

Jude 20: “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,”

First, we have the adjective “ἀγαπητός” – “*agapētós*.” This comes from a word you all know “*agapáō*.” “*Agapētós*” can be translated “beloved” or “esteemed.” “Beloved” works perfectly here and refers to “members of the royal family” or “fellow believers.”

So we have “But you, beloved (members of the royal family),

Next, we have the verb “οἰκοδομέω” – “*oikodoméō*” and it means “build” or “build up.”

What are we to build? Our second line of defense. We are to build an “Edification Complex of the Soul.”

Doctrine of the Edification Complex of the Soul:

1. Definition: The Edification Complex of the Soul is an R. B. Thieme, Jr., teaching concept that refers to the positive volition winner believer, who builds a categorical Bible Doctrine mental structure in his soul and spirit. The Edification Complex of the Soul is equivalent to having “the mind of Christ” at spiritual maturity. 1 Corinthians 2:16

1 Corinthians 2:16: “For who has known the mind of the LORD (the thinking of Jesus Christ is Bible Doctrine), that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.” (NASB)

R.B. Thieme, Jr. “Bible Doctrine Dictionary”, Page 80-81, “Edification Complex of the Soul”:

Terminology for the immaterial edifice constructed in the believer’s soul, representing the formation of maturity and spiritual strength.

The word “edification” is a translation of the Greek *oikodome*, which combines *oikia*, “house,” and *dome*, “to build” (1 Cor. 10:23b; 14:3–4, 12, 26; 2 Cor. 10:8; Eph. 4:12, 16, 29).

Appropriately, Christian edification—the process of learning and growing in grace—is equivalent to building a structure in the soul. This

structure is called a “complex” because it consists of several levels, each representing a mental attitude.

Jesus Christ, the glory of God and the light of the world, built this immaterial structure in His soul while on earth (John 1:14; 8:12; Luke 2:52).

The believer’s soul is designed by God to be likewise edified, so as to reflect that same glory and light (Matt. 5:14, 16; 1 Cor. 6:20; 2 Cor. 13:10; Eph. 1:6,12, 14; Col. 1:27; 2 Thess. 2:14). A growing believer may have just two floors complete, with only the scaffolding up on the other floors, but already he has glimmers of light coming forth. As the structure fills in, he has the full reflected glory of God in his life (Eph 3:19). This mature status is described variously in Scripture as “Christ . . . formed in you” (Gal. 4:19), “perfect and complete” (James 1:4) and putting on “the new man” (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10, kjv).¹

2. Vocabulary: Verbs in the Bible to describe the Edification Complex of the Soul include:

Hebrew: “*banah*” – “to build something out of existing materials”

Greek: “*oikodomeo*” – “to build or contrast a structure”

Greek nouns to describe the Edification Complex of the Soul include:

“*oikodome*” – “the act of building”

“*oikodomia*” – “the result of erecting a structure”

1 Corinthians 3:10-12; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 4:12, 15-16, 29 (The Holy Spirit’s function in Operation Z)

Ephesians 4:15-16: “But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up (the positive volition believer is to grow to spiritual maturity) in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

¹ R.B. Thieme, Jr. “Bible Doctrine Dictionary”, Page 80-81, “Edification Complex of the Soul”

Vs. 16: **from whom the whole body** (All Church Age believers), **being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth** (Of the body; any positive volition wishing to reach maturity) **for the building up** (“*oikodome*” – the Edification Complex of the Soul) **of itself in love.”** (NASB)

3. Construction Materials: The construction materials for an Edification Complex of the Soul consists of Bible Doctrine, which is obtained through the function of Operation Z in the soul and spirit. Ephesians 3:17-20, 4:12-13, 23-24; John 14:26, 16:12-14; 1 John 2:3, 27; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; Colossians 1:9-10.
4. Foundation: The foundation slab which supports the Edification Complex of the Soul, is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the cornerstone, and the “Forty Things” given at salvation (regeneration). 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 Corinthians 3:11
 - a. The moment you personally believed in Jesus Christ, a foundation was constructed, comprised of the forty things from God. The foundation is Jesus Christ.

