

**Training in God's Whole Counsel,
Emphasizing Growing in Christ-Likeness**

CHRISTIAN-LIFE RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES

Becoming Mature in Christ-Likeness

By Learning to Live God's Best

In Biblical Head-Subordinate Relationships

Part One: Introduction to God's Plan



Theme: Learning to walk as Christ walked.

1 John 2:6

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**Scripture Quotations Are Taken From
The New American Standard Bible**

PRAISE THE LORD

(Tune of Edelweiss)

**Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.
Joy each day, He is bringing.
Praise the Lord, He is God.
Come Before Him with Singing.**

**We His people should praise His Name.
Always be thanksgiving.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.
He is Faithful and Giving.**

PRAISE THE LORD

(Tune of Edelweiss)

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, Alleluia.

King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Praise His Name forever.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, Alleluia.



BASIC QUESTIONS

**If someone were to ask you these questions,
how would you answer them in depth?**

- 1. What is God's major purpose for putting us on the earth?**
- 2. How do we walk close to God and come to know Him?**
- 3. How do we become spiritually mature in Christ-likeness?**
- 4. How do we build godly families, living in unity?**
- 5. How do we solve spiritual relationship problems in our families?**
- 6. How do we walk by faith and live by love?**
- 7. How do we have purity and avoid immorality?**
- 8. How do we find God's work that He wants us to do?**
- 9. How do we train others to witness the Gospel?**
- 10. What do we do when things go wrong; how do we make corrections?**
- 11. What happens to us when we become Christians? Can we lose our salvation?**
- 12. What is the meaning of redemption & atonement for iniquity?**
- 13. What the biblical characteristics of God's choice for a husband and wife?**



THE BOTTOM LINE

Apart from us having mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living so we can know and relate to God toward His fullest throughout eternity, living holy and righteously in close fellowship with Him and each other, there is nothing. We must pay attention and cooperate with God to gain this spiritual ability.

INTRODUCTION TO GOD'S PLAN FOR US

Are you now gaining the spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness that God has planned that we attain and is needed both for now, but especially for eternity?

Are you pursuing the work that God wants you to do?

Do you have a plan in place to pursue with excellence God's Plan for your life?



PURSUE GOD'S BEST

THINK IN TERMS OF DOING, HAVING, AND BECOMING GOD'S BEST, INSTEAD OF HIS GOOD

- 1. Train to know God, having an intimate walk with Him, instead of mainly learning and knowing the Bible**
- 2. Train to obey Scriptures from faith, love, and hope instead of from our intellect and objective thinking. Avoid idolatry and immorality with high commitment.**
- 3. Lead people (and ourselves) to help reach high skill levels of spiritual maturity in Christ, instead of mainly aiming at Christian growth.**
- 4. Become, have, & do what God wants, instead of mainly knowing what He wants. Train with God's Whole Counsel (a curriculum) instead of with some Bible teachings.**
- 5. Help Evangelize your entire area, instead of doing only some witnessing; but do it one person at a time – do on-the-way witnessing in divine appointments.**

THINK IN TERMS OF EXCELLENCE WITH GOD



THINK IN TERMS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

- * Study and write a doctrinal paper on each subject as it comes along to paint a facet of the diamond - eventually the diamond will form. Become an expert in the things of God.**
- * When the Bible teaches we should keep the commandments - then search them out, learn them, and keep them.**
- When the Bible teaches we should live by faith keeping God's promises, we should learn and memorize them, and apply them as the opportunity comes.**
- * Teach people both what to do and how to do things. Put people in a position to act.**
- * When the Bible teaches that we should walk by love, faith, and hope, study the entire Bible on how these are done, and live them out. Then write a doctrinal paper on the subject.**
- * As you learn things, put them in the perspective of walking with and having a relationship with God and in His plan to take us to maturity in Christ.**



OUR THINKING MUST CHANGE TO THAT OF GOD'S

If we are to gain God's plan for us, we must by necessity change our thinking to that of the Bible to responsive living to God – no longer use our own ideas.

We must avoid taking any independent initiative for direction than that described in the Bible. This must be learned and practiced. We can use our gifts and abilities by faith, love, and hope to carry out that direction.

We must think in terms of applying God's principles, claiming God's promises, and keeping God's commandments in every area of life (this assumes that we know them).

When we have problems in our lives and families, we should understand that we can be breaking God's spiritual relationship laws or that we are to grow spiritually in a specific area and/or He has a job for us to do.



FOUR COMMITMENTS

- 1. Go All The Way With God Whether Or Not Anyone Else Does. (Hebrews 12:1-2)**
- 2. Use Only The Bible For Faith And Life's Direction. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
- 3. Present Yourself Daily To God As A Living Sacrifice And Instrument Of Righteousness; Allow God To Arrange And Direct Your Day & Life. (Romans 6:13; 12:1)**
- 4. Confess Your Sin To God Before Going To Sleep Each Night - You May Also Say The Lord's Prayer. Restore any broken fellowships as soon as you can. (Matthew 6:8-13; Ephesians 4:26; 1 John 1:9)**



SOW AND REAP PRINCIPLE

SOW GREATLY TOWARD GOD

We can only reap in the amount and in the direction that we sow. (2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-9)

DO NOT BE DOUBLE MINDED

We cannot serve God and mammon (riches) or two masters, and we should not try to please both God and self. (Matthew 6: 24; James 1:6-8)



