

12. Conformity to the devil's world is a warning sign for a client nation. When it gains momentum then that nation is in spiritual decline and in danger of that being followed eventually by the advances of a predator nation.
13. We have a list of missionaries on our prayer bulletin. Twelve work primarily in foreign countries while three function primarily as evangelists.
14. This is only my opinion, because all these men function under the principle that God has them assigned where He wants them. However, I find myself wondering if under the current circumstances if these men might at some point be led by the Lord to come back to base camp and evangelize the lost in Client Nation America.
15. The millennial and current generations have been won over by the Dark Side and through salvation they could then enter into the process of edifying their souls into vessels of honor.
16. The masses today live in the status of subjectivity. **Subjectivism** is:  
**The doctrine that the supreme good is the realization of some type of subjective experience or feeling, as pleasure. The doctrine that individual feeling or apprehension is the ultimate criterion of the good and the right.”<sup>2</sup>**
17. Without enforced and genuine humility, there is neither objectivity nor teachability. Without these things a person will be miserable because he is not teachable.
18. Therefore, edification is impossible without humility, teachability, and objectivity.

## 6. **Edification Is the Key to the Proper Function of the Local Church**

**1 Corinthians 14:12** So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for edification of the church.

1. Most members of the church at Corinth were eager to have the gift of tongues. It was spectacular, it was considered to be dramatic, and was assumed to make them special.
2. Paul wants to direct their attention away from a spiritual gift that had become a distraction away from edification through Bible study.
3. The phrase “seek to abound” is a command, the present active imperative of **ζητέω (zētēō)**: “endeavor; strive for.” This word is defined as follows:

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<sup>2</sup> Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 2d the ed. (1953), s.v. “subjectivism.”

**ζητέω: to devote serious effort to realize one's desire or objective, strive for, try to obtain.<sup>3</sup>**

4. The objective of this effort is “to abound,” the present active subjunctive of **περισσεύω (perisseúō)**: “to excel.” The effort is to make the truth of God more glorious than the gift of tongues.
5. To accomplish this requires the believer to place top priority on the edification of his soul through spiritual growth. Again, we find the word “edification,” the noun, **οικοδομή (oikodomḗ)**, “the process of building up.”
6. The objective of this effort is to build up the church: **ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia)**. This does not refer to the place of meeting, i.e., the local church building, but the body of believers who assemble for the teaching of the Word of God.
7. The proper function of the church at Corinth is for them to meet at a designated place, inculcate Truth from the Word of God, and in so doing to construct an edification complex whose components are the eleven categories of systematic theology in the soul of each believer.

**1 Corinthians 14:12** So also you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, endeavor or strive for building an edification complex in the souls of believers, namely the church which meets at Corinth. (EXT)

8. The primary and all-encompassing reason for a local church is for the purpose of constructing an edification complex in the souls of parishioners. The biblically authorized way of accomplishing this objective is rapt attention on the communication of doctrine from the pastor.
9. Edification is defined, again, as : “the instruction or improvement of a person morally or intellectually.”<sup>4</sup>
10. This is the systematic advance to spiritual maturity which is the objective of the Christian way of life.
11. The definition of a “good Christian” is not singularly defined by his public persona of a “hail-fellow-well-met.” This phrase is a salutation defined as “congenial, sociable, or friendly, especially in a superficial manner.”<sup>5</sup>
12. Congeniality is fine. But the ability to conduct oneself honorably in genteel society is primarily the result of good breeding and social skills.

<sup>3</sup> Walter Bauer, “ζητέω,” in *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed., rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 428.

<sup>4</sup> *The New Oxford American Dictionary* (2001), s.v. “edification.”

<sup>5</sup> *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary: Unabridged*, 2d ed. (Cleveland: The World Publishing Co., 1962), s.v. “hail-fellow-well-met.”



