

Christ- Centered



Biblical Training

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;
2 Chronicles 16:9

PART TWO: MATURITY IN CHRIST

GOD'S PLAN OVER HISTORY FOR MAN TO BECOME
MATURE IN CHRIST NEEDED TO ETERNALLY KNOW
AND RELATE TO OUR PERFECT GOD IN HIS
GREATNESS

by

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THE MAIN REPORT; A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF GOD'S PLAN; THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW●¹

THE GOAL AND OBJECTIVE OF GOD'S PLAN; AND THE NEEDED TRAINING

REPORT PURPOSES: *This report, or one like it, could be one of the most important single ones that one might ever read. Its purpose is to present a detailed comprehensive overview of the entire Bible relating God's Plan for biblical history in one report. This is so readers can gain the major understandings of what God wants us to know, become, and live without having to otherwise read many-many books with many-many more pages needed to learn and integrate the data presented in this report.*

This report's purpose is to present that God's main reason for why we are here is to gain a high skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. God commands us to pursue this maturity (Hebrews 6:1). This maturity is necessary so we have the spiritual ability s to know and relate to our perfect God in His depth-breath and fellowship with Him forever. This is so we can live perfect lives without sin, both now, but especially in eternity. We are to think and do only what comes from God the Father without taking any independent action. ***In order to gain this maturity, we must learn to live as Christ lives with everything for life coming from God the Father (now the Bible) without our taking any independent action. Then when people see us, they will see God, not us, because we, from ourselves, are doing nothing.*** It is cooperating with God so that He works all things together for our ultimate good. This life must be learned and lived out under God's leading. Apart from living in relationship to Him and by His Perfection and Greatness, there is nothing.

Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity

1. REPORT ORGANIZATION: The main report, taken from the Bible, is composed of three major parts. The first deals with becoming mature in Christ. The second deals with all of history and how the endtimes unfold. The third deals with what our churches should be doing now and that the endtimes can come at any time. Then the report references are presented. The references contain much more detail and more Scriptural development. They are recommended to be read next.

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1 John 2:6 - the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

According to our understanding, we present many of the procedures, as God works in us, for how we become mature in Christ and what are its benefits. For this to occur, we must first become Christians, and afterward, pursue and gain this spiritual maturity. Church and family leadership are to ensure that this happens by training their people academically and also very importantly, practically - for how the life is to be lived out. They are to demonstrate the life. Our single role model is Christ, and we are to learn to live as He lives. Apart from this plan from an eternal perspective, there is nothing.

This report presents how the events of biblical history unfold with their development environment and spiritual warfare lead us to become mature. God has created us and placed us in this earth's environment under spiritual warfare to gain this mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. The higher skill we have, the more we can know, relate to, and be used of God. He has every perfect attribute and character quality that exists. ●¹

OTHER SUPPORTING PURPOSES: Other supporting purposes are to present the concepts that: (1) show how the spiritual warfare over history and Revelation's pattern sequence with the seven-sealed scroll (to be seen and understood) allow us to see how the endtimes unfold and help resolve the many prophecy views into one; (2) alert our churches that signs now signal the endtimes Tribulation can come now at any time for which we should be spiritually and provisionally prepared; (4) alert our churches, particularly their leadership, that their current falling away is a major cause of bringing the endtimes Tribulation; (5) encourage churches to evaluate their own circumstances, come to greater obedience, and to pursue God's best and be prepared for what soon can be coming; and (6) show that our overall current church direction of a major dumbing down to reach the young people is leading to an immature church (are we there now?) with a loss of biblical intellect, and having a low plateau of Bible knowledge. ***Church and family leadership are mainly responsible for the falling away and bringing the immature Church and can expect judgment. Thus, they carry responsibility for the Tribulation coming.***

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION: Some believe that if we are to change and better our world, we must begin with the children and the youth and train them to walk closer with God. However, this is exactly what Satan is doing in an opposite manner by influencing a dumbing down of the training in our churches and in our public schools. We are teaching good things, but mostly at the first level. We must see this, because our churches, in their falling away, are helping to bring about the condition of an immature Church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of biblical knowledge. Few now can do critical analysis to determine what is happening and what will happen as the endtimes unfold.

1. **GOD'S ATTRIBUTES:** Faithfulness; Glory; Grace; Holiness; Immensity; Immutability; Justice; Light; Long-Suffering; Love; Lovingkindness; Mercy; Omnipotence; Omnipresence; Omniscience; Provider; Righteousness; Self-Existence (Eternal Life); Sovereignty; Spirit; Truth. See our paper on *God's Attributes* that gives more description and the Scripture references.

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Few know Bible prophecy and how the endtimes unfold below the notion level.

We should understand that this current growing biblical illiteracy is key satanic strategy. This situation, when combined with the Bible not being allowed to be taught in the Tribulation, in time as the Tribulation and endtimes progress, few, if any, will know the Bible in any depth-breadth. We are heading into the darkest spiritual age in all of history. And our church leaders and teachers are largely responsible - my perception. The problem lies more in what we are not teaching rather than the minimum of what we are teaching.