STEPS FOR LEARNING AND GROWING

- 1. Work under a master teacher; listen to good teachers; prepare doctrinal papers (Include tapes, books, seminars, sermons, talks)**
- 2. Read several chapters of your Bible daily. Read about the lives of saints.**
- 3. Pray about all relationships daily.**
- 4. Restore any lost fellowships daily with God and people.**
- 5. Live under head-subordinate relationships; live your role. Place yourself under authority and please head in all things. See and examine all things in terms of our relationship to God and His purposes for us.**
- 6. Study commandments daily and keep them.**
- 7. Let head work all things together for good.**
- 8. Listen to teachers with perspective to teach same material to others.**
- 9. Practice living by faith and love; witness regularly.**
- 10. Get into a Bible Training & discussion group that wants to seriously walk with God and accomplish His work.**



**SEE LIFE IN TERMS OF RELATIONSHIPS
AND BEING A LOVE SERVANT TO GOD AND OTHERS**

*** See All Of Life In Terms Of Relationships
And Areas Of Responsibility And Accountability
To Those Relationships As A Love Service**

- GOD
- SPOUSE, PARENTS
- FAMILY, RELATIVES
- EMPLOYER, EMPLOYEES
- FRIENDS, CHURCH PEOPLE
- WORLD PEOPLE

*** See Everything Else In Terms Of Logistic
Support To Those Relationships In Loving
Support**

- NEEDS OF LIFE
- JOB, FINANCIAL, COLLEGE
- HEALTH, LOCATION
- METHODS, BOOKS, SEMINARS
- BUILDINGS, MINISTRIES
- FINANCES, INVESTMENTS

*** Do Not Look At Life As Serving Self By Being Something,
Having Things Or Doing Things**

- MANAGER, BOSS. HEAD
- IMPORTANT, PRESTIGE
- GREATNESS, BEAUTIFUL
- POSITION, OFFICE
- WEALTH, COMFORT, SAFETY
- KNOWLEDGE, MATERIALISM, HOUSES
- HAVING SEX, FUN, RECREATION
- WATCHING TV OR SPORTS
- TRAVELING, SKIING



PRAY AND LIVE BY PRIORITY RELATIONSHIPS

BASED ON ACTS 1:8
AND
HEAD- SUBORDINATE
RELATIONSHIP
TEACHINGS

PRIORITY RELATIONSHIPS

1. God, Christ
2. Spouse, Parents
3. Children, Brothers, Sisters
4. Job, College, Training, School
Financial Support
5. People In Called Ministries
6. Close Friends And Relatives
7. Church Fellowship And Church Friends
8. Casual Friends, The World, People
On The Job And At School

Called Ministries

1. Family
2. Local Church
3. Neighborhood
4. Community
5. Area, County
6. State
7. Country
8. World

Local Church

1. Staff, Leaders, Elders
2. Disciples, Workers, Deacons
3. Church Fellowship
4. Witnessing And Evangelism
Outside The Church

1Timothy 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.



SUMMARY: GOD'S GOALS FOR RESPONDING PEOPLE

Objective - We Reach High-Skill Spiritual Ability in Christ-Likeness for Now & Especially for Eternity

- **Benefit-Purpose** - So We Can Know & Relate to God In His Depth, live love sacrificial lives, live holy & righteous lives, according to perfect Truth in True Fellowship with Him and Each Other; Needed for now & in eternity.
- **Cost** – Learn, Train & Live out these lives now in the trials and testings of life for developing and proving spiritual ability in us
- **Time** - Lifetime

**Apart From Knowing and Relating to God in His Depth,
According to His Perfect Truth, There Is Nothing.**



PURPOSE OF THIS DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

GOAL: To know God intimately, live under His Kingdom authority in holiness, and relate to Him and each other using His righteousness and character qualities, toward the fullest, with excellence.

METHOD - HELP TRAIN WITH GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS TO:

1. Grow toward becoming mature in the full stature and fullness of Christ

Ephesians 4:12-13 - for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

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.

2. Be involved in area-wide evangelism – do God's work

Mark 16:15 - And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Entire local areas).



BIBLE TRAINING PURPOSE

GOD'S PURPOSE:

That We Become the Person That Has a High-Skill Mature Spiritual Ability in Christ-Likeness So That We Can Know and Relate to God Intimately and In-Depth, and Live Holy & Righteous lives Under His Kingdom Authority & Holy Spirit.

OUR PURPOSE:

That We Accomplish God's Purpose by Learning In-Depth and In-Breadth with God's Whole Counsel to: (1) Glorify God; (2) Living a Godly Life in Relationship Living; and (3) Accomplish His Work That Includes Discipling to Maturity and Doing Area-Wide Evangelism (Christ's Great Commission).



GOD'S PURPOSE

To Implement God's purpose for us, He wants us to:

- 1. Glorify, worship, honor, obey, please, and know God***
- 2. Live a godly life in relationship living using love, faith, and hope in holiness and righteousness under the Holy Spirit, fellowshiping with God and with each other. Have a life that actually trusts God to work all things together for our ultimate good.***
- 3. Help accomplish God's work of evangelism, discipleship, planting churches, and reaching out to the needy, being there for each other***
- 4. Build godly families in unity***
- 5. Stand strong in the faith on Christian doctrines***
- 6. Know God's Plan over history to become mature in Christ, understand the spiritual warfare, and what to expect as the future unfolds***