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

1 Corinthians 3:11: **“No one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**

 - b. The foundation is constructed on the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross, i.e., redemption, propitiation, reconciliation, imputation, and justification.
 - c. The foundation is instantly constructed the very second we believe in Christ. Again, the foundation is comprised of the forty things we receive at the point of our salvation. One of the forty things we receive is eternal life, John 3:15-16; 1 John 5:11-13; John 6:47.
5. Progressive in Structure: Building the Edification Complex in the Soul is progressive in nature so that the believer gradually thinks more and more in terms of the divine viewpoint, as in the construction of a building. Thus, advanced Bible doctrine is built on top of basic Bible Doctrine until the whole project is completed. Ephesians 4:12; Colossians 2:7; Jude 1:20.

Ultimately, the mature believer reaches the point where he is entered as a subject matter expert witness in the Angelic Conflict.

6. Instant Reaction Force: During the construction process of the Edification Complex of the soul, the believer must establish an Instant Reaction Force of “red alert” basic Problem-Solving Devices. 2 Peter 3:17-18

The “Instant Reaction Force” reacts reflexively to fight off unexpected attacks from the sin nature and the cosmic system. Ephesians 4:6

2 Peter 3:17-18: “**You therefore, beloved** (believers), **knowing this beforehand, be on your guard** (to guard or to watch) **so that you are not carried away** (to lead away with or together) **by the error** (deception or error) **of unprincipled men** (people in the cosmic systems who distract the believer) **and fall from** (To drift off course) **your own steadfastness** (stand firm, continue your spiritual advance. Do not go into reversionism),

Vs. 18: **but grow** (to cause to grow) **in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”** (NASB)

7. The Edification Complex of the Soul Structure:

FIRST FLOOR – Operation Z: Spiritual growth under the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

SECOND FLOOR – Dispensations: Knowing what time it is and the uniqueness of the Church Age.

THIRD FLOOR – The 10 Problem-Solving Devices.

FOURTH FLOOR – Spiritual Self Esteem and application of Problem-Solving Devices 7 & 8.

FIFTH FLOOR – Spiritual Autonomy and the copacetic spiritual life.

SIXTH FLOOR – Spiritual maturity and occupation with Christ.

SEVENTH FLOOR – Lifestyle of the invisible hero and invisible impact.

8. Divine Good: Producing divine good in the Christian way of life only occurs from an Edification Complex of the Soul. Ephesians 2:10
9. Top Priority: The top goal in the life of the believer is to get an Edification Complex in the Soul, not to do other things like speak in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:3-4, 12, 26
10. Solves Problems: The completed Edification Complex in the Soul deals effectively with and solves any psychological handicaps stuck in the Believer's subconscious, including invalid emotion and guilt complexes. Hebrews 20:22
11. Defense against false doctrine: The Edification Complex in the Soul provides the wisdom to detect false doctrine. Hebrews 4:12, 5:14; Galatians 2:14; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 7:24-27

Matthew 7:24-25: “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine (Jesus Christ) and acts on them (builds an Edification Complex of the Soul), may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Vs. 25: And the rain fell, and the floods came (problems), and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock (salvation – foundation of the Edification Complex of the Soul).” (NASB)

12. Capacity for Love: The Edification Complex of the Soul provides the capacity for the believer to fully enjoy all the categories of love, including “impersonal love.”
13. Rapid Construction: A believer can erect an Edification Complex of the Soul under accelerated circumstances in time. James 1:2-3

This requires a concentrated and maximum intake of Bible doctrine. Ephesians. 5:16; Colossians 4:5.

14. Rewards: The Edification Complex of the Soul makes it possible for God to give the Winner Believer fantastic Escrow Account Blessing rewards in time and eternity and to share His happiness. Revelation 22:12; Matthew 25:23

15. Local Church: The proper local ICE-teaching Church will have mature Edification Complex of the Soul believers. Acts 9:31
16. The Pivot: The Edification Complex of the Soul believer provides stability and prosperity for all those associated with him in his sphere of life and to the nation that he resides in. This is blessing by association. Jeremiah 42:10
17. Jesus's Edification Complex of the Soul: The humanity of Jesus Christ erected an Edification Complex of the Soul at a very early age. Luke 2:40, 52; John 1:14

Luke 2:40: “The Child (Jesus) continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom (“*sophia*”); and the grace of God was upon Him.”