A training curriculum is suggested later that can provide the needed training when taught in depth-breadth with both the academic and the practical with some form of on-the-job training. We must now begin with urgency to especially biblically train, mature, and prepare our children and youth in the depth-breadth of the curriculum presented below to help mature them in Christ. It is so for them to know what will happen to them and why as the Tribulation comes. It is to encourage them to stand strong under the coming persecution.●²

GOD'S GREATNESS: God and His Greatness must be central to our lives. We will do better in our Christian lives when we understand and appreciate God's extreme Greatness, including with His holiness and righteousness, and our extreme spiritual poverty. Then, with diligence, we will search out and do everything He wants us to do and become, with great commitment and excellence. Knowing His Greatness, we will love Him with our total beings and search out and keep His commandments. We will realize there is nothing else.

Having every possible perfect attribute and character quality that exists, God has the only value that exists. We have value when He places His value in us and we live it out. He is without sin of any kind or any amount. He is the only person qualified who can direct our lives in absolute perfection. He controls our future. He has self existence and can do anything He wants in accordance with His perfect character qualities without any effective resistance. He works with billions of people and angels all at the same time. He has created a universe so huge we cannot measure it. He is everywhere simultaneously present. There is no place that is possible to go without God being there. God has always known everything that can be known - has happened, is happening, or will ever happen - past, present, and future. Read our report: *The Attributes of God* on our web site. (God has created heaven and earth and all people. Without God and apart from Him, nothing would exist.)

2. RAPTURE TIMING: It is shown later why the Rapture can only come after the Tribulation. Doctrines show there is no possibility of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

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GOD'S OBJECTIVE;●³ As stated, God wants for us both now and especially in eternity to know and relate to Him toward His fullness and Greatness. Thus, we are to grow in maturity now so we can have the trained spiritual ability needed to know and relate to Him to the fullest in eternity. We do this as we live out what He is working out in us. We would live by His holiness and righteousness in perfect environment. We would live by sacrificial love to serve each other and by faith in Him to fulfill His promises in close fellowship with Him and each other. He would direct our every thought and action with the Holy Spirit and work all things together for our good. Doing this makes Him God. As He works in all of us, He will be God all in all. We will have the only perfect life that exists because our God is perfect and resides in perfection. As a result, we will live holy and righteously without sin as we live out what He is working in us. We will get to know more of Him in His depth-breadth.

However, because God is omni-present, and cannot be physically seen both now and in eternity, we can only know God both as He works in us and as we see, by the Holy Spirit, Christ and each other living out what God is directing in us. We need to live by faith that He exists and will produce the results He promises in His Bible and as we learn from Christ in eternity (another Bible in eternity?). We must trust Him to do as He promises. As presented in the next section, for this to occur, we must be complete in Christ using only what comes from God the Father as a source. Nothing in life for direction is to come from us as a source. We can plan how we will carry out His direction using what He has given us and trust Him to bring the results. We are here to gain this maturity so we can know God and live the perfect life that can only come from Him. When we are living out our lives and working to gain the needs of life, we should believe that God is leading and guiding us. He has told us to work for a living. We are to believe that He is taking care of us. We are depending upon Him, not ourselves.

We will obey Him from our love of Him and of Who and What He is - absolute perfection.

One Scripture that teaches we need to know and relate to God:

Phillippians 3:8-10 - More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

REQUIREMENT FOR GOD TO FULFILL HIS OBJECTIVE FOR OUR BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST: We must learn to live as Christ lives where everything comes from the Father as a source

3. **GOD'S OBJECTIVE: God's Goal:** God wants for us to know and relate to Him in His Greatness in Eternity. **God's Requirement:** We must have a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. **Church's Goal:** Gain a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. **Church's Method:** Train people to worship and glorify God, live a godly life patterned after Christ's walk with the Father, help accomplish God's work, and believe and stand strong on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

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and, at the same time, we take no independent initiative.●⁴ We sense the Father's leading by the work of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 2:6 - the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Christ did only what came from the Father as a source without taking any independent initiative. We are to walk this way (John 5:19-20; 30;8:28; 12:49; 14:10).

John 5:19-20 - Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these will He show Him, that you may marvel.

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 8:28 - Jesus therefore said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

All of life to walk as Christ walks must now come from God the Father patterned after how Christ lives His life with the Father. God commands us to pursue this maturity by bringing every person complete in Christ●⁵ We must bring every thought captive in obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians

4. **WALKING AS CHRIST WALKS;** This training requires us to find all the Scriptures for how the Father relates to the Son and likewise all the Scriptures for how the Son relates to the Father. Then we find the extension of these for the Father and Son with the Church and with fathers of families etc. I have made a study of these. There currently are some charts on the web site under Training and Christian-Life Relationship Principles. Much more will be added to the web site.

5. **GAIN MATURITY IN CHRIST:** *Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

*Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ (the a,b,c's of the Christian life and faith), **let us press on to maturity,** not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God (not going over the a,b,c's over and over again),*

*2 Corinthians 10:5 - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and **we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,***

*Ephesians 3:16-19 - that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints **what is the breadth and length and height and depth,** and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.***

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10:15). We must have a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading to obey God and to carry out His will.