13. Edification's biblical application goes beyond "improvement of one's moral or intellectual capacities." It is the personal possession of ideas in the soul's stream of consciousness based on Truths acquired from the study of the Bible.
14. Many Corinthian believers were emphasizing the gift of tongues while ignoring the overriding imperative of edifying their souls through Bible study.
15. The gift of tongues was designed to evangelize unbelievers in the language spoken in nations where Greek or Hebrew was not the native language, for example the cosmopolitan environment of Corinth. It was to emphasize communication of the gospel of salvation.
16. This gift was no longer needed when the Jewish dispensation officially ended in August A.D. 70.

## 7. Edification Is Priority One in the Local Church

1. The only way that Christianity can have positive impact into the devil's world is for believers to: (1) Take the Bible seriously, (2) commit to consistently studying it under the ministry of a qualified pastor, (3) concentrate on what is taught, (4) resolve to place their faith in its veracity, (5) practice the application of its principles, and (6) dedicate themselves to the ongoing construction of an edification complex in their souls.
2. When a believer establishes doctrine as priority one in his life, he will organize his life to insure its inculcation will occur.
3. Devotion to inculcation organizes the soul's volition in accordance with Truth. The longer this devotion is observed the renovation of his thought continues apace.

**Romans 12:1** Therefore, I [ Paul ] urge you, royal family, in view of God's mercy, to place your bodies under orders as living sacrifices, holy and well-pleasing to God—this is your rational and spiritual worship.

**v. 2** Also, stop being molded to this cosmic age, but be transformed by the renovation of your mind [ i.e., the edification complex ], that you may prove what the will of God is, namely the good, the well-pleasing, and the complete. (EXT)

4. This insures the consistent advance of the edification process which ultimately develops seven floors of a complex of doctrinal principles.



5. Complex, in our application, is defined as:

**A whole comprehending in its compass a number of parts, especially of interconnected parts or involved particulars; a complex or complicated whole.**

**Consisting of or comprehending various parts united or connected together.**

**To join, unite, attach. To combine into a complex whole.<sup>6</sup>**

## 8. The Construction of the Edification Complex of the Soul

1. The edification complex may be illustrated by the construction of a building in the stream of consciousness of the soul. This building, or edifice, is made up of interconnected parts which we will describe by the terms, “foundation” followed by seven individual floors. They will ultimately form a complex.
  - a. **Foundation:** The salvation of the individual occurring at faith along in Christ alone.
  - b. **First Floor:** The function of Operation Z which is the perception of Bible doctrine from consistent attendance at Bible class or use of electronic contrivances.
  - c. **Second Floor:** Dispensational orientation, i.e., lucid understanding of the uniqueness of the Church Age.
  - d. **Third Floor:** Development of the ten problem-solving devices which are important for functioning in experiential Christianity.
  - e. **Fourth Floor:** Spiritual Self-esteem, the initial stage of spiritual adulthood.
  - f. **Fifth Floor:** Spiritual Autonomy, the second stage of spiritual adulthood.
  - g. **Sixth Floor:** Spiritual Maturity, the point at which the believer executes the protocol plan of God.
  - h. **Seventh Floor:** The modus operandi of the Invisible Hero.
2. **The Foundation** of the edification complex occurs at the moment the believer places his personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Every believer is imputed forty things at the moment of salvation. These imputations are listed in the book by R. B. Thieme, Jr., *The Plan of God*, in its *Appendix* located on pages 30–33.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> *The Oxford English Dictionary* (1971), s.v. “complex.”

<sup>7</sup> Order from: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries; PO Box 460829; Houston, TX 77056-8829.



**2 Timothy 2:19a** Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His.”

**1 Corinthians 3:11** No man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (NASB)

3. **The First Floor** initiates a system of spiritual growth that is developed in Scripture. One of the most detailed passages on this system is found in 1 Corinthians 2:6–16. It is from this passage that the visual, “Operation Z,” né “The Grace Apparatus for Perception,” was developed.
4. **The Second Floor** is comprised of the unique characteristics of the Church Age which are developed in the study of dispensationalism.

There are ten unique things in the Church Age that believers in other dispensations do not possess. As a result, there is tremendous emphasis on the individual believer in the Church Age.

1. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit** results in the creation of a new spiritual species and membership in the royal family of God. Understanding this makes the believer aware of the tremendous requirements related to his spiritual life.

A species is a class of individuals having common attributes designated by a common name. All genus *Homo sapiens* is descended from Adam through Noah’s three sons. Only two new species have been subsequently added: the Jew, a new racial species, and among believers, a new spiritual species.

The Jewish race emerged from Abraham and Sarah through the birth of Isaac, the first natural-born, full-blooded Jew. The new spiritual species is unique to Church-Age believers who are regenerated by the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone.

Jesus Christ was the prototype in His true humanity during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union. His human perfection established the prototype divine dynasphere in which He functioned throughout His physical life.

Church-Age believers have the option of functioning inside the operational divine dynasphere in which they are able to produce divine good under the filling of the Holy Spirit.

The new racial species of the Jew and the new spiritual species of the Church-Age believer are witnesses for the Prosecution in Lucifer's appeal of a prehistoric trial whose verdict assigned all fallen angels to eternity in the lake of fire.

Each new species, the racial Jew and the spiritual believer, originated from a category of biblical death: **(1)** Jews originated from Abraham's sexual death noted in Romans 4:17–21; Hebrews 11:11–12. **(2)** The Church originated from the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by union with the substitutionary spiritual death of Christ on the cross.

- 2. The modus operandi for the Church-Age believer is protocol** which is the summary statement of their obligations to God and His plan:

**A rigid, long-established code, prescribing complete deference to superior ranks and authority, followed by strict adherence to due order of precedence, coupled with precisely correct procedure.**

From the definition of protocol, a divine system of authority is recognized. It is made available by divine revelation in Scripture. Some of this authority is delegated while some is in writing.

This "writing" must have a system of communication. The divine policies that protect this communication are referred to as "**verbal-plenary inspiration,**" defined thusly:

**God so supernaturally directed the human writers of Scripture, that without waiving their intelligence, their individuality, their personal feelings, their literary style, or any other factor of expression, God's complete and coherent message to mankind was recorded with perfect accuracy in the original languages of Scripture, the very words bearing the authority of divine authorship.**

**Verbal** means that the Bible, in the original languages from first to last, is the exact record of the mind and the will of God as He intended it to be:



God is the author of the Bible. The focus of inspiration is the words of the Bible. All the words and all the verbal relationships are inspired by God. The data of the Bible are God-breathed and Spirit-borne inspiration. God sovereignly prepared the writers for the instrumental task so they willingly and naturally recorded God's revelation in the way He required. The autographs of the biblical books are solely thus inspired. Inerrancy is the quality of such a Bible with exactitude on all matters. Authority flows from such a Bible concerning what a Christian is to believe and how he is to live.<sup>8</sup>

**Plenary** means full, entire, and complete. This asserts that God is the author of the Bible. The focus of inspiration is on the writers of the Bible. The writers have been inspired in all that they have written [ i.e., revelation ], through varied ways. The Bible is described as without error, without mistake, and infallible.<sup>9</sup>

3. **A portfolio of Invisible Assets.** This portfolio consists of three doctrines. The first is the **Sovereignty of God** related to the human race, the **Love of God which is the Integrity of God**, and His **Omniscience**.

**Divine sovereignty** is expressed in the divine decree. This divine mission statement for mankind is organized within the framework of time categorized into six dispensations.

**Principle:** In human history, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree. God is absolute; man is qualified.<sup>10</sup>

In eternity past, the sovereignty of God decided to create a counterpart to His sovereignty: a free will in every person to function during human history as a part of resolving the angelic conflict.

Free will is part of the human soul imputed at physical birth and may be characterized as the Law of Freedom.

**(End JAS3-03. See JAS3-04 for continuation of study at p. 31).**

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<sup>8</sup> I. S. Rennie, "Verbal Inspiration," in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 1140.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., "Plenary Inspiration," 860.

<sup>10</sup> "To fit by training, skill, or ability for a special purpose. To declare competent or adequate. To be or become fit: meet required standard. To acquire legal or competent power or capacity" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. [2003], s.v. "qualify").