18. Synonyms:

“Light” – This relates to the filling of the Holy Spirit inside the evanescent divine dynasphere. Psalm 43:3, 119:130; Ephesians 5:8-9, 13

“Give Glory” – Jeremiah 13:16; 1 Corinthians 11:7

“God’s Household” - Ephesians 3:19, 5:17-20; Colossians 3:16

“Imitators of God” - Ephesians 5:1; Matthew 5:48

“Christ in your heart” - Ephesians 3:17

“Christ is formed in you” - 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 2:20; 4:6, 19

“New man” – Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 3:4;

“Perfect” - James 1:4

Galatians 4:19: “My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.” (NASB)

19. The completed Edification Complex of the Soul is the doctrinal development of a believer’s soul, achieved by means of consistent spiritual growth. Romans 15:2

Romans 15:2: “Let each one of us (mature believers) strive to accommodate his neighbor for the purpose of divine good to his edification (“*oikodomē*”: the process of building a structure of doctrine in the stream of consciousness of the soul).”

20. This passage is one of several from which the doctrine of the Edification Complex of the Soul is developed:

- a) The completed edification complex of the soul is the doctrinal development of a believer’s soul, achieved by means of consistent spiritual growth.
- b) Spiritual growth is achieved under the mentorship of one’s right pastor, the one whom you identify as the primary communicator of doctrine necessary for your spiritual advance.
- c) A believer can only consistently grow under the ministry of one primary pastor-teacher.
- d) Other communicators may supplement the primary, but at some point, the secondary or tertiary pastor may disagree with the primary pastor which leads to confusion.
- e) Stay with the primary pastor as the go-to source for your spiritual growth.

20. The importance of the Pastor’s Authority in Edification:

- a) No one can learn any subject without confidence in, and authority of, the one who communicates the subject matter.
- b) It is only through the teaching ministry of the pastor that edification can be achieved: the Scripture, plus preparation, plus communication, equals edification.
- c) Even then, the believer cannot grow in grace unless the teaching authority of the pastor is recognized.
- d) This authority is verified by the veracity of his theology, based exclusively on the immutability of the Word of God reflected in his communication of doctrine.

- e) If the pastor's authority is not recognized, then spiritual growth is hindered or even prevented.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12: "We request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction."
- f) The accumulation of the doctrine required to construct a consistently functional edification complex requires, over time, thousands of sermons.
 - g) The number of Bible classes taught in this church by our Pastor over 39 years totals, in round figures, 7,000 hours. Our Pastor has done his duty...have you?

Principle: The more doctrine a believer has in his soul, the more effective are the applications he is able to recall and deploy.

21. Correct priorities in order to build an Edification Complex in your Soul:

- a. Priority number one for edification must be perception, metabolization, and application of the mystery doctrine for the Church Age. This demands concentration under the ministry of the Holy Spirit inside the operational-type divine dynasphere. Therefore, when Bible doctrine is taught, concentration means there is post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.
- b. As you give Bible doctrine number one priority in your life, you organize your life around priority number one. Therefore, you have an organized life, and your life is in order. This means you always give proper time to the perception, metabolization, and application of doctrine.
- c. As you learn doctrine, your thinking inevitably begins to change; there's a "renovation of your thought." Romans 12:2
- d. Therefore, you begin to organize your thinking around priority number one. The more doctrine you learn, the more you organize your thinking around Bible doctrine.

- e. Mechanically, that means you use the ten problem-solving devices of the protocol plan of God. As these problem-solving devices are developed in your mind, you concentrate on executing the protocol plan through the doctrine you have learned. That is how you construct the edification complex of the soul.