This life includes living by sacrificial love, by faith, having the character qualities for Church leadership, and the attitudes in the beatitudes. Every way we are to live by faith and love in relationships must come from God the Father. We must have an appreciation for God's Greatness and His ways and for us to depend solely on Him. We will love Him with out total beings and obey His commandments. God is our head, and we are His subordinates. We are to obey Him in everything.

WHY LIVING LIFE FROM LOVE OF GOD IS ESSENTIAL: *For us to live holy and righteously without sin, God must lead us in every thought and action we will ever have.* Life must come from His perfection alone as a source. The Bible teaches that we are to love God with our total beings and love others as we love ourselves. We will obey His commandments from our love of Him in order to live holy and righteously Thus, the greater love we have, we will obey at a greater maturity level, have more of life coming from him, and have greater commandments to obey.

Matthew 22:37 - And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 15:10 - "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

We will obey Him from our love of His Greatness and avoid our leading because we have extreme spiritual poverty. We need to learn to live by strong love so we will obey Him keeping the greater commandments. We will not respond as robots because we have to, but because of our great love for His infinite Greatness including His perfect character qualities. ***The greater love we have for Him, He will lead us in greater ways because from our love we will keep His commandments.***

We will realize that His leading brings us the best possible life in all of its aspects. If we are to live holy, we must not obey Him because we think we should. - but because of our love. Thus, we should learn of His Greatness and develop a great love for Him and for each other such that we serve Him and each other sacrificially because He is putting His value in each of us. From our love,

*Ephesians 4:13 - until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.***

*James 1:2-4 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***

*Colossians 1:28 - And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, **that we may present every man complete in Christ.***

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we will learn and keep His commandments.●⁶ Study our report: *The Attributes of God*. See the commandments in our publication: *Living by God's Righteousness*.

The Bible teaches that there is no greater love than one lay down his life for his friends:

John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Are we willing to lay down our lives for each other? Certainly we are with time and money. But what about physical life? Christ did this for us. He knew He would be resurrected. We know we will be resurrected also.

WHY WALKING BY FAITH IS ESSENTIAL: We are to walk by faith, trusting God to fulfill His promises. We activate our faith by obeying the instructions associated with the promise. Because in this process, everything is coming from God as a source, we do not sin. ***The more promises we know and use, we can have a great sinless life under God.*** It is when we trust ourselves to accomplish is when we sin. A faith walk with God is a true and holy relationship.

2 Peter 1:4 - For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Romans 1:17 For in it (the Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

DISCUSSION OF MATURITY: God, in His sovereignty, choose not to create people mature in Christ. Instead He has designed events in history so that maturity can be and must be developed. We believe that one reason is that because love is central to life, one could not understand the highest degree of sacrificial love without observing God's love being shown and demonstrated when Christ died on the Cross (John 3:16).

The greatest sacrifice was when the fellowship between the Father and the Son was broken by Christ dying for our sin. This is when Christ became sin who knew no sin and yelled: *"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me."* This had to be the highest price paid for anything in the history of man that we know about.●⁷ We need to learn of this love and practice it in our lifetimes.

We must realize that apart from a mature life with God living by His perfection, there is nothing. We must pay attention to God's command and pursue maturity. Remember, He did create us and thus, has a plan for our lives. Thus, we should know what it is and walk in it. Because He is perfect, no other plan can be better. Apart from Him, we would have no

6. KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS: We should keep the commandments because we love God, not just because they are the right thing to do.

7. IMAGINE: Imagine what it would be like if your spouse and/or your kids would have nothing to do with you or if, as children and youth, your parents would have nothing to do with you. This happened on the Cross. Christ felt forsaken.

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existence and certainly no eternal plan.

WE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION: THE MATURITY WE HAVE AT DEATH, WE MAY HAVE FOREVER: ●⁸We will all die with different maturities in Christ. But the Bible does not teach whether or not our spiritual maturity will or can increase in eternity. God has left it as a matter of faith. ●⁹ But there are several indicators that our maturity we have at death we may indeed have forever. ●¹⁰ We do not know for sure. God's thoughts can be different than our thoughts. What if it is true, and we do not pursue it? ***If our maturity we have is fixed at death forever and we do not adequately pursue it as God permits us to, it is a most terrible eternal mistake.*** ●¹¹ ***We will not know as***

8. RELATIVE MATURITY LEVELS: God allows us to enter eternity with different maturity levels. We will all walk by faith and by love. We will all keep the commandments that God leads us to obey. We may have different roles in heaven that require different maturities and gifting. We should praise God for what ever maturity we will have. But if we do not pursue the obedience that we know God wants, then we can deny ourselves a greater maturity by which to know more of God. The concept is to obey all that we know He wants done and seek to find all that we can of what He wants done. Of course the whole world does not have the same opportunities. God did not promise equality, but He did fairness God may develop us in eternity in ways we cannot tell now. But our path now is to pursue maturity as He commands.

9. FAITH: If we knew positively (it was declaratively written) that our maturity we have at death we will have forever, we would seek to gain this maturity by sight and would not pay as much attention to obey God, acting from faith, that we should pursue maturity now. The same was true of the Jews. God put in the Old Testament many prophecies without placing information in a.b.c order about the Messiah coming. If they had the a,b,c order information they would not have lived by faith. Although not an exact match, the general principle is the same about whether or not our maturity can increase in heaven. All we need to do is to obey God and seek maturity and we will be on the right track regardless of the future circumstances.

