

Christ-Centered



Biblical Training

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

DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER-REPORT

GAINING MATURITY IN CHRIST-LIKENESS IS WHY WE ARE HERE

(We, Most Importantly, Are to Glorify God)

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NEWSLETTER REPORT FOR A DISCUSSION OF WHY WE ARE HERE ●1 ●2 (The Tie Between Glorifying God, Gaining Maturity in Christ to Know and Relate to God in His Depth-breadth, and Having God's Glory Manifested Through Us) (Associated Scriptures Are Presented at the End)

PURPOSE AND PREFACE: *This report is meant to expand the discussion in the previous referenced newsletter-report ●3 regarding gaining maturity in Christ and why we are here. It is meant also to be a stand alone. You may wish to read the previous November 2007 Newsletter-Report first.*

Why are we here? Some believe the main reason we are here is to glorify God. This is of course most essential and vitally involved. But as will be discussed, this is more from our perspective and how as well as why we are to live. God's perspective of why we are here includes developing and gaining the mature spiritual ability in the trials and testings of life so we can know and relate to Him in His depth-breadth. It is so we can fellowship with and exalt Him, living amidst His Greatness and Glory. It is so we will have the required ability for His Greatness to be manifested through our lives and to glorify Him most effectively. We want to glorify God because of His infinite Greatness and Perfection. We must glorify God by our obedience to become mature and to keep from sin. We love Him for who and what He is and because He is love and He loved us first. As we gain more maturity, we get to know more of His depth-breadth. Having the spiritual ability to know Him and live this perfect life is all there is. There is nothing else.

1. **TARGET AUDIENCE:** This newsletter report is meant for those who want to go all the way with God and for those who are in church and family leadership that are responsible for the training of others under God.

2. **WHY ARE WE HERE:** Many believe the main reason we are here is to glorify God. Where this is essential and most vital without question, others of us believe we are here from God's perspective to gain spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness so we can know and relate to God in His fulness in eternity. We need to (and want to) glorify God as part of the growth and learning process and doing so is most essential to our walk with God. This newsletter discusses the issues and their inter relationship. We desire to draw us all into unity so that we all can grow to have a maximum walk and relationship with God.

3. **THIS REPORT:** This report presents a discussion based on and is an augmentation to the report: *Special Summary Report: Gaining Maturity in Christ-likeness Is Why We Are Here; The Priority Job of the Church* (November 2007 Newsletter) See also other reports on my web site: **(1) Keys to Becoming Mature in Christ-likeness in Relationship Living;** **(2) Seek God's Best and Greatness;** and **(3) Pursue Spiritual Maturity in Christ-Likeness as God Commands With Commitment and Excellence.**

SUMMARY: God alone has infinite Greatness, Capability, Glory, and Value. All of divine life must come from Him. One can only live a perfect life amidst His Greatness and Glory if and as He directs everything and works all things together for good. We are spiritually impoverished so we are unable to direct our lives without sin (breaking God's spiritual laws of relationships). We are to humble ourselves before Him, bow our knees, and exalt and obey Him in all things. Then we can live amidst His perfection and glorify Him. We can only glorify Him by being obedient to that which comes from Him as a source.●4 This is the only true life for us that exists. Life can only come from Him. Because we are spiritually impoverished, God draws us to Himself and leads and guides us in all that we are to do, think, and say.●5

We must train so we respond only to His life (and leading) and that no life comes from us as a source. This is what God has planned so we can walk with Him amidst His perfection. It is so we can live perfect lives from His infinite perfection. This happens when, from His perfection, He directs every thought and action we will ever have. Of course this is a growth process now in our lifetime. (Of course He has directed in His Word some routine things such as we have to work for a living.)

Thus, we are here to become mature in Christ so that we can live by the higher levels of God's holiness and righteousness. It is so we can relate to and know God toward His fullness. This is so that His infinite Glory can be manifested through our lives as we learn to live as Christ lives in head-subordinate relationships with Christ and the Father with everything coming from the Father as a source. Then we live in close fellowship with God and each other. This results because we are only doing what comes from God as a source. In this manner, we can glorify God and enjoy Him forever toward the maximum. Then we can observe God's Greatness and Glory manifested in all of us as we live out what God is working in us. Then it .will be God all in all with our every thought and action coming from God as a source. As a result, we will glorify and enjoy God forever as we live by His Greatness and Great Glory. (But as will be stated several times, this can only happen in a mature way after we become mature in Christ.)