22. Edification is your motivation for the function of virtue-love, the royal family honor code, in the congregation through which tolerance provides room for spiritual growth. Romans 15:2; 1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Corinthians 10:23

Romans 15:2: “Let each of us accommodate his neighbor for the good to edification.” (EXT)

23. The edification complex of the soul is to the church what the pivot is to the nation.

Jude 20: “But you, beloved, (members of the royal family), keep building upon yourselves (daily function of the Grace Apparatus for Perception which builds an Edification Complex of the Soul)...”

We now turn to another defense (remember, we’re developing “defense in depth”): prayer.

We have the present middle passive verb “προσεύχομαι” – “*proseúchomai*.” It means not just “pray,” but “to offer prayers.”

But it means to offer prayer in a certain mode, as it says here, in the Holy Spirit. You see, “*proseúchomai*” here is modified by the prepositional phrase, in the Holy Spirit.

The phrase begins with the preposition “ἐν” – “*en*.” “*En*” plus the object of the preposition, which is “πνεῦμα” – “*pneûma*,” the Holy Spirit.

The object is the Holy Spirit which is in the instrumental case. So, it’s translated “offering prayer by means of the Holy Spirit.”

Prayer is speaking to the Lord. But how far do you think prayer gets without the means of the Holy Spirit?

1. This phrase indicates what makes prayer effective.

2. Effective prayer is always based on the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18) which, of course, requires consistent rebound.
3. Conclusion: before you pray, rebound every time. Rebound, and you get the filling of the Holy Spirit. Hence, you are “*proseúchomai*” in the Holy Spirit.
4. In that mode of fellowship and filling, the Holy Spirit is the Great Helper in our defense. You can never leave the Holy Spirit out of defending you against false doctrine, not only in the Grace Apparatus for Perception, but in prayer as well.
5. He is the One to whom we can pray for strength in the face of the enemy. That is, the enemy is of the spiritual life, which is false doctrine.

You know, prayer is such a vital factor in the Christian life. It is an integral part of our defenses.

Doctrine of Prayer

1. Definition: Prayer is the privilege and responsibility of all Church Age Believers. Psalm 116:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 6:5-9

When used properly, it is a powerful weapon, but it is not one of the Problem-Solving Devices.

2. You cannot con God in prayer.
 - a. We do not use prayer to hire God to do what we want done.
 - b. Too many believers use prayer to get their own way, not God’s way.
 - c. Prayer must be compatible with God’s will and God’s way, not our will and our way.
 - d. Prayer is not designed to get us out of trouble, but to express our helplessness, our humility, and our total dependence on God rather than on human ability and power. Prayer is our recognition and orientation to His grace and His mercy toward us.
 - e. Prayer is not designed to manipulate God, but to perform and conform to the will of God.
 - f. Prayer is our recognition and orientation to the grace of God.
3. Prayer is not designed to manipulate God, but to conform to the will of God.

4. Prayer was never designed to fulfill our lusts and desires, but prayer was designed to fulfill the will, plan, and purpose of God for our lives and to give us access to heaven while still living on earth.
5. The Church Age Believer has the access and privilege to present two categories of requests to God the Father.
 - a. Petitions – prayers for yourself.
 - b. Intercessory prayers – prayers for others.
6. You have the right to represent yourself before God the Father in the name of the Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit.
7. God the Father, the recipient of prayer, receives prayer from three sources in the Church Age.
 - a) From the intercession of God the son. Hebrews 7:25
 - b) From the intercession of God the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26-27. God the Holy Spirit prays for you when you need help and don't know you need help.
 - c) From Church Age believers as royal priests.

Hebrews 4:16: **“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (NASB)**
8. Prayer is communication with God for the expression of personal needs in petition and the function of intercession for others.
9. Two persons of the Trinity are involved in prayer for us: Jesus Christ as our High Priest remembers us in prayer, and God the Holy Spirit, who prays for us with groanings too great for words.
 - a. The believer has the privilege of intercessory prayer.
 - b. One of the greatest acts of intercession for an entire nation was made by Moses. Exodus 32:9-16; Numbers 14:11-12
 - c. Jesus Christ on the cross prayed in Luke 23:34 the greatest intercessory prayers of all time: “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