10. INDICATORS, NOT PROOFS, ARE MATURITY CAN BE FIXED FOREVER A DEATH: Some indicators that our spiritual maturity can be fixed forever at death include: (1) all of biblical history is designed to mature us in Christ; (2) the sinful environment of the world, flesh, and the devil used to develop and test our maturity (spiritual ability) is not allowed in heaven; (3) we make mistakes which are sins as we develop maturity, and there is no sin in heaven (Our sin natures are removed from us as we enter heaven. We will be unable to sin with our divine natures); (4) God commands us to become mature and live as Christ lives; (5) we were created immature beginning with Adam and Eve; (6) there are many stations in heaven - for example some will reign over 10 cities and some over 5; (7) we are given rewards in heaven based on our works in this life; and (8) there are Scriptures that this life has benefit for both now and for the life to come - we can have a better resurrection. (We wonder that if it could increase in heaven by some manner, then why this earth period. If it could, God could have created us with a minimum maturity and not send anyone to the Lake of Fire. He has given us a choice of the degree by which we will follow Him. And of course God may mature us in different ways than we can know now. But we should pursue maturity as God commands to have the best of God we can have. There is nothing else.)

Of course being more mature in Christ allows more opportunity for the elect to believe and accomplish God's work as part of the spiritual warfare.

11. OBEDIENCE; If we are obedient to all that we know that God wants us to do and become, we are on our way to become mature regardless of our realization or know that we should pursue maturity. God leads us to become more mature by the degree that He teaches us His will and commandments. We have varying degrees of needed teaching in our churches and throughout the world.

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much about the perfect God as we otherwise could and should. Those who love God and want to know Him to the fullest should pursue maturity with excellence and great commitment. What are you doing? What am I doing? Of course we have many questions, and we would desire that we all have the maximum maturity at our death. But if this would be so, then why this earth trek? We could have been created that way. But we were not. God promises us fairness, but not equality.

Our human thoughts are that we want for all of us to have the same maturity and that it can increase in heaven. But will this happen? It does not look like it from what we can know now.

We will gain much more knowledge and wisdom in eternity. But our ability to learn and handle it may depend upon our skill level of our ability to respond. Thus, it is expected that God will lead and guide us in eternity based on our the level of our spiritual ability, our spiritual gifts, our calling, and being used as a team member. (Even now He has gifted us differently and with different mental capabilities. And much given, much required(Luke 12:48). God has purposely given us different abilities.) God appears to have given us only this lifetime to gain this mature spiritual ability. In my view, this is one of the main reasons we are here. ***We must ensure we pursue maturity because God commands that we do. Thus, we must ensure our churches provide the needed training, and not just teach first level and just have activities for fellowship and relationships.***

But remember, spiritual maturity is gained by on-the-job training, by a life that is lived out using knowledge, faith, and love. Having only knowledge is a beginning, but it does not in itself make us mature. We need the application of the knowledge in our life experience. We need both the what to's and the how to's. We need vitally to teach and train with the how to's and with testimonies of how people have lived out their lives in His ways.

As will be discussed, central to becoming mature in Christ is at least several fold, all known by and lived out under the leading and filling of the Holy Spirit (these were introduced in the Preliminary Discussion) :●¹²

1. We are to appreciate God's absolute Greatness with His love, mercy, holiness, righteousness, loving kindness, etc. and our extreme spiritual poverty.

2. We are to live as Christ lives by living out the head-subordinate relationship principles as Christ lives in obedience to the Father with everything in life coming from the God the Father as a source (now from His leading for us to learn and obey the teachings in the Bible). We are to do this without taking any independent initiative and action on our part. Thus, one must live as an obedient bond servant. There is also a set of head-subordinate relationships

12. **TRAINING:** We have a document on our web site: *Living by God's Righteousness*. It can be used in the training. It contains Psalms with which to praise God, promises to memorize and by which to trust God, commandments to read and obey, the attributes of God - showing His Greatness, Leadership character qualities we should have, and principles of love and of prayer. Several pages can be read daily and one can work on the principles in which one does the poorest.

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for families based on those with Christ and the Father we must also know and obey.●¹³ We must not take any independent action from God the Father and Christ.

Phillippians 2:5-8 - Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

3. We are to love God with our total being and each other as we love ourselves such that we keep His commandments to live holy and righteously and sacrificially serve Him and each other. We are walk by faith and believe we are being led of the Holy Spirit that we are keeping the proper commandments. We must know the commandments.

4. We are to live by living faith in God to fulfill His promises as He works all things together for our good. We activate our faith to become living faith by obeying the instructions given with the promise. When we do this, we live without sin and, very importantly, we receive new revelation from God. We live without sin because we are trusting God, not ourselves to bring results. We are obeying the instructions that came from Him not from ourselves as a source. When things are uncertain, we believe that God is leading us. We must know the promises.

5. We are to live by the character qualities required for church leadership. We must know them.

6. We are to have the attitudes of the Beatitudes. We must know them.

There is much more, and we are to live in everything by a strong prayer life. If we live the above way under the Holy Spirit's leading we will be filled with the Holy Spirit and have fruit of the Spirit in our lives such as love, peace, and joy and in our ministries. We will have a strong and faithful prayer life.

