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THE BREATHING OF THE SOUL

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
EPHESIANS 4:22-25
NUMBER 44

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EPHESIANS 4:22-25 "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."

Every individual comes to a moment in his life when he either believes in Christ or refuses to believe. If the individual believes in Christ, from that moment he is a Christian, and every Christian is in full-time Christian service. Your daily work is your Christian service and every task is sacred. If the Christian is to grow daily, then he must breathe in the truth of scripture every day.

The Christian life is not doing good, being nice, or doing all kinds of what people call "Christian acts." The Christian life consists of breathing in Bible truth and breathing out faith toward God. It is impossible to live the Christian life apart from soul-breathing, as we learned in our last study. Doctrine must be stored in the human spirit. This residual doctrine is the foundation of the Christian life, which constitutes the edification of the soul.

Just recently we studied again the steps of the edification complex-- it begins with the foundation of the Word of God. From this foundation we become oriented to grace. This then leads to inner happiness. Inner happiness always leads to a relaxed mental attitude. The next step is the capacity to love which results in a mastery of the details of life. Every believer is free to live his own life as unto the Lord, from the volition of his own soul. He lives his life as unto the Lord, confessing his own sins unto the Lord, rebounding when necessary, and living without coercion or pressure from others. Each Christian must live his own life according to the doctrine in his own soul. The pastor's task is to communicate doctrine to the individual believer and then let him take it or reject it. Each Christian is free to take in doctrine and is free to use it or reject it in daily living. Each one must erect his own edification complex. You cannot live off the supply of another's soul, you must live on your own spiritual resources. Each Christian must erect his own inner structure.

EPHESIANS 4:23 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;" So this verse actually says, "And receive restoration in the soul breathing of your mind."

EPHESIANS 4:24 "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." A more accurate translation is--"But that you clothe the soul with the new man according to the standard of God, which is created in grace orientation and devotion to doctrine." Grace orientation is the foundation of the edification complex and this structure must be built on doctrine.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE EDIFICATION COMPLEX1. CONSIDER FIRST THE WORD TRANSLATED "EDIFICATION"

This word translated "edification" is from "oikodomeo" and it means to erect a structure. "Oikos" is the word for house and "domeo" means to build. So this word means to build a house in your soul. The Greeks called the construction of a house "oikodomeo." They had three nouns built on this Greek verb "oikodome," which is the act of building. This word is used three times in Ephesians 4.

Ephesians 4:12 says, "For the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. The word translated "edifying" is "oikodomeo." It means to build something in the soul. The way to build this inner structure is to inhale Bible truth.

Then in Ephesians 4:16 Paul said, "Unto the edifying of itself in love" and he used this same word again. The erection of an edification complex in the soul is the basis of your spiritual power and your spiritual coordination and your spiritual effectiveness.

Down in Ephesians 4:29 we will find this same word used again. We also have the word "oikodomai" and this means the result of building this structure, the completed structure. We also have the word "oikodemos" used for God the Holy Spirit, who is the builder. These words cover the secret of the Christian life.

2. THE FOUNDATION FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS IN THE CHURCH

The church will never have peace and happiness and harmony unless the majority of the members grow an edification complex in their souls from learning Bible doctrine.

ACTS 9:31 "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Here we have our word "edify" again, and it is referring to this erected structure in the souls of the believers. This is the way for church members to avoid confusion and inner strife. The word "rest" in Acts 9:31 refers to a relaxed mental attitude and the secret was that they kept on being edified and this is our old friend "oikodomeo." This means that they walked with the Lord and they were relaxed in the Holy Spirit and they kept growing daily. The only way to have a harmonious church is to have the Word of God taught consistently so the people come to know the mind of Christ. This is the way for the members to reflect the glory of God.

3. A CONTRAST OF CONFUSION AND EDIFICATION

In 1 Corinthians 14, verses 3 and 4 and 12 and 26 we have a contrast between the confusion brought by the tongues movement and the harmony produced by the edification complex built in the souls of the people. The purpose God had through tongues was to evangelize the Jews in the various languages. So when the Jews failed and were scattered abroad, tongues ceased with them. The objective of the life of the believer is the edification complex and not speaking in tongues.

