

Jude 17: “Now you, beloved (members of the royal family), remember (never, ever forget) the spoken words (doctrinal truths) which were previously taught by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,” (EXT)

We've got two lines. One line of defense in military operations is never considered enough. It's weak, and it is vulnerable to penetration by an attacking enemy.

So, in a defensive position, the military constructs what is called a defense in depth. It's important to have this second line of defense, and it's true in the spiritual life as well. It keeps the enemy from overrunning and defeating both an army and your spiritual life. Numerous lines of defense are the way armies operate.

These two lines of defense give the soul defense in depth, to hold out against the sustained attack of the enemy, which is false doctrine.

False doctrine can get between the weak spots in your defense.

Jude 19: “These (apostates) are those who cause divisions (trouble-makers), soulish (dichotomous, not tricotomous), not having a human spirit (body and soul only).” (EXT)

But when you are taking in Bible doctrine, you are building a second powerful line of defense as found in Jude 20 and 21.

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

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

This is your second line of defense.

1. The second line of defense after the Grace Apparatus for Perception is called “building yourself up.”
2. In other words, that means to build up your spiritual life by adding muscle to it or to fortify yourself, to build a fortress in your soul.

3. The focus here is on the consistency of the Grace Apparatus for Perception in order to build up, to build upon; there is no building without the Grace Apparatus for Perception.
4. By building up, you are shoring up your spiritual defenses. You are reinforcing them and strengthening them.
5. You are building a second trench line of defense while hardening the first defense line, the Grace Apparatus for Perception.

Building is the key. Remembering and building. But along with building, it says here, praying is an active part of your defense.

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 *demo*, “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" – "pneúma," 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.