Of course, we have many questions including what about those who have little chance to become mature. This would include those who die young or die without adequate training. God promises us fairness, but not equality. It is better to be in heaven with little maturity, than not to exist or be placed into the Lake of Fire. God may give more maturity to some for the benefit of the others. We have only one shot through life. So we do not want to make any eternal mistakes or waste our lives. Thus, we should pursue maturity as He commands and that with excellence and commitment. We should help each other in this pursuit. None of us know everything or as far along as we may like.

13. RELATIONSHIPS TO AVOID; We must not be married to unbelievers or make partnerships with them. Doing so will lead us in wrong ways and retard our maturity growth. And it is sin because it disobeys God's Word. *2 Corinthians 6:14 - Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?* Such certainly is the case when a man and woman live together without marriage and for those who are involved in homosexuality. ***We wish to make it clear that God and we love and care for those involved in these last two items. We just disapprove of the conduct and relationships for they are sin and are disobedience to God.***

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Our churches must train to mature their people, including their children and the youth, to the highest skill levels they understand with a complete and in depth-breadth curriculum. This must include on-the-job experiential training. ***Of course God can bring things in different ways and can mature our chosen curriculums. He will lead us into trials and relationship circumstances. The problem is that our churches very often do not have a sufficient curriculum by which to train and mature their people.●¹⁴ But should act to establish or obtain one.***

People desire to see a sermon lived out by preachers, teachers, Christian workers, and fathers and mothers much more than just to hear a sermon. We need to see the example life lived out. We need examples to follow. This happens when we see people having fruit in their lives and ministry as a result of God working in them. This happens when they live by faith in God to fulfill His promises and from sacrificial love, serving others. This comes from a love of God and for others. Very often with preachers, we hear, but do not see the sermon.

TRAINING TOPICS (CURRICULUM) REQUIRED TO BECOME MATURE IN CHRIST: *The Church's only goal is to mature their people in Christ. This section presents the method by which this is to be done.* We, in our understanding, must be trained in depth-breadth (with the Meat of the Word - a version of God's Whole Counsel - 2 *Timothy* 3:16) both academically and practically (the what to's and the how to's with some on-the-job training to become mature in Christ). We are to be trained in **at least** a four topic method such that life is lived coming from the Father, not ourselves, as a source. These topics are **(We need to be involved in all four and live them out under the Holy Spirit in order to become mature):**

1. **Worship and Glorify God:** We must learn to worship, praise, honor, obey, please, and glorify God. We glorify God by giving back to Him what He has given us to become and to do. We will do these when we appreciate His infinite Greatness and our extreme spiritual poverty. We will enjoy God. (Psalm 150; Matthew 22:37-38; John 4:23; 15:10; Acts 5:29; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 1:9-11, 18; Hebrews 11:6.)

2. **Live Godly as Christ Lives:** We must learn to live godly lives in head-subordinate relationships

14. GOD'S WAY IS EVERYTHING: *Again, we must realize that apart from a mature life with God living by His Perfection and Greatness, there is nothing. We must pay attention to God's command and pursue maturity. There is no other major pursuit in life that brings God's best for us. It brings mature living where we have love and care for each other, and when using faith, we trust God, not ourselves, to bring results that He promises. When we serve each other sacrificially from love and unselfishness, we all will be loved and served. We need to activate our faith by our carrying out the instructions associated with the promise.*

We must thoroughly understand we are not to just teach God's Word per se. We are to train people to live as Christ lives in both the academic and the practical. We are to teach both the what to's and the how to's with testimony for how we have lived out the principles. In teaching God's Word, we are to be application oriented with the how to's. We must teach it without being mainly or only be content and knowledge oriented.

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living in unity patterned after Christ's walk with the Father by faith and sacrificial love in close fellowship first with God and then with each other. Living sacrificial love must be central to our lives. When love is central, we will have greater obedience to God to keep His commandments (we must know them) and we will serve each other in greater sacrifice and unselfishness. We will live by faith in God to fulfill His promises (we must know them) to be without sin. We must activate this faith by obeying God's instructions with the promise. Such a faith life activates the divine nature, and we receive revelation from God. We live by love to live holy and righteously and to know the heart of God. (Psalm 150; Matthew 6:33; 22:39; John 5:19; 14:7-11, 15; 15:10; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 11:3; 13:13; Ephesians 5:18-20, 27; Colossians 1:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 11:6; 1 Peter 1:16; James 2:26; 1 John 2:6; 3:2-3.) (See a list of commandments and promises in my report: *Living by God's Righteousness.*)

3. Help Accomplish God's Work: We must help to evangelize the entire world, including our **ENTIRE** local area, to receive Christ as Savior, disciple converts to become mature in Christ-likeness not just work for spiritual growth, build godly families, plant new churches, and reach out to and help the needy. (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:45-48; Acts; Romans 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 3:6, 10-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; 9:10-15; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 8; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; Hebrews 6:1; 12:1-2; 1 John 3:16-18.)

