

- a. The “saints” refer to the royal family of God with emphasis on the baptism of the Spirit.
 - b. “Equipping the saints” refers to God’s grace policy and provision for the execution of the protocol plan.
 - c. “Equipping” is the function of the pastor who, through teaching the mystery doctrine of the great power experiment of the Church Age, can observe people grow in grace and become invisible heroes.
 - d. All believers are in full-time Christian service from the moment of their salvation. Christian service is the normal result of spiritual growth but never the means.
 - e. Edification is the execution of the protocol plan for the Church Age and subsequent manufacture of invisible heroes, resulting in the glorification of God.
3. The spiritual momentum of the believer comes from the teaching ministry of the pastor:

Ephesians 4:16 Because of whom [the Lord Jesus Christ] the entire body, being joined together [baptism of the Spirit] and being inculcated by every joint of supply [pastor-teacher] on the basis of the operational power [Holy Spirit in divine dynasphere], in measure one [pastor-teacher] for each part [of the royal family of God]; he himself [pastor-teacher] causes growth in the body, resulting in its edification by means of virtue-love.” (EXT)

- a. Body function depends upon the proper use of joints. Athletic coordination depends upon the proper use of the joints.
- b. So, in this analogy of the pastor to the joints, it is the pastor-teacher who gives the body of Christ its function on earth.
- c. The result of the communication of doctrine is the construction of an edification complex in your soul.
- d. Virtue-love includes three problem-solving devices.
 - (1) Personal love for God the Father is motivational virtue and motivation for perception of doctrine.
 - (2) Impersonal love for all mankind is functional virtue. It gives one the ability to listen objectively to a pastor-teacher regardless of his personality.

(3) Occupation with the person of Christ is the ultimate.

D. The Motivation of the Believer in Edification.

1. There are two categories of motivation: (a) positive volition and (b) humility and mental attitude.
2. Positive volition is expressed in:

Romans 14:19 So then we pursue [διώκω (*diōkō*): to pursue with earnestness and diligence in order to obtain] the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. (NASB)

- a. The motivation is fueled by the volitional desire to learn the mystery doctrines of the Church Age, which gives us all the details regarding God's plan, purpose, and will for our lives after salvation.
 - b. This includes the perception, metabolization, and application of the mystery doctrines of the Church Age as the means of executing the protocol plan of God: "obedience to divine mandates". Believers and elect angels in heaven observe divine protocol; happiness on earth is based on the precisely correct procedure of the divine dynasphere. †
 - c. Prosperity and edification go together; both are the result of continual positive volition.
3. To accomplish these objectives, it is important to have a mental attitude of humility. These are discussed by Paul in Romans:

Romans 12:2 Stop being conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your thought that you may prove what the will of God is, namely the good of intrinsic value achievement, the well-pleasing to God, the mature status quo [for the manufacture of invisible heroes].

v. 3 For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you: stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think; but think in terms of sanity for the purpose of being rational without illusion, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from doctrine. (EXT)

† R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Integrity*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 14. See also: "Summary of the Arrogance Complex" (Gates 1–12), 178–82, and "Summary of the Hatred Complex" (Gates 1–9), 182–86.



Romans 12:4 For just as we have many members in one body and all members do not have the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. (EXT)

- a. Conformity to this world means involvement in the cosmic system.
 - b. There must be a complete renovation in your thinking if you are ever going to demonstrate what the will of God is for your life.
 - c. Certain types of thinking are out of bounds. i.e., thinking related to the arrogance complex.
 - d. The standard of thinking from doctrine includes every aspect of divine viewpoint, orientation to life through enforced and genuine humility, and everything that makes us objective and teachable toward the Word of God.
 - e. “Many members of one body” emphasizes that although we have different spiritual gifts and different personalities, we all belong to one royal family, the body of Christ.
 - f. “Individually members of one another” refers to interaction within the royal family of God.
4. Without enforced and genuine humility, there is neither objectivity nor teachability. Without objectivity and teachability in life, you will be miserable, whether you are a believer or unbeliever, successful or not. Without objectivity and teachability, there is no edification complex in your soul as a believer.
 5. Edification is the execution of the protocol plan of God through the function of post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation. This includes your daily perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine.
 6. Edification is the status of the invisible hero. He has completed the edification complex of the soul, the most beautiful structure in life. It is found in the soul of the invisible hero.
- E. 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 the edification of the church. (NASB)

- a. “So also you” is a Greek idiom that should be translated, “this applies to you”.

- b. The Corinthians were all eager to get the gift of tongues because it was spectacular, and then they could assume they were spiritual. Among the most confused believers in the Bible, they are among the most arrogant.
- c. “Seek to abound” means you should give precedence to those spiritual gifts which result in edification. The primary spiritual gift in this category is the gift of pastor-teacher.
- d. The pre-Canon temporary gifts did not edify the church.

1 Corinthians 12:26b When you assemble, each one has a Psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (NASB)

- 1. The key to the modus operandi of the local church is edification. Edification, or the advance to spiritual maturity, is the objective of the Christian way of life.
- 2. In the context of 1 Corinthians 14, the gift of tongues did not fulfill the purpose. 1 Corinthians 14:40 concludes that the gift of tongues did not do “all things properly and in an orderly manner.”
 - a. The gift of tongues only existed for the first forty years of the Church Age. Then it was discontinued when the fifth cycle of discipline was administered to Israel by the Romans in August of A.D. 70.
 - b. While it did exist, the gift of tongues illustrated how not to do things decently and in order.
 - c. Tongues did not contribute to the principle of edification, nor did it contribute to doing things “properly and in an orderly manner.”

F. Edification follows the Pattern of the Priority Solution.

- 1. Priority number one for edification must be perception, metabolization, and application of the mystery doctrine for the Church Age.
 - a. This demands concentration under the application of the mystery doctrine for the Church Age.
 - b. This demands concentration under the ministry of the Holy Spirit inside the operational-type divine dynasphere.
 - c. Therefore, when doctrine is taught, concentration means there is post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.