

Similarly, seven attributes of the Bible are named in Psalm 119. These are: “All Your commandments are faithful” (v. 86), “Your commandment is exceedingly broad” (v. 96), “I esteem right all Your precepts” (v. 128), “Your testimonies are wonderful” (v. 129), “Your Word is very pure” (v. 140), “Every one of your righteous ordinances is everlasting” (v. 160), and “All Your commandments are righteous” (v. 172).

The New Testament adds that the Word of God is “truth” (John 17:17), “powerful” (2 Timothy 3:16), and “quick and active” (or “alive and powerful,” Hebrews 4:12).

In light of this body of truth which so definitely predicates the Word of God that it is a living, vital agency with supernatural power, the preacher has little excuse for the presentation of anything else. The divine promise through Isaiah is:

Isaiah 55:10 “For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

v. 11 so will My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.” (NASB)

5. Motivation of the Believer in Edification

1. Motivation may be defined in two categories: (1) positive volition and (2) humility.
2. Positive volition is expressed in:

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification [οἰκοδομή (*oikodomē*): to build up a spiritual edifice in the soul]. (NIV)

3. In the process of growing in grace, Scripture encourages us to do so with the intensity of a runner who sprints toward the goal in:



Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

v. 2a fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. (NASB)

4. Running instead of walking stresses the importance of consistently moving forward with positive volition. Spiritual growth is delayed and haphazard if not done consistently. Memory quickly fails to recall information if not facilitated.
5. There are no graduate degrees issued so that there is no longer any need for inculcation. The Bible is a treasure trove of truth. Doctrine is built on Doctrine. To emphasize this principle, it may be restated as, Truth is built on Truth.
6. The cosmic system is constantly promoting the lie and Lucifer's acolytes are very good at presenting ideas which the biblically ignorant eagerly adopt as truth.
7. The dumbing down of education has been orchestrated to invert absolute Truth into acceptable philosophies and viewpoints based on emotion rather than absolutes.
8. Over time, inversion of thought occurs. The lie is accepted as the truth while the Truth is considered to be the lie. When enough people adopt the former, the loss of thought changes the culture.
9. Principles that constitutionally ensure liberty are assaulted. They are replaced by authoritarian standards specifically imposed upon opponents while anything goes for the budding Brownshirts.

SA, abbreviation of Sturmabteilung [shtoorm' äp' tī loong]: (German: "Assault Division"), byname Storm Troopers, or Brownshirts, in the German Nazi Party, a paramilitary organization whose methods of violent intimidation played a key role in Adolf Hitler's rise to power. Outfitted in brown uniforms, the SA men protected Party meetings, marched in Nazi rallies, and physically assaulted political opponents.



From January 1931, it was headed by Ernst Röhm, who harboured radical anticapitalist notions and dreamed of building the SA into Germany's main military force. Under Röhm SA membership, swelled from the ranks of the Great Depression's unemployed, grew to 400,000 by 1932 and to perhaps 2,000,000—20 times the size of the regular army—by the time that Hitler came to power in 1933.

During the early days of the Nazi regime, the SA carried out unchecked street violence against Jews and Nazi opponents. But it was eyed with suspicion by the regular army and by the wealthy industrialists, two groups whose support Hitler was trying to secure. Against Hitler's expressed wishes, Röhm ... hoped to merge the regular army with the SA under his own leadership. On June 30, 1934, the Night of the Long Knives, Hitler, using SS forces, carried out a "Blood Purge" of the SA leadership. Röhm and dozens of SA leaders were summarily executed.¹

10. Such types are in the market for the insertion of Truth into their souls, however, associated with historical downtrends is the lack of interest in Christianity, specifically for the teachings of Scripture. However,

Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever!

11. Paul advises ^(NET) why transition away from the lie over to the truth is imperative:

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

v. 3 For by the grace given to me I say to every one of you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think, but to think with sober discernment, as God has distributed to each of you a measure of faith. (NET)

¹ "SA," in *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia*, 15th ed. (2010), 10:273.

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.”²
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:

² 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.³

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.”⁴
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.”⁵
12. Congeniality is fine. But the ability to conduct oneself honorably in genteel society is primarily the result of good breeding and social skills.

³ 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.

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

⁵ *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 ensure 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 ensures the consistent advance of the edification process which ultimately develops seven floors of a complex of doctrinal principles.