4. Believe and Stand Firm on Basic Doctrines: We must know, believe and strong on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith without falling away for which we would be willing to die. These doctrines must include the Greatness and Attributes of God and, now that the endtimes are here, how endtimes prophecy unfolds so that we can be alerted, trained, ready, and prepared. These doctrines would be in a good Church doctrinal statement. (See the doctrinal statement on my web site as one example.)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

1 Timothy 4:6 - In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.

Acts 20:26-27 - "Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose (counsel) of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

GOOD FUNDAMENTAL CURRICULUM FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE FOUR TOPICS (OUR PERCEPTION): A good beginning training curriculum might consist of three studies. (1) The Christian-Faith Doctrines with the Attributes of God; (2) God's Plan for History (from Genesis to Revelation) with the Spiritual Warfare and Endtimes Prophecy (The subject matter of this report);

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and (3) Christian-Life Relationship Principles (Items 1, 2, and 3 above.)●¹⁵ We should develop a strong and faithful prayer life. With more time, these could be followed by a study of the Harmony of the Gospels (Life, ministry, and teachings of our Lord), selected New Testament books, and a survey of the Bible. Each of these studies should be taught in their depth-breadth and should include the practical with the academic - how we do what God requires of us. We, as stated, become mature by applying and living out what we know in our experience. We are not mature when we have primarily knowledge, even though it is important, vital, and necessary.●¹⁶ Without knowledge of God's ways and being obedient, the people perish (Job 36:11-12). Without love, we will not be keeping sufficient of God's commandments needed to live unselfishly, holy, and righteously. There will be less of God in us. Without faith, we will not claim many of God's promises so as to live without sin and receive revelation from God.

CENTRAL AND NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BECOME MATURE IN CHRIST: Central to this training is training to die to self such that God, not us, works all things together for our good (Roman 8:28). This will happen if we live out the above four topics. As He works all things together for our good, we will become, have, and do what He intends. ●¹⁷

We must live as bond servants without being in charge (Phillippians 2:5-10). This happens when we trust Him to do so. It is when we activate our faith in Him to work all things together for good by

15. MY TEACHING: I have taught these in the adult Sunday School and in home groups for many years. I have seen God change people and marriages. We should teach these to our churches in the topics listed for the curriculum. Many of my ppt charts are on the web site under *Christian-Life Relationship Principles*. I am still working to have my own life improved by living out more of these teachings with greater maturity. I plan to place more training on our web site.

Topics in Christian-Life Relationship Principles needed to become mature in Christ include (but not limited to):

(1) God's Goal: Mature High-Skill Spiritual Ability in Christ-Likeness; (2) Learning to Live Patterned After the Father and Son Relationship; (3) Living by Faith; Claiming and Using the Promises; (4) Living Testings and Sufferings that Develop our Faith; (5) Living by the Love that Keeps God's Commandments; (6) Living by Hope that Keeps One Pure; (7) Head-Subordinate Relationships; Building Strong Families; (8) Living Necessary Attitudes, Character Qualities, and Doctrines; (10) Having a Strong Prayer Life; (11) Living God's Way Under Spiritual Warfare; (12) Learning to Teach, Lead, Witness, and Evangelize; (14) Establishing and Operating Small Home Groups; (15) Recognizing and Correcting Spiritual Problems; Counseling; (16) Methods that Develop Our Personal Walk with God.

16 TRAINING MATERIALS: *Check our web site for training materials.* Read the documents under **Biblical Worldview** for God's Plan for history and the falling away of the Church. Check the documents under **Prophecy** for documents for how the endtimes unfold with the Rapture, Tribulation, and the 1000 years timing, the Jewish Situation, and what we will experience. Check under **Training** for *The Attributes of God* and for *Christian-Life Relationship Principles*. We plan to be adding charts and text materials. Check our doctrinal statement for a sample statement.

17. OUR WAY: If we attempt to work all things together for good instead of trusting God to do so in order to become, have, and do what we want, we will have wrong results. Note: *1 John 2:16 - For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh (Do) and the lust of the eyes (Have) and the boastful pride of life (Become), is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

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from love keeping His commandments and from His purpose, helping to accomplish His work (Romans 8:28). All things come from Him as a source. We cannot become mature until we die to self and take direction only from God (His Holy Bible) as led by His Holy Spirit. God must be in charge in our every experience and we respond from our love and desire to be used by Him. This direction can be direct or in application of His principles and teachings.

We will not live life in any manner for direction independent of God. God may give us some latitude under His direction by the Holy Spirit for how we carry out His direction. He told us to plan our ways (using His ways) and trust Him to bring them about - bring the results (Proverbs 16:9) Our Lord said that He glorified His Father because He accomplished all that His Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). Doing these, we glorify and worship God. We must learn to die to self and let God take charge. We must believe we cannot be in charge, acting like a god over our lives. Instead we should act as a bond servant in obedience as our Lord did. We must live to glorify God by obeying His will and accomplishing the work He gives us to do. All of this is found in the Bible.●¹⁸

Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

Phillippians 2:6-8 - who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

John 17:4 - "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.

We must believe we have great spiritual poverty so that we will no longer try to be in charge. We will live as servants - the servant role. We must let go and let God be in charge who has absolute perfection. We do this by using for life's direction only what is found in the Bible (use only an accurate translated Bible such as the KJB and NASB●¹⁹) and by our placing all things into His

18. **APPROVAL:** e.g. The ballerina can only take her bow after her instructor signals she has danced the way he taught her.