Thus, FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE, we are here to gain this mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in head-subordinate relationship living so that we can know and relate to Him. It is so we can live holy and righteous lives with His Great Glory and Greatness manifested through us. It is so we can live by His great Value. As we observe all of us, we see more of God's Glory and Greatness as it is lived out and manifested through our lives.

FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, we are here to gain maximum maturity in Christ so that we can know more of the infinite God and live more amidst His infinite Glory. It is so we can live in close relationship with Him. We help accomplish this by living to glorify God, not ourselves, by being obedient to Him in all things. We desire to glorify Him because, in His infiniteness, He is perfect, holy, righteous, and true. He has love and is love. Then we will trust God to

4. **DO ONLY THAT WHICH COMES FROM GOD:** In an example, the ballerina dancer does not take her bow after her performance until after her instructor signals to her that she has performed according to his teachings and instructions. She brought glory to her instructor as she danced by what came from him as a source. As a result, they saw what came from the instructor and not from her as a source.

5. **GOD'S GREATNESS AND ATTRIBUTES:** Please read our report on our web site: *The Attributes of God* that describe God's Greatness.

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work all things together for our good (only He can do this). ●6

(We must think in terms of eternity to know why we are here. We are here to become mature in Christ so that we can live by the Greatness of God in eternity amidst His infinite and great Glory. As we do, we glorify God by our lives. We will live to glorify God in all things by responding in obedience to His leading and teaching in all things.)●7

NECESSARY BACKGROUND: In order to understand why we are here and how we are to live holy and righteously in a responding life to God without sin, there are several concepts that must be first understood and many lived out. These include (there are other aspects):

1. We must understand that God in His infinite Greatness inherently has all the perfect attributes and character qualities that exist. He has the only value that exists. We can only live perfect lives and have value as He directs our lives and places His value in us. We have no natural ability whatever to live without sin, thus, breaking God's laws. He must direct every aspect of our lives. He may give us divine choices in His leading.
2. In order for God to direct our lives and accomplish much more (the maximum) of what He has planned for us, we must first become mature in high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living in order that we can respond properly to Him.●8 Christ is our only role model. Thus, we must learn to live as Christ lives with everything for direction and action coming from God the Father as a source. Living this way, we do nothing from ourselves as a source. Thus, living this way, then when people observe us, they see God the Father and His Glory manifested through our lives. This is because we are doing only what is coming from God as a source and are doing nothing from ourselves as a source. This is how our Lord lives. We are commanded to learn and to live this way.

6. **REQUIREMENT:** In my view, we will work with commitment and excellence to become mature in Christ only after we appreciate God's Greatness and our extreme poverty. We will work to mature in Christ when we want to live perfect lives and want Him to work all things together for good. This result requires our searching the Scriptures and integrating them for all He wants for our direction and for how we are to live our lives. It helps immensely to have examples to follow and the needed teaching that gives us the challenge to do so. The problem we have today is that the needed teaching with training and the testimonial examples are missing with the dumbing down of our churches, resulting in inadequate church and personal life.

7. **REPORT OF HISTORY'S EVENTS:** Our report : **PART THREE** of ***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*** shows how all of the major events of Biblical history are designed to and lead us to becoming mature in Christ. This is so we can know and relate to our perfect God and live amidst His Great Glory forever. It is so His value can be placed in us. The report shows the spiritual warfare and how endtimes prophecy unfolds to terminate His plan. It describes what must happen before the Rapture and Tribulation can come.

8. **THE WORKS OF GOD:** God has chosen good works for what we are to do. By faith, using our spiritual gifts, we accomplish the works that we believe that God has chosen for us to accomplish. When we do, we will discover these are the works that He has chosen for us. We can only know of the works by faith and open doors and as we sense His leading. But walking by faith, we can only know of things after we have walked by faith. (*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*)

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Our maturity in Christ can only be measured by God. The degree of our maturity is measured by how well we respond to the every leading of God in all aspects of life in comparisons, to how our Lord, being perfect, would respond in perfection, if He were to act in our place. He is our only role model.

We must pay attention here because we are commanded to pursue this maturity in Christ. But we are not told whether or not our maturity can or will increase in heaven. God has left it as a matter of faith. But there are eight or more Scriptural indicators that signal our maturity is most likely fixed forever at death.●9 We are here to gain this maturity, otherwise God could have created us the way He wanted us to be as we enter eternity. But He did not do this. As stated, we are here to gain the mature spiritual ability living as Christ lives so that we can relate to and know God.

