

Christ-Centered



Biblical Training

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

July 2008 Newsletter Report

Summary:

**The Most Important Concept to Learn and  
For Why We Are Here:**

**To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to  
Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

by John M. Stephenson

Biblical Worldview Ministries

[biblicalworldviewministries.com](http://biblicalworldviewministries.com)

July 15, 2008

## OVERVIEW AND KEY ASPECTS

Read *The Attributes of God* at the end of this report.

(Refer to and read the references at the end of this newsletter report.)

(We welcome your suggestions, changes, and/or corrections. We can add more.)

**INTRODUCTION:** God works with billions and billions of people all at the same time. He has built a universe so big, we do not know how big it is. He has always known everything that is possible to be known - past, present, and future. He has all truth, and has perfect righteousness, and holiness - He is and has love. He has infinite power and has complete sovereignty.

**God has created all people, heaven, and earth. Thus, if we are to have a life that God intends, we must learn and do all things "HIS" way.** We begin by learning and knowing His Infinite Greatness by studying His Attributes. Because of His infinite Greatness and Perfection, all of life and all of value can only come from Him. We have no inherent perfection or value of any kind or amount in ourselves. **How can there be? We are created beings.**

**THE BOTTOM LINE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING (See Web Site Reference: *God and His Greatness Must Be Central*):** *The bottom line, in my view, is to search out (know) and live by God's Greatness as modeled and lived out by the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, we begin by having a great love for God - for who and what He is and learning to live out what comes from Him (as led by Him through Christ and the Holy Spirit).*

God gave us His Holy Bible so that we could know of His existence and learn about Him. We are to know that God, alone, has absolute and infinite perfection in a complete set of all possible attributes without any darkness or sin of any kind or amount. God created us so we could live perfect lives amidst His Greatness and Glory. However, for this to happen, we need to learn to live as Christ lives. We need to gain a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living that enables us to respond to God's leading to the maximum in every aspect of life. This is so we can know and relate to Him toward His maximum Greatness now, but especially in eternity forever. Our current testing and developing earth environment was designed and allowed for us to gain this maturity. For us to gain this maturity toward the maximum, we need to greatly appreciate and understand God's absolute perfection and infinite greatness in all possible categories such that we greatly love Him to obey His commandments and to trust Him to guide and lead according to His promises. He has always existed and will always exist. **God commands us to pursue maturity, and not remain at first-level training.** Having this maturity, we can live perfect lives under God's direction throughout eternity by His righteousness and holiness. What a great privilege

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

we have.

*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,*

*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**.*

*Phillippians 3:8-11 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; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

***Spiritual maturity, then, is having the spiritual ability (capability) in Christ-like relationship living to respond to God without sin so that He directs all of our life. The measure of our spiritual ability is how well we respond to God in all aspects of life in comparison to how Christ, being perfect, would respond, if He were to act in our place. As will be presented, Christ is our (only) role model. We are to train to live in the manner by which He lives.***

***Apart from this relationship and lifetime pursuit with God, there is nothing. We should pursue this life with commitment and excellence. Church and family leadership (as their main job) should (must) train their people to reach this maximum maturity in Christ. (See a minimum suggested curriculum presented later.) There most likely will be a continuum of spiritual abilities in heaven. However, we all will live perfect lives, but very likely with different degrees or levels of capability and responsibility. We can gain a greater spiritual maturity or capability level now if we have a great response to God in obedience to His leadings. We should want this.***

***PROCEDURE: Thus, the only thing that matters in this lifetime is that we have an intimate walk with God. For this to happen to the greatest, we are to search the Bible for all that God wants us to do, how He wants it done, and to the degree by which He wants them done. We are to do this and nothing else with excellence and with expediency - in our personal lives, in our families, and in our churches. We need to help each other to obtain the best results because God gifts and teaches us differently that requires us to work as a team. This reduces having pride. None of us have it all.***

*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.*

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

That which comes from God today is mostly in His Bible or what is based on the Bible. In all of life, we should believe (by faith) that God is leading us all the time. As God leads us in all that we think and do, we must think of Scriptures that apply directly or indirectly. This gives us guidance for what we should do, but also what we should not do.