10. We fail in prayer because we have a malfunction in our spiritual life.
11. We fail in prayer because we fail to rebound when we sin.
12. Spiritual growth increases the power of prayer in your life. Therefore, our spiritual advance through perception, metabolization, and application of doctrine is directly related to our prayer life as part of our Christian service.
13. The more you learn about the will of God from Bible doctrine, the more effective your prayer life will be.
14. The approach to prayer is a part of the protocol of the royal family of God and has a precisely correct procedure.
 - a. All prayer is offered to God the Father, not to Jesus Christ or to the Holy Spirit. This is illustrated by the model prayer for the disciples. Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 1:17, 3:14; 1 Peter 1:7
 - b. All prayer is addressed in the name of God the Son – Jesus Christ. John 14:13-14; Hebrews 7:25
 - c. All prayer is made through the enabling power (filling) of God the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 6:18
15. Prayer is related to the omniscience of God.

Isaiah 65:24: “Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.” (NASB)

16. The more you grow in grace, the greater your spiritual growth, the greater your effectiveness in your prayer life. Effectiveness is not measured in terms of your eloquence when praying in public, but on the basis of your spiritual growth when praying in private.
 - a. The power of prayer increases as the believer advances in the protocol plan of God for the Church Age.
 - b. Accurate and effective prayer is associated with the three stages of spiritual adulthood: spiritual self-esteem; spiritual autonomy; and spiritual maturity.
17. The Church Age is mandated to pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

1 Thessalonians 5:17: “Pray (*“proseuchomai”*) without ceasing.” (NASB)

18. In the spiritual life, you are always in a position to offer prayer.

Ephesians 6:18: “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,” (NASB)

a. In the spiritual life, you have alertness for when prayer is needed. This is ordering you to make prayer a habit.

Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Vs. 7: And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (NASB)

b. Thanksgiving is your capacity for appreciation and a part of the function of impersonal love.

19. You cannot divorce the faith-rest drill from prayer. Prayer demands faith. Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24

Mark 11:24: “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.” (NASB)

a. Without the faith-rest drill, prayer doesn’t work.

20. The key to effective prayer is understanding and making application from your portfolio of invisible assets. Effective prayer is related to executing the mandates of the spiritual life. 1 John 3:22

1 John 3:22: “and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.” (NASB)

21. Public prayer should be short and should avoid repetition. Matthew 6:7

Matthew 6:7: “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.” (NASB)

- a. Remember, “God does not look on the outward appearance, but on the right lobe.”
- b. You cannot impress people and God at the same time with your prayers.
- c. In public prayer, you always add the principles of impersonal love, flexibility, and thoughtfulness of others. You must be thoughtful of others in prayer who are gathered with you.

22. Long prayers should be reserved for private intercession and petition. Matthew 6:6

Matthew 6:6: “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

23. There is an agenda for your private prayer.

- a) Confession of sin (1 John 1:9), if necessary, to ensure the filling of the Holy Spirit. Only prayer offered in the status quo of the filling of the Spirit will be heard.
- b) Thanksgiving expresses the concept of worship in private prayer. Ephesians 5:20

Ephesians 5:20: “always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;” (NASB)

1 Thessalonians 5:18: “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (NASB)

- c) Capacity for thanksgiving comes from your personal love for God and your impersonal love for others. Capacity for thanksgiving increases as

you grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- d) It is hard to stay alert when you are in a routine situation, doing the same thing over and over again. Your thanksgiving to God is a part of your personal love for God. The more you love God, and the more you appreciate Him, the greater your thanksgiving and the greater your alertness in prayer.
- e) Intercession is praying for others. Ephesians 6:18; 1 Kings 18; James 5:16-18 This requires you to have your own private prayer list.
- f) Petition is praying for your own needs and situations. Hebrews 4:16

Hebrews 4:16: “Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

- g) To approach boldly means you approach in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

24. Part of the mechanics of prayer is concentration. Concentration is a function of the filling of the Holy Spirit, positive volition, and motivation.

25. The sanctification of food, or saying “grace” before meals, is a special prayer. 1 Timothy 4:4-5 This is a mandate for all believers.

1 Timothy 4:4-5: “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

Vs. 5: for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.”