One main reason we are here is that the greatest example of sacrificial love by which we are to live by was demonstrated by Christ on the Cross. Without this demonstration, we might not ever know what this greatest mature love is all about.

3. We must live to glorify God in all our thoughts, actions, and speech as a purpose for life and to live without sin. We glorify God only by being obedient to Him as led of the Holy Spirit, giving back to God in all areas of life that He has asked us to do and become. We glorify God because when we obey God, His glory is manifested through us. We cannot glorify God and live without sin by what comes from us as a source regardless of how good it may seem and what purpose we believe it may achieve. This concept of glorifying God was demonstrated by our Lord:

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

4. More of God is manifested through our lives as we become more mature in Christ. This is because God can direct us and use us in greater and more mature ways. As we respond to Him from greater maturity in greater ways, more of His ways and greatness are manifested through our lives. We can learn much more about God and His Greatness. Thus, if we are to glorify God toward the maximum and have more of His Glory manifested through us, we must become mature in Christ-likeness. This is, of course, a growth process. As we grow in Christ, we will glorify God more and more. (But not to pursue maturity in Christ?)
5. As unbelievers with a depraved nature, one cannot glorify God because one's thoughts and actions from us as a source are independent from God - independent of perfection. We can only become believers and become Christians as God works in us and we respond to Him as He draws us to Himself. The whole Christian life is lived this way. When we become Christians, we

9. **INDICATORS:** For example, the events of the whole Bible lead us to becoming mature in Christ, the development environment of the world, flesh, and the devil that God uses to bring us to maturity is not allowed in heaven, and in the learning process in relationship living, we sin (make mistakes), and no sin will be in heaven, and women did not work to release their husbands from torture so they could have a better resurrection. And further our sin natures will be removed from us so we can no longer sin (make mistakes in learning). We go into heaven with our divine natures and whatever we developed in them in our lifetimes. ***And of course God commands us to no longer only pursue the basic fundamentals, but to pursue this maturity (Hebrew 6:1).***

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receive a new divine nature that cannot sin. It can only respond to God. We use the divine nature when we obey God. We use our depraved natures when we go our own way.

(When we obey God, we act under His headship. But when we disobey God, as Adam and Eve did as they obeyed Satan, we act in practice under the headship of Satan. As unbelievers, we are in the Dominion of Satan and under his godhead. When we become a Christian, we are translated into the Kingdom of God to become Christ's Church. God gives us a new divine nature that when it acts under God's leading, it does so under the headship of God. But still retaining the sin nature, when we use it doing things from ourselves as a source, we act under Satan's headship (of course not wanting to), and we sin. Thus, to live a divine life, all aspects of our lives must by necessity come from God as a source. And we should want this. Having this happen, our lives glorify God because His Greatness is manifested and demonstrated through us.)

God works in us to believe and accomplish His works as we respond to Him in obedience. These are respectively called the leading and the filling of the Holy Spirit. This is how the Christian life is to be lived. Living this way, we live holy and righteously, and our lives glorify God. They glorify God because His Glory is manifested through us and others can see His Glory. From a composite of believers, gifted differently, we can see much of His Greatness and Glory as He works in us in different (or the same) ways depending on our gifting, calling, and maturities.

6. When we respond properly to God as a branch attached to the vine of Christ, we will have fruit. This will be in our general lives, in our ministries, and in our souls. It is called the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This happens in our maturity, when we do only what comes from God as a source. Having this fruit, our lives glorify God.

HOW WE BECOME MATURE IN CHRIST: There are many aspects that must be learned and lived out under God's direction. We present several of the important ones.

Background: God the Father, being omnipresent, cannot be physically seen. We are to live by faith that He exists and what we are doing is coming from Him as a source. We are not doing things from our ourselves. ●10

Ingredients Needed for Maturity: The following are key aspects needed to become mature in Christ and to live the Christian life (Each of these aspects have a depth-breadth and a multiplicity of maturity or spiritual ability levels):

Most Essential: We are to live by and in the head-subordinate relationships patterned after the life that Christ had with the Father. We are to walk as He walked. This one is most key. We are to live by the extension in the relationships between a husband and wife and parents with children. We

10. **RESURRECTION BODIES;** Some may believe that we may be as spirits in heaven and thus, can see God the Father in this way. The Bible teaches, however, we will receive new resurrection bodies similarly to the one our Lord received. So we will not be in only the spirit in heaven. We must walk by faith then as we do now that He exists, even though we cannot visually see Him. The Bible teaches that no man has seen God at any time. When people saw God on the earth, they were actually seeing the Lord Jesus Christ.