We are not to bring the world or that is developed from the world, the flesh, and the devil into our lives or into our churches. This includes thoughts, actions, and music. Thus, we need to know the Bible so we can know and determine which is of God and which is not. ***We must first become Christians as only taught in the Bible so we will be with God in eternity. (To become a Christian, see our web site report: Becoming a Christian.)***

***BE ALERT: We must be careful, for we can go to Church and Sunday School each week, and if we are not adequately learning and responding to God and are not in ministry, we may not be walking with God or gaining the maturity as He desires. If we spend most of our time in the way of the world with its activities, this is foolishness and a wasted life because they cannot be carried into eternity with us. We will know less of God in eternity. Knowing and relating to God for us is the only thing that has value and exists.***

***(However, observation signals that because of inadequate training, we are developing an immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of Bible knowledge. However, this can be overcome to a large degree if Christians are living by love - obeying what they know and serving others sacrificially. Knowledge of God is important because it leads to living by greater love so we keep God's commandments - the ones we know.)***

**SUMMARY** - Because God alone has perfection and completeness in all things, He must direct all of life. Doing this, makes Him God. In eternity He will direct every thought and action from His great love for us, (we will not have sin natures then). We will sense His leading by our faith. But in this, we need to know the Scriptures. In this, He will be God all in all. We will fellowship with Him and each other amidst His Greatness and Glory forever.

Thus, we are here to seek after God and become mature in Him (Christ-likeness) in relationship living so that we can relate to Him in a maximum way. We will pursue and do this in excellence if we appreciate His infinite Greatness and Perfection, and that He created us for the purpose that with mature spiritual maturity we could know and relate to and enjoy Him forever amidst His Greatness and Perfection both now, but especially in eternity forever. We are not, under any circumstances, to go our own way. We share later in Appendix One that our mature spiritual ability level we have in Christ-likeness at death, we may have forever. Thus, we should pay attention to God and pursue maturity in Christ as He commands and is discussed throughout the New Testament.

## **LIFE WORKS IN A TRIUNITY**

All of life is modeled after God and operates in a triunity of the source, the embodiment of source, and result or interaction. The triunity of God is that all comes from God the Father as a source; the Lord Jesus Christ embodies what comes from the Father and lives them out; the result of this interacts with man by the Holy Spirit. (Thus, God created man in His image with a soul, body, and spirit.)

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

Thus, God's life and truth are manifested to us as a model in the person and life of our Lord Jesus Christ who embodies the Father, and He interprets this perfection and life to and in us by His Holy Spirit. Thus, God consists of the Father (the source of all things and is generally meant when the Bible refers to God), the Lord Jesus Christ as Son (the true modeling and implementation or embodiment of this perfection), and the Holy Spirit (by which interpretation of God comes in us). God in His trinity was involved in creation.

We live perfect lives when we respond correctly to this leading and working in us. We are not to live lives with anything coming from us, the world, or the devil as a source. We are here to train and gain the needed mature capability, living as Christ lives with every thought and action we live out coming from the Father (now from the Bible, as stated, which came from Him, so we can respond to God and to know and relate to God toward the maximum possible). We must live this way to live perfectly without sin because only God is perfect. Then we can live lives in His absolute perfection. As we do, we glorify Him, because we are living out only what came from Him as a source. As we live as Christ lives, we, with Him, demonstrate the life of the Father and His perfection in holiness and in righteousness. Then when we see each other, we see the Father. Living this way, we can glorify Him and enjoy Him forever, amidst His perfection. There is nothing else and no other life.

We must be careful to understand that we do things (procedure - embodiment) to accomplish objectives or goals (outcome - source). The procedure we chose will depend upon the outcome chosen. The results we obtain then are symptomatic of the cause (combination of the outcome and procedure). We must carefully describe the objective and its source or we can choose a procedure that does not accomplish what we intend. As an example, we disciple people (procedure) to become Christ-like (outcome). But for the best accomplishment, we must first define and describe what one is like if they truly are Christ-like. Otherwise our procedure can be very inadequate. And we will not accomplish our intention.

