (2 paragraphs) that emulates the style and strategy seen in the Edwards’s—one paragraph to set up the problem and one to offer the solution. Make it urgent; make it scary; make it persuasive.

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