19. **PARAPHRASED BIBLES:** If we use inaccurate paraphrased Bibles that use much interpretation and have interpretation error, we can be learning error and can be doing things inaccurately and wrong without our intention or knowing it. (Even the NIVB has problems.) I only want to hear an accurate Bible read. I do not want to learn error. So why use paraphrased Bibles? Some use them because they are easier to understand by new people. The problem is that once starting to use them, one can continue to use them over a lifetime without changing to accurate Bibles. I am convinced that most who love and want to know God in His depth-breadth with commitment will use only the most accurate Bibles. We should use them in

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hands. We should present ourselves and everything we have to the Lord for His management and direction. We do this by realizing that only God can work all things together for our good and bring results. ●²⁰

Romans 12:1-2 - I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

As stated, we must conduct our lives in ways that allows God to bring the results as we live out our faith and works to trust Him and in our sacrificial love to obey His commandments. Thus, we will no longer attempt to direct our lives from ourselves as a source. ●²¹ And when things are uncertain and to accomplish the details of life, we will believe that what we are doing came from God and not from ourselves as a source. We will believe that He is guiding, protecting, and caring for us. We will trust Him to provide more guidance and to bring the results He intends. We will check out what we plan to do with Scripture so we can know in some principle it is of God. We sin when things come from us as a source. We will depart from dependence upon ourselves to having only dependence upon God. We will take faith-action steps to find and discover God's will and for Him to guide our way such as where does He want us to live, who should we marry, in which country does He want us to become a missionary, or what house we should purchase.

As will be stated, working things together for good himself was the great sin of Satan, and is the source of all sin - things come from us as a source. Thus, we act like a god. Satan sinned because he was enamored with his beauty (Ezekiel 28:14-19), not understanding his great spiritual poverty and did not understand and appreciate God's infinite Greatness. He wanted to be equal with God (Isaiah 14:10-16). No angel or man has ever seen or will ever see God the Father. He is omnipresent and exists in a form that can not be physically seen. Satan had to believe about God by what Christ told him and lived out. Christ's life represents that of God the Father. He is the visible image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). Satan did not use faith to learn about God the Father and went his own way to act like the Most High God. He did not realize that Christ was living out what came from God the Father. His acting like the Most High God probably meant to be like the Lord Jesus Christ who Satan wrongly thought was living an independent life. Satan most likely

our churches.

20. OUR GREATEST SIN: Our greatest sin is when we, ourselves, attempt to work all things together for our good. I call this way of living, the god role We do this when we establish our own direction and/or the degree of the direction. We do so because we wrongly believe we can or unknowingly by default, never having learned to trust God. We do this when we believe we can establish direction and how to carry it out. We should always seek God's Greatness by searching for all that God wants done and do it His intended scope with commitment and excellence.

21. SOURCE OF SIN: *We must realize that all sin comes from our attempting to work all things together for good - things coming from us as a source for our decisions, what we do, and how we live. When we do the latter, we act like the Most High God.* As stated, we do this, perhaps without desire, unknowingly, from immaturity, default, and ignorance. We sin when we pursue becoming, having, and doing what we want instead of what God wants.

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did not know or realize that all that Christ did came from the Father as a source.

Stated in another way, we are to live a faith-rest life in God to work all things together for our ultimate good. It is when we cease and rest from our works to accomplish and trust only God to produce results (Hebrews 4:10). We need works that God presents that are needed to activate our faith in God to accomplish according to what He promises in Scripture. Holy and righteous life without sin can only be lived in us as we live out from faith what God is working in us. All of life must come from Him as a source. Even when we have inadequate direction, we must believe what we are doing He is leading us to do. This trust is to be based on Bible teachings. None of life is to come from us as a source. This is always sin because we have no righteousness of our own. Our righteousness is like filthy rags or garments (Isaiah 64:6). God alone is qualified to lead life. But to have life to the fullest, we need a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness with which to respond to have life the fullest that He may lead us to have. Then we will live holy and righteously. (Indeed God gave us good minds to do work with excellence. But we did not earn these, and they, by themselves, do not make us mature. Thus, we should use them with excellence believing that God is working in us as we do. He gave us minds and spiritual gifts that we would accomplish His chosen tasks and ministries.)

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND: Living by sacrificial love is vital and absolutely necessary to becoming mature in Christ. If we have all knowledge and have great faith, and we are without love, we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-2). This implies that those (even seminary professors and pastors) who have a large knowledge of Bible content, but do not live by adequate love, can be immature Christians. We do not want a Bible College or Seminary that teaches mostly Bible content without also teaching how to live as Christ lives centered in love for God and people. We need Bible content. But it must be learned in a manner that helps us to live the Christian life as Christ walked with the Father by both sacrificial love and faith and to accomplish ministry under God's direction as He works in us. ***Thus, we should call our training place a Discipleship Training Center with the goal to train people to walk with God under the Holy Spirit's leading, in addition to mainly knowing Bible knowledge.*** We need a complete curriculum that will take us to a maximum maturity in Christ. It must not be limited to a selection of topics, however good. They will not get the job done. We must train with both the what to's and the how to's and have a testimony for how we lived out what He was working in us to do. We should share such testimony when teaching. ●²²