4. THE CONTRAST OF HUMAN AND DIVINE KNOWLEDGE

Human knowledge puffs up but the taking in of doctrine into the soul edifies.

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1 "Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."

Knowledge that puffs up is human viewpoint. True knowledge never puffs up. This is cosmos knowledge, human viewpoint and when this goes into the soul it produces pride and superficial knowledge. This is so-called knowledge which is contrary to doctrine. But love edifieth, and this refers to the filling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inside the life of the believer takes Bible truth and with it is able to bring edification in the soul of the Christian.

5. TRUE GIFTS THAT EDIFY

Communication gifts are designed for edification.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3 "For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:"

2 CORINTHIANS 13:10 "Therefore I write these things being absent lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction."

6. THE SPIRITUAL INVOLUNTARY RESPIRATIONAL CENTER

The spiritual IRC is the way the Christian handles automatic soul breathing and it operates when you are awake and when you are asleep. The IRC in the physical life is equivalent to the filling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life. In the physical life, when the IRC functions, air comes into the lungs and in this way oxygen is taken into the blood stream and carbon dioxide goes back out of the lungs in the exhale. The oxygen in the air is equivalent to Bible doctrine for the believer. In spiritual breathing the believer builds up residual doctrine in the soul. In Matthew 4 Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone." The spiritual IRC is an absolute necessity for spiritual growth.

7. THE NECESSARY PRIORITY

The first prerequisite for the erection of the edification complex is the filling of the Holy Spirit and this can only exist through the daily use of the rebound technique. Every Christian should use 1 John 1:9 every day.

8. THE SECOND NECESSITY

The Holy Spirit within the life of the believer must have ammunition, must have the ingredient from which to build the Christian life, and this ingredient is the body of doctrine found within the Word of God. This is exactly what we have studied in Ephesians 4:20-23.

9. THE MECHANICS OF THE EDIFICATION COMPLEX

To live physically we have to inhale and exhale. Once this process stops we die physically. To live spiritually we must inhale doctrine and exhale faith toward God every day. This intake of doctrine must continue until we have built up a spiritual reserve in the mind, and from this truth, we act and make decisions and live.

This is exactly what Paul had in mind from this passage. We are to put off the old sin nature and we are to breathe in Bible doctrine every day. This is when we clothe the old man with the new man which is created in us through the grace of God.

EPHESIANS 4:25 "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." Divine viewpoint is to replace human viewpoint.

"Put away" is from "apotithemi" and is an aorist, middle, participle. The aorist tense means the point of time when you make the decision to do this. The middle voice means you are greatly benefited by doing this. The participle means this is a law of God and it always works this way every time the rules of the game are followed. "Lying" here actually refers to false doctrine. So we are encouraged to lay aside false doctrine. We grow this ability to spot false doctrine and reject it through the erection of the edification complex in the soul. It means that the informed believer has discernment. The word for lying is "to pseudos" and it means "the lie." This is what Satan thinks and what he tries to get you to think. So this really means "Having repudiated what Satan thinks."

We reflect the glory of God and we reject what Satan thinks, which is false doctrine. The informed Christian is in a position to call the Devil's hand and reject his thinking.

The word for "speaking" is "laleo" and it means to communicate in a relaxed way. This means that every Christian has a right to his own private views based on the truth of the Word of God. Truth in the mind builds the edification complex, and from this edification structure, the Christian is equipped for glorious living. This verse says that every man is urged to speak true doctrine. Being members one of another means that we are bound together in a fellowship of brother believers. So a correct translation of this verse is something like this--

"Because of which, having renounced the lie, we habitually communicate doctrine, each one with those in his vicinity, because we are members one of another."

True membership in the body of Christ is a result of faith in Christ.
THE ONLY WAY TO GROW UP AS A CHRISTIAN IS SOUL-BREATHING.