

Edification When We Gather

When we get together as a community of Kingdom citizens, our special time is for encouraging each other. However, it's more important to let our King speak to us and for him to encourage us, **after all it's all about him, not about us.**

One of the essential things that should occur when we meet is that we share the revelations and prophetic messages we have personally received. This is how we put together the bigger picture of what our King is wanting us to know. Personal revelation is critical in our live as a son, but as the genuine *ekklesia*, we are part of the Father's family who needs to fully comprehend what Heaven is doing on Earth.

Another important thing in our time together is to have Holy Spirit do what he wants to do with us and in us. This comes about when we allow him to control what goes on in our gatherings and when we let him tell us when each of us is to speak and what we are to say. When we assemble, after a time when we've socialized as Kingdom 'relatives', we need to come under the oversight of the Spirit so we continue to 'be about Father's business' all of the time. Holy Spirit will encourage us and speak to us if we connect with him and listen with our spirit during these times.

Coming together is never about doing our duty, that's religion in it's basic form.

Gathering is not even about being with our brothers and sisters – as important as that is. Our King told us years ago that if we just socialize it will become a "club" and that wasn't what he's wanting to do with us.

One thing we have missed because of our background in the Charismatic and Pentecostal systems is that coming together is not about making us feel good. We picked this up in the church system and it has 'stuck' with us, becoming hard to 'shake off'. Feelings have nothing to do with us gathering together. We come together as family, as Kingdom trainees, and as the army of the Living God. Gatherings are strategic. They are NOT to 'gee us up'!

If we come looking to feel good by the time we leave, OR if we evaluate our times together by how good we feel at the end, we've missed it completely.

Everything should be done for the purpose of edification in the Kingdom. Although that's a biblical principal, it's more importantly and foremostly (and realistically I might add) a Kingdom principal.¹

In ancient Greek the word *oikodomé* (οικοδομή)² was used in reference to this function. We translate this word as 'edify' or 'edification'. This Greek word has the following meanings:

1. Thayer's Definition³

- A building (i.e. the thing built, edifice)
- The act of building, building up
- The act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness

2. Vine's definition:⁴

- Literally: "to build a house".
- Usually signifies: "to build" whether literally or figuratively; "the ones building"; "the builders".
- Used metaphorically, in the sense of promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by teaching or by example, suggesting such spiritual progress as the result of patient labour.
- It is in relation to the effect of this on local churches; of the individual action of believers towards each other;⁵ of an individual in regard to themselves⁶.
- Is translated also as "emboldened".⁷
- Used of the action of a brother in "building up" his brother who had a weak conscience, causing

1 – Romans 15:2; 1 Corinthians 14:3; 2 Corinthians 10:8

2 – Strong's #3619 (#3618)

3 – www.studylight.org/lexicons/greek/3619.html

4 – www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved/e/edification-edify-edifying.html

5 – 1 Corinthians 8:1; 10:23; 14:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

6 – 1 Corinthians 14:4

7 – 1 Corinthians 8:10

him to compromise his scruples.

- "Strengthened" or "confirmed" are also suitable translations.

There's nothing in 'edify', from its original intent in the Kingdom, to mean anything other than making us stronger, and more spiritually mature.

One thing we tend to forget because we focus on ourselves and our needs is the important nature of good Kingdom teaching (what is called "sound doctrine" in the NT) as well as genuine Kingdom oversight. We tend to forget that:

- Genuine heavenly love edifies⁸
- Everything in the Kingdom is about bringing us into full adulthood in the Kingdom⁹
- Kingdom teaching is to mature us and perfect us¹⁰
- Solid spiritual food can only be received by spiritually mature Kingdom citizens¹¹
- Genuine apostolic oversight is to mature us¹²

The teaching that's presented at our gatherings is designed to edify everyone. It may not be what each person wants to hear and it may not be what a person is looking to hear. However, while ever Kingdom teaching is given to the speaker by the Spirit, and presented by the Spirit, it should be received happily as part of everyone's edification. It should be embraced and searched to find just exactly what Holy Spirit is wanting the teach each one present (or those who read it on the website).

There is a tendency to enjoy Graham Cooke's teaching because he's gentle, humorous and uplifting. It would be a mistake to migrate in that direction where one 'goes after' teaching that appeals to their soul. It's called having 'itching ears'¹³ or 'having the ears tickled' with the desire for pleasurable messages that agrees with the soul. The reason this is a misdirection is because much of our molding and shaping by the Lord requires extended periods of correction and discipline – wilderness periods. We must enjoy this process to make advances in our maturity as sons, so it requires us to have a mindset that accepts the hard side of Kingdom life, not only accepting it, but desiring it. Teaching that challenges beliefs and brings readjustment is a critical part of our reprogramming and re-imaging.

IMPORTANT: Judging what's taught from a soulish or cognitive perspective is really just criticism. This is negativity and it will 'kill' any benefit to the spirit of those who operate that way.

NOTE: Even genuine correction and discipline is designed for our edification¹⁴, but we tend to see it negatively and rebel against it. This relates to the Lord correcting us, as well as oversight bringing us into line. It even relates to bringing each other into line – which we are called to do, properly.¹⁵

Edification is for maturity in the Kingdom

Laurence

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8 – 1 Corinthians 8:10

9 – Ephesians 4:13 (ISV)

10 – Colossians 1:28

11 – Hebrews 5:14

12 – Philippians 1:25

13 – 2 Timothy 4:3-4

14 – 2 Corinthians 13:10

15 – See 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 as an example