22. PASTORS AND TEACHERS: Our pastors and teachers are teaching many good things. But there are many levels of maturity in Christ. We can have somewhat immature pastors and teachers (any of us) who train mostly with Bible knowledge and content and the what to's without also teaching the how to's and giving personal testimony for how they lived out the knowledge and principles. They need to walk by faith and sacrificial love. ***We need to see the sermon as well as hear one. Without testimony for what happens and how things work, this teaching comes across as that no one has lived the principles before.*** We can be strong in doctrine, but not know how we actually live out the Christian life by faith and by sacrificial love. We can be doctrine and not be life oriented. We need both.

We must be careful to realize that if we have much Bible knowledge and content, but we do not live out and train for how we live the Christian life as Christ lives with everything coming from God the Father, we can be immature in Christ. The one who knows little of the Bible, but lives a life of love and faith in what He knows can be more mature than pastors and Bible teachers who know much more, but do little with it. Thus, we must not just teach the Bible, but instead to use the Bible to train people to walk with God and become

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DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING ENVIRONMENT: For us to gain maturity in our experience, there needs to be a developing and testing experiential environment where mistakes can be made and where we can gain proficiency. In the spiritual relationship realm, mistakes are sin. God uses the developing and testing environment of the world, the flesh (depraved nature), and the devil (Satan) to help develop our maturity in Christ as we trust God to fulfill His promises. God does not personally test us. He leads us in situations where the devil, the world, or our depraved natures can lead us to doing wrong things if we do not obey God's commandments. We will have been taught the correct thing to do before the test begins (1 Corinthians 10:13). The Lord said, when tested by Satan, it is written in the Bible that we obey God in this manner, not what you want Me to do (Luke 4:4-12).

All testing is whether or not we will trust God or ourselves to work all things together for good where we faith-rest in Him to bring results and we ceased from our works to accomplish. It is whether we will love God such that we keep His commandments. It is whether or not we will live trusting God or ourselves as a source for what we do. We can be cold, lukewarm, or hot in this. Thus, we can trust God and ourselves as different parts of the time. Said in other words, are we going to trust God to be God or ourselves to be god?

In order to trust God to the fullest, we need to search the Scriptures for all that God wants done for direction and method and do these with commitment and excellence and to His full scope and intent. This action shows our love for God and an appreciation for His Greatness. Not doing this and not having this love, our churches are going much along their own way.●²³ Going our way, we will gain the wrong or incomplete experience and have limited spiritual growth and maternity. In these endtimes, this is a major falling away from God's best and requirements, churches going much their own way. Churches are involved in different amounts. Thus, they can be forfeiting their knowing and relating to God as much in eternity. And many can be without salvation and not go to heaven, but instead to the Lake of Fire for eternity.

IN SUMMARY: MAJOR UNDERSTANDING: ***Our first priority and most of our time is to train our own people especially our gung ho and most faithful.***●²⁴ Our secondary priority is to reach out to new people and the watchers. If we primarily work to reach new people and work at the watcher level, then few will become mature in Christ unless they study and work mostly on their

mature in Christ. We need a curriculum representing God's Whole Counsel of the most needed aspects for this to happen. Does your church have one? Do you have one?

23. **DOING GOOD THINGS;** Our churches can be doing many good things. We all see this. But if we are not doing major ministries and/ or doing wrong things or things our way, we can remain less mature than that what God has planned for us. Doing this, Church leadership can bring harm to their people.

24. **PRIORITY:** Our first priority is to our own people. *1 Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever. If we dumb down our teaching for new people without also training our own in depth-breadth with God's Whole Counsel, after a few months go by, we will not learn much new and specifically we will not learn of the greater walk. Leadership especially will be sinning. We will not mature our people as God commands. If a man does not care for his own family, how can he take care of the house of God (1 Timothy 3:5)?*

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own or by other means. This is also true if we train with mostly Bible content without also training how to live the Christian life with both the what to's and the how to's. Many augment their Church training by using the training of Bible Study Fellowship and Precepts Ministries. We must understand that our job is to bring people to maturity in Christ using the Bible - not just to teach Bible content. We need to do both.●²⁵ We must see that our course is to use the Bible to train people and ourselves to walk with God. We need to be outcome oriented so we will ensure to be maturing our people. ***Thus, as stated, we should have a Discipleship Training Center, not a Bible School. But will our churches establish one with the needed in depth-breadth training curriculum with both the what to's and how to's?●²⁶ Do they have one?***

25. **TRAINING:** We must realize that a collection of sermons over some time period helps us grow, but in themselves generally are not sufficient to lead us to maturity. Generally pastors teach on subjects needed for the time, but their topics are but a small set of that needed for maturity. We need in some manner to teach an entire and needed training curriculum,

26. **MY GOAL:** My greatest interest is not to teach the Bible per se for mainly content, regardless of its value as a goal or objective. Instead, my greatest interest and goal is to train people to walk with and serve God using the Bible and its vital content. It is a difference in goal and approach, and the results one obtains are different.