Thus, if we want to become Christ-like, we must study how He lived and thought and live out a representative life. It is much-much more than just obeying some of the Bible. As will be presented, one is Christ-like when every thought and action comes from the Father so that our action embodies the Father. So how do we do this?

Thus, we must carefully understand, what matters is the why and source of what we do, more than what we do that is most important. What we do can demonstrate the why of what we do and what we are. I am convinced that we, as Christians and as churches, fail (symptoms) because we do not appreciate God's Greatness (the cause) and live only by it. We tend to live by our pride and so-called greatness. We tend to guide our own lives from us as a source. We are to be "outcome" oriented (become mature in Christ - the objective) and not be mainly "procedurally" oriented (just grow or be disciplined in Christ; what we do or how we do things). We are to do both. If we are mainly procedurally oriented, we can miss becoming mature in Christ. This is a major oversight.

Where major mistakes are being made is that having much Bible knowledge, we can believe we are mature. But the Bible teaches that if we have all knowledge and all faith, but do not have love, we are zero. People who know but little of the Bible but live by great love can be more mature than Bible teachers and pastors who know much more, but live by little love. In this more mature case, we live by love that results in an embodiment of sacrificial service - keeping the commandments.

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

We must know the commandments. More knowledge of relationship living and the basis for it, leads to living by greater love.

As a topic of another report on our web site shows that all of history is designed to bring us to 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*). This is must reading by everyone.

We have been placed in our earthly environment, that includes the world, flesh, and the devil, to develop and test our mature spiritual ability. This environment will attempt to lead us to do things from ourselves as a source and to live by principles other than are found in the Bible. We can remain immature by knowing but little of the Bible especially to live as Christ lives using love, faith, and hope. If we know the Bible and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will respond to each testing: it is written in the Bible that we do it this way (we must know what the Bible teaches). As the testing becomes greater in magnitude or in scope, responding correctly, we gain a higher level of mature spiritual ability. We live from love, keeping God's commandments to live holy and righteously, and we live by faith, trusting God to bring the results as His promises in the Bible. As we do, we live without sin and gain more revelation of the Bible from God. (See our publication on our website: *Living by God's Righteousness* for a list of commandments and promises. I read several pages daily with the Bible. We must know them if we are to implement and obey them.)

**PRESENTATION SHOWING THE SCRIPTURES:  
LEARN TO LIVE AS CHRIST DOES; HE (ALONE) IS OUR ROLE MODEL**

**Christ Glorified the Father (We do the same when we give back to the Father what He gives us to do).**

Christ said that He glorified the Father because He accomplished all the work His Father gave Him to do.

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

(God does not need glorification. But we must glorify Him to live holy and without sin by doing nothing from ourselves as a source. We must not attempt to glorify ourselves from pride. God does not accept glory from us because inherently we have nothing - no value.

*John 5:41 "I do not receive glory from men;*

**We Are to Walk as Christ Walks**

We must learn to walk as Christ walked with everything (thoughts and actions) coming from God the Father as a source. Then when people will see us they will see the Father for we are doing nothing from ourselves as a source - only from Him as a source. Then God is glorified.

*1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him (in Christ as a Christian) ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

### **How the Son Walks**

He only did what came from His Father as a source.

*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.*

### **When They (We) See Christ, They (We) See the Father**

Because Christ did only what came from the Father as a source, when people observed Him, they saw the Father living out in Him. They saw Him physically, but not spiritually because He was doing nothing from Himself as a source. We are to live out the same as Christ lives in us. We are not to do anything from ourselves as a source. Then others see the Father and Christ - not us.