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are to live by only that which comes from God the Father as a source. We are to do nothing from ourselves as a source. The wife and children are to believe that God is directing the husband and father in their obedience. Thus, their true obedience is to God. ***Living as Christ lives is most essential for all the other and all aspects of life. (This is why it is best that the husband and father be the most mature in the family. The wife also can demonstrate this maturity and influence her husband to have greater obedience to God. (I had a wife like that.)***

1. We are to live for God's purposes, and not our own (if they differ). When we do this, we glorify God. We will have more incentive to do this when and after we appreciate God's Greatness and our spiritual poverty.
2. We are to live by faith in God to fulfill His many promises in the Scriptures. We activate our faith by obeying the instructions with the promise. When we do, we live without sin and we gain more revelation from God of the Scriptures. We live without sin because everything is coming from God, not from ourselves, as a source. We must know and memorize the promises.

Thus, we are to live so that God, not us, works all things together for good. We are unable from ourselves as a source to make this happen. When we attempt to work all things together for good, we act like the Most High God. This was Satan's great sin. When we attempt to work all things together for good, we take ourselves out from under the headship and chain of command of God. All sin comes from this action.

3. We are to love God with our total beings and obey His commandments. We are to walk by faith to keep the needed commandment. When we do, we live holy and righteous lives. We must learn and know the commandments. Then we come to know God's heart.
4. We are to love each other as we love ourselves and serve each other from this love sacrificially. There is no greater love than a person lay down his life for his friends.
5. We must live by the principles of love in 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Without love, having all knowledge and all faith, we are nothing.●11 This is because we need love to obey God's commandments to live holy and righteous lives and to know God. Without love, we cannot know God. God is and has love.
6. We are to have and live by the character qualities for Church leadership.
7. We are to have and live by the altitudes in the Beatitudes.
8. We are to accomplish the work that God has asked us to do. This includes evangelism of complete local areas, discipleship to maturity in Christ, building godly families, planting new churches, and reaching out to and helping the needy.

11. PASTORS AND TEACHERS: Thus, those who have a great knowledge of the Bible and teach and preach, but do not have a life that demonstrates love by keeping God's commandments can be rather immature Christians. This can be true also of those who teach what to do without also teaching how to do things, and give living examples of how they lived out the principles.

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You might obtain our publication from our web site entitled: *Living By God's Righteousness*. It contains promises to memorize, commandments to obey, the attitudes of God, the spiritual requirements for leadership, the principles of love, prayer principles, and Psalms by which to praise God in our lives and prayers.

PROBLEMS: Problems come when believers are not adequately pursuing maturity in Christ so that more of God's Glory is manifested. We need to train our people toward maturity and give them the challenge to become mature. Our lives must show (demonstrate) the way. People respond better when there is a challenge to become greater and more mature than they are and be involved together in ministry. They respond when they see the Glory of God manifested. But they need the teaching and the living examples to follow. Unfortunately, the way our churches are going now very often neither the needed teaching or the lived-out examples are present. Thus churches are going through the motions (such as having a church service, sermon, and Sunday School) and less and less of God's Glory is being manifested. We must turn this around, if we want our attendance and our maturity in Christ to increase. We need to be matured and briefed before the endtimes come that can come at any time.

Such a manifestation of challenge, showing the godly example, with much of the manifestation of God will attract people to become Christians, attend Church, and for Christians to want to grow in Christ. Immature Christians may not act to glorify God in all aspects of their lives.●12●13 ●14

SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEMS: We need a Church life that demonstrates divine life, not one that genially only has basic functions and mainly teaching however good. For us to have a dynamic Church life under God and gain maturity in Christ, we need to present a challenge before the people to become more than in growth to a mature Christ-likeness than what they now are and to

12. **TODAY'S PROBLEM;** Our churches today, not adequately appreciating God's Greatness, do not manifest as much of God's Glory because they are going their own way. They have lost their excellence before God. Instead of trusting God for work all things together for good going His way, they are attempting to work all things together for good themselves. Thus, we are seeing less and less of God's Glory manifested in our churches. They are working to meet man's needs as seen by man (things coming from man as a source instead of from God) instead of maturing their people in Christ so one can know more of God and live to more completely glorify Him. They are bringing the world into the church, including its music, to help attract the youth and young married and meet man's felt needs, instead of doing things God's way. Thus, man is being more glorified than is God. This is sin.