- a. There may be ingredients in the food that are very harmful, but offering this special prayer will protect you.
- b. Grace before meals has a two-fold purpose.
 - i. The expression of gratitude to God for His logistical grace support, which includes food.

- ii. Sanctification of that food to eliminate any potential, harmful effects.
26. There is prayer for those in authority over us. As citizens of a client nation to God, this is a very important function for believers. 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2: “First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,
- Vs. 2: for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”
27. There is prayer for the sick. James 5:15
28. There is prayer for the unsaved. Romans 10:1. Paul prayed for the salvation of unbelieving Jews. Although you cannot pray that their volition will be coerced, you can pray that they will be exposed to the Gospel and have the opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ.
29. There is prayer for your enemies. Matthew 5:44
- Matthew 5:44: “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”
- a. This represents your impersonal love for all mankind.
30. There is prayer for the communication, and communicators, of Bible doctrine; for pastor-teachers, missionaries, evangelists. 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Hebrews 13:18; Colossians 4:2-3
- Colossians 4:2-3: “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;
- Vs. 3: praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;”
31. There is the prayer for the deliverance of the client nation under the fifth cycle of discipline. 2 Chronicles 7:14

2 Chronicles 7:14: “and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

- a. Every believer in the nation is responsible to become a prayer warrior.
- b. It is the power of prayer by which we will be delivered, along with military service.
- c. Those who win the war are the great warriors of prayer.

32. There is no place for sloppiness in prayer. Too often among believers today you have emotion, sloppiness, and ignorance because we’ve ignored the Biblical principles that mandate precisely correct procedure.

- a. All prayer is directed to God the Father. You never pray to God the Son or God the Holy Spirit. Matthew 6:6-9; Ephesians 1:17, 3:14; 1 Peter 1:17
- b. Furthermore, God the Son as our High Priest makes intercession for us at the right hand of the Father. Hebrews 7:25
- c. God the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26-27
- d. If God the Son and God the Holy Spirit offer prayer to God the Father, who are we to fail in this precisely correct procedure?
- e. All prayer is offered through the channel of our great High Priest, in the name of the Son. John 14:13-14
- f. You can begin your prayer with the approach, “Heavenly Father, I’m coming in the name of the Son” or you can conclude your prayer with “in Christ’s name, Amen.”
- g. Whichever you choose, you must go through channels, for this is precisely correct procedure. There is no place for sloppiness in prayer.
- h. All effective prayer is offered through the filling of the Spirit or the enabling power of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18). Therefore, if your prayers are not offered inside the spiritual life, their velocity falls short of heaven.
- i. Protocol demands that the believer offer all prayers to God the Father in the name of the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

33. Accurate and effective prayer is one of the most powerful weapons in history. In prayer, the Christian takes the offensive against Satan in his world.

34. Prayer is not a system for controlling the lives of others. We cannot pray a prayer which violates the volition of someone else. The function of your royal priesthood is for the benefit of yourself and for the benefit of others, but it is not a system whereby you control others.
35. There is one non-protocol prayer which God hears – the function of rebound. God does not hear the prayers of the carnal Christian. Inasmuch as rebound is a recovery procedure for sin and reentry into the spiritual life, and since the mechanics of rebound demand naming our sins to God, it is obvious that acknowledging, or naming, our sins to God is the only prayer that God hears and answers when the believer is in a state of sin.
- a. There are three results of the rebound prayer:
 - i. Recovery of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Restoration to fellowship with God.
 - iii. Resumption of your spiritual life.
 - b. Rebound makes it possible to continue a life of prayer as part of your spiritual life.
 - c. Prayer is an extension of your spiritual life. You are not spiritual because you pray; you pray because you are spiritual. Therefore, prayer is a result of the spiritual life; the spiritual life is not a result of prayer.
36. Since grace is the principle of prayer, no believer can petition for himself or make intercession on the basis of human merit, ability, morality, production, service, or spiritual gift.
37. Every believer approaches the Throne of Grace on the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our great High Priest.
38. While the Father is propitiated with the work of Christ on the cross, He is no respecter of persons. Therefore, we must approach the Father from our position of fellowship.
39. Our Lord, during the First Advent, had maximum effectiveness in His prayer life.
40. The believer out of fellowship is not only weak, but has no effectiveness in his prayer life.

