

Word of the Week- Edify

Origin: Middle English: from Old French edifier, from Latin aedificare 'build', from aedis 'dwelling' + facere 'make' (compare with edifice). The word originally meant 'construct a building', also 'strengthen', hence to "build up" morally or spiritually.

Latin Definitions of aedifico, aedificare, aedificavi, aedificatus:

- 1) build, erect, construct, make
- 2) create
- 3) edify
- 4) establish
- 5) improve

Definition of Edify:

*Instruct or improve (someone) morally or intellectually

Most words I write are not just for you, our readers, but they are also for myself. I wanted to write about the word "Edify" because sometimes I overlook words when I am reading the Bible. This word was one of those I would overlook so I felt it necessary to look it up and write about it for your understanding as well as my own.

I am in a season of recognizing not just the spiritual gifts given to me by God but how to use them for His purposes. It occurred to me that I was focused more on the gifts themselves than the provider of these gifts. Whenever we do this we have placed the gifts into the category of an idol. When this happens we can become prideful and even angry when other people do not recognize our gifts or use them as we think other people should use them. I have fallen victim to this type of thinking many times in my walk with the Lord. As I continue to seek the Lord's face and get to know Him more, I realize how faulty and dangerous this type of thinking is. If we allow this type of thinking to take hold in our lives (idolizing our gifts instead of focusing on the giver of the gifts) it becomes more difficult to hear the Lord correctly on how to be used effectively in our gifts because we are no longer in a humble servant position but place ourselves in a prideful master position. (I am speaking from personal experience). We may even come to a place where we begin to tell other people and God Himself how we should be used and how our gifts should be used.

Our spiritual gifts, whatever they may be, are not given to us for self-serving purposes. They are given to us for serving God. He placed them within us to be used for His purposes. What is God's purpose? "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

God's ultimate purpose is to have all of us be reconciled to Him and grow in knowledge of Him. Once I realized I placed a higher standing on my God given gifts than on God Himself I had to repent (turn my heart back to Him). It is a process and I am not fully where I need to be but my eyes have been re-focused.

As I am writing this I am sensing the Lord telling me how we come out of this thinking of placing our gifts in the position of idol and come back to the place of our gifts being used for the building and growing of the Body of Christ. The way to bring things back into order is to:

- 1) repent of placing our gifts above God in our hearts
- 2) learn more about why God gave us gifts in the first place

- 3) Use these gifts according to God's purposes and not keep them dormant or for our own self-serving purposes

Bible verses to help us all grow in our understanding of how to use our spiritual gifts and be edifying.

Bible Verses:

- **1 Corinthians 14:12** - Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.
- **Ephesians 4:11-16** - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- **Romans 12:3-8** - For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** - There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same[b] Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
- **1 Corinthians 3:1-3** - Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned,[a] but have not love, it profits me nothing.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** - ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.
- **Psalms 37:3-6** - Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. ⁴ Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. ⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

Other sources:

http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/edify

<http://www.latin-dictionary.net/definition/1839/aedifico-aedificare-aedificavi-aedificatus>

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February 25, 2015