*John 14:7-11 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 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.*

*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.*

**When we do what the Father wants done such as from love keeping His commandments and from His purpose accomplish His work, He works all things together for our ultimate good.**

*Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God (those who keep His commandments), to those who are called according to His purpose (those who do His work).*

## **ESSENTIALS TO LIFE**

**Thus, appreciating God's Greatness and His Great Love for us, we will love Him and each other. We will obey Him to keep His commandments because we love Him. The more we love Him, the more commandments He may give us - especially new ones in eternity. If we want to learn of God's great perfection, we must develop great love for Him and abide in that love that is demonstrated by keeping His commandments. As a result we will abide in His love as we keep His commandments. As we do, doing things His way, we live holy and righteously. As stated, we are to serve each other from love sacrificially. As we grow in greater love, this life allows us to learn and experience more of God's holiness and**

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

**righteousness. This is why it is so important to live by love. We should earnestly seek this life.**

*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.*

*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.'*

**We will walk by faith trusting God to fulfill His promises. When we do, we live without sin and we receive more revelation of the Bible from God.**

*2 Peter 1:1-11 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 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.** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

**As we live this way, we have God's Greatness in our lives. We abide in Christ as the vine, and we will have fruit of the spirit and in ministry.**

*John 15:4-5 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

*Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

**ALL OF VALUE COMES FROM GOD**

(Check a Bible concordance for the many verses on humility and being humble.)

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

All we have of value came (comes) from God the Father - no exceptions. Thus we cannot take credit for anything. He has gifted us in many ways to do His work and to become mature in Christ. Because God gives us everything, we should not look down at others believing we know more or are more mature than they are. We should pursue living love, serving God and others sacrificially. We should live by what comes from God so that we glorify Him and not ourselves. Doing this, we will live a more humble life. We should bring support, not criticism even though important issues must be discussed.

God's gives spiritual gifts to us for His purposes: teachers, giving, being smart, having good memories, musicians, writers, teachers and trainers, artists, servants, etc. We are to use these in God's work and the life He has chosen. We are a team under God. One cannot take credit for special gifting, because it came from God, not from us. We did not earn it. (e.g See Romans 12:6-8.)

What makes us righteous and holy is how we live by love in response to God's leading, not how much we know or how good we are. We must have love or we are zero. Having love for God and each other, we will serve each other sacrificially. (See 1 Corinthians 13:1-8.) Only God is good.

We are a team, using our gifts together, under God to accomplish His will and to glorify Him.

Realizing that all comes from God, we cannot or should not have pride because all we have from God is gifted, we did not earn it. Thus, we should live and act humbly before God and use our gifts in obedience to bring glory to Him.

***It is a privilege that we can know our most perfect God and become mature in Christ. We should be thankful that we exist and we can live and know God.*** It is particularly true when everything for life comes from God as a source such that we can glorify Him in all that we are doing, saying, and thinking - that we can live perfect lives under God.

We have pride when we believe we have inherent value, act without love, know great things, and do from ourselves as a source, not from God as a source. Then we attempt to work all things together for good ourselves. This is sin. This is what Satan did.

## **SUMMARY ACTION**

**We Need to Search the Bible for "All" That God Wants Us to Do and Become, and to the Degree By He Wants Them Done. Then We Should Carry Them out with Excellence and Expediency (And Do Nothing Else). We should emphasize learning to live as Christ lives. This Is Why We Are Here. Then We Become More Mature in Christ and Can Know and Relate to God More In His Depth-Breadth. We Can Live More Perfect Lives. This Is All There Is. There Is Nothing Else. What Course Are You On? What Course Am I On?**

## **MINIMUM REQUIRED TRAINING NEEDED**

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

## **TO GAIN MATURITY IN CHRIST**

The overview topics, in our view, for the minimum required and needed training (a detailed curriculum) to gain maturity in Christ consists of at least the following four topics where each has much depth and breadth (all four main topics are needed - of course more can be added): (1) worshiping, glorifying, pleasing, honoring, and obeying God etc; (2) living godly lives in relationship living by faith and sacrificial love patterned after our Lord's walk with the Father - with all life's direction coming from the Father; (3) helping to accomplish God's work of area-wide local evangelism, discipleship to maturity, planting new Churches, building godly families, and reaching out to and helping the needy; and (4) learning and standing strong on the basic Christian-Faith Doctrines for which we believe and are willing to die. ***A training curriculum for how to train with most of the above is Christian-Life Relationship Principles. We should also add a study of God's Plan for History with the spiritual warfare (with its strategies and objectives) and endtimes prophecy. (Read reference (1)).***

The curriculum in Christian-Life Relationship Principles for living as Christ lives in order to gain maturity in Christ, in my view and experience, should include at least the following topics and taught by those who have raised families and have lived out many of them. (I have raised a family employing many of these teachings and have taught these over the years. I would appreciate any comments and inputs you may have regarding or to add to these.)