41. God does not answer prayer because the believer is “good,” moral, sincere benevolent, religious, concerned, self-effacing, altruistic, talented, or possesses a pleasing personality.
42. Answer to prayer is a divine decision. Therefore, the believer’s popularity with others is never a factor in answered prayer.
43. Prayer is a weapon. You must understand how it functions, just as you should understand how any weapon functions before you use it. Prayer must be used as a weapon. Most people blaspheme when they pray because of arrogance while praying and ignorance of how to pray.
44. One prayer can change the course of history!

So now you know how prayer works. If you are a believer and you've never prayed, or very rarely prayed, you must realize prayer is help for other people as well as a help for yourself. And it is also a defense.

“Pray without ceasing.” I know that you can't pray every moment of every day and that's not what that means. It means pray consistently.

Pray daily. Set aside time for prayer. The more you do it, the better at it you get.

Jude 20: “**But you, beloved, (members of the royal family), keep building upon yourselves (daily function of the Grace Apparatus for Perception which builds an Edification Complex of the Soul) by means of Bible doctrine, praying regularly by means of the Holy Spirit,**” (EXT)

Jude 21: “**keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.**” (NASB)

But further, by “building” as verse 20 requires, you are, as verse 21 demands, “keeping yourself in the love of God.”

1. The keeping in the love of God is directly connected to the continuing of building.” You will keep yourself in the love of God.

2. The two are connected. It is just a different way of saying the first one (continuing to build). To maintain a mature mental attitude as your love for God grows and is built.
3. A mature mental attitude comes from that Grace Apparatus for Perception, which keeps you in the “love of God,” which is part of your second line of defense. The love of God motivates the believer to counter all of the false teaching.
4. What you build up through the Grace Apparatus for Perception and the keeping in the love of God will keep the believer unharmed. Defended!
5. It sustains the fortifications in the believer's soul against what? Against the hatred and the assaults of the worldly-minded, of those who are devoid of the human spirit and the Holy Spirit.
6. So we have another result of the “building” in verse 21: looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Mercy is a very misunderstood word. We will actually get into it as we get into verse 22 and 23.

Our word for “mercy” in Jude 21 is the accusative singular neuter noun “*ἐλεος*” – “*éleos*.” It can mean “compassion” or “mercy.” But what does it mean here?

1. Mercy is God's grace in action toward you. God is a merciful God. That simply means grace in action toward you.
2. Here, mercy describes the entire scope of eternal life that is provided by His unlimited grace. Your eternal life comes to you because of God's grace.
3. Because of His mercy, we have a certainty of eternal life. And what's that called? Eternal security. We have eternal security for one reason: God's grace.
4. Eternal security is protection. Protection from the fatalism and hopelessness of the unbeliever's life.
5. It's protection from the paralyzing fear of losing one's salvation.

6. The fear of losing your salvation, or sometimes the fear of an inadequate faith, mires a believer in constant worry about the future.
7. Fear precludes focusing on the grace of our great God. The fear is manifested by certain thoughts which you may have falsely entertained from time to time.

Have you ever wondered if you really have eternal life? If you could really be certain?

Well, you have the mercy of God rationale I just gave to you. People do think about this, and if they don't have this defense, what goes on in their soul?

Am I good enough to receive eternal life? Have I done enough to be assured of my salvation? How many works do I have to do? Have I borne enough fruit to be acceptable to God and to give proof of my salvation to other believers? These are all things going on right now; all questions that believers ask themselves.

That is a long way from grace orientation. The fearful believer still has eternal life but will never have a relaxed mental attitude. Always they will be uneasy about the future. The faith-rest rationale of eternal security is MIA. Grace orientation and the love of God is not in such a person who has that kind of fear.

Spiritual growth is minimal and, in that mode, there can be very little service to the Lord or even operating under one's spiritual gift.

Just staying in fellowship and maintaining the filling of the Holy Spirit is a major task.

But confidence in the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the grace in action that comes, is the attitude for defense and service.