13. **MATURITY:** I know of a person who does not attend Church because the Church does not live out what it professes to believe. Why join something that is failing. Thus, many churches do not manifest the Glory of God that will attract people so they will want to become part of the Church. Today, many people attend Church to get their felt needs met, not to bring glory to God. Thus, we have a church that is falling away and living in many ways by the world's methods and music.

14. **MIXED BAG (LUKEWARM):** Our problem is that our churches are obeying God in some things and not in others. Thus, we can be glorifying God in some things and not in others. Churches need to do self evaluation to see the degree they are obeying God and to ensure they know all the categorizes for which they should be obeying God. But by being lukewarm, the growth to spiritual maturity is greatly limited. There essentially but little maturity in lukewarmness. This is where many churches are headed. This hurts people for eternity purposes, and does not prepare them for the difficult times coming. This especially true for the children and the youth.

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join in the ministry. We need ministries where believers are working together. This must include evangelism in the community. They need to see God working. Our leaders and teachers must live and demonstrate the example life in testimony. We must work to train, not just to preach and teach. This means we need to teach people both what to do and how to do it. Teachers must give testimony for how they did things showing the example. Then there needs to be ministry where people can live out what they are learning. They can practice in their home and work-place lives. **(But much teaching today gives mainly facts and Bible content without also teaching how to do things and give testimonies for how they lived out the principles. Thus, the people are gaining knowledge without divine life.)**

Our church people are made up of the gung ho, the very faithful, the watchers, and new people. We should train (not just teach) in depth-breath bringing the gung ho and the very faithful to greater maturity. This should take most of our time. We should provide a basic boot camp training for new people to bring them up to speed. We should encourage the watchers to do more than they are doing and to become more than they are. But we should under no circumstances dumb down our training for the watchers. If we do, few grow, and we become the immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of biblical knowledge. We should plan our worship services to bring a maximum worship of God, not one for the sake to draw people as many or most are doing today. We can have evangelistic services at other times. When we plan to worship God with excellence, the people who want God will come. Then people may come in droves. I have seen this happen, particularly when people come to hear God's Word taught in depth-breadth. (But with a more depraved culture today, less of this may happen. But we should do what is right under God regardless of the numbers that come. Some will come.) We must have excellence and commitment in our worship services. Thus, we should use good music such as the best hymns and eliminate loud rock-type repetitive beat music. We should eliminate music that has much repetitive lyrics. Of course we can vary our approaches, but only using the best procedures and the best music that truly praises God.●15

(A dumbing down of teaching and using rock-type music is happening now in thousands of our churches. Does this glorify God or man? You have my answer.)

THE BOTTOM LINE: We are here to gain the maximum spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness so that we can have the best that God has planned for eternity. To gain this maturity we must be obedient to God in all things. Then we glorify God as His Glory is manifested through us. This happens, because when people see us, they do not see us, they instead see God the Father and His truth and values. This is what glorifies God.

All of life must be lived as Christ lives with God as the source of all things to live holy and righteous lives, to know and to relate to Him in His fulness, and have the Glory of God manifested to all people and angels. It is the only way we can live a perfect life. God the Father, not being visibly seen, can be seen as we obey God so that His Glory is manifested through out lives. Should we all not want this? We can know about Him in His Word. We need o do personal and church ministry critical analysis to see how well we are actually becoming mature in Christ, doing evangelism, and

15. MUSIC EXAMPLE: We recently attended a hymn sing at Mount Herman, California of about 450 people (mostly of older people) from many churches and cities. When listening to the singing, one could hear the hearts of the people singing to and glorifying the Lord. It was fantastic.

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are actually glorifying God. We need to do this with some urgency and make needed changes because our time left in freedom appears now to be very short.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

A FEW SELECTED SCRIPTURES

Key Aspects

Revelation 4:11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made. "

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

We Are to Glorify God in all Things

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Peter 4:11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Aspects of the Christian Life

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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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.

*1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- **our faith.***

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Peter 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

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.

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

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

John 15:8 "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

John 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

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

1 Peter 5:6 .Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

We Are To Walk as Christ Walks

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

John 14:9-11 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'? "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves.

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

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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.

We Are To Gain Maturity in Christ

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, **let us press on to maturity**, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

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**.

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**.

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**.