(1) The Attributes and Character Qualities of God in His Greatness; (2) God's Goal for People: Mature High-Skill Spiritual Ability in Christ-Likeness; (3) Learning to Live Life Patterned After the Father and Son Relationship; (4) Head-Subordinate Relationships in all of life; (5) Building Strong Families, Patterned After Christ's Walk With the Father; (6) Living by Faith; Claiming and Using the Promises; (7) Living Testings and Sufferings that Develop our Faith; (8) Living by the Love that Keeps God's Commandments and serves each other sacrificially; (9) Living by Hope that Keeps One Sexually Pure; (10) Learning and Living Necessary Attitudes, Leadership Character Qualities, Beatitudes, and Doctrines; (11) Having a Strong Prayer Life; (12) Living God's Way Under Spiritual Warfare; (13) Learning to Teach, Lead, Witness, and Evangelize; (14) Establishing and Operating Small Home Groups; (15) Recognizing and Correcting Spiritual Problems, Counseling (based on spiritual laws in biblical head-subordinate relationships); and (16) Methods and Devotions that Develop Our Personal Walk with God.

**TRAINING CHARTS:** See my ppt training charts on our web site under **TRAINING** entitled *Christian-Life Relationship Principles*. **We can give seminars using these with updated charts. We can do this also on endtimes Bible prophecy.**

**TRAINING INGREDIENTS OF THE ABOVE TOPICS:** Each topic has a depth-breadth and the training should include the what to's, the how to's, examples for how we live out the principles, testimony for how one lived them out, and some form of on-the-job training. One can use case studies for which to apply Scripture. ***One must gain or have "EXPERIENCE" in living them out for one to become mature (perfect and complete) in Christ - not just have knowledge of the Scriptures and doctrines.***

## **REFERENCES ON MY WEB SITE**

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

**(Please read these next.)**

*(1) 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; (2) God and His Greatness Must Be Central; (3) Keys to Becoming Mature in Christ-likeness in Relationship Living; (4) Seek God's Best and Greatness: Pursue Spiritual Maturity in Christ-Likeness as God Commands With Excellence and Great Commitment; (5) Report: Living by God's Righteousness; (6) See the ppt charts under Christian-Life Relationship Principles; and (7) The Attributes of God.*

## **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

**(The Greatness of God)**

**by**

**John Stephenson**

**Biblical Worldview Ministries**

**Faithfulness** - God is faithful to act by His character, to do what He says, to stand by the righteous, and to inflict judgment on unrepentant sinners. Great is the faithfulness of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 36:5; 40:10; 89; 91:4; 100:5; 119:75, 90, 138; 143:1; Lamentations 3:23; Romans 3:3.)

**Glory** - The totality of God's greatness, attributes, and character qualities is His glory. Believers can get a glimpse of it. (Psalm 19:1; 72:19; 104:31; 138:5; Isaiah 35:2; Matthew 6:13; Romans 5:2; 6:4.)

**Grace** - The fact that God through the Cross is willing to forgive all sin and bring us into fellowship with Himself demonstrates His grace and mercy. Grace brings God's best to those who do not deserve it. (Acts 11:23; 13:43; 14:26; 15:11; 20:24; Romans 3:24; 5:2; 2 Corinthians 4:15; 8:9; 9:8; Ephesians 1:7; 2:7-9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:7; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:10.)

**Holiness** - God's holiness is His perfect moral excellence. He is without sin or error. His holiness demands that everyone live holy lives or face judgment for breaking His spiritual laws. (1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 22:3; 99:9; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; 15:4.)

**Immensity** - God fills the entire universe (all universes) with His presence. (1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:24.)

**Immutability** - God never changes. He can be relied upon to always act the same way, according to His spiritual laws and character qualities. He cannot improve or get worse. (1 Samuel 15:29; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17.)

**Justice** - God's holiness and righteousness require that His justice be satisfied for sin, transgressions of His laws. Only His perfect righteousness can satisfy this justice. (Job 36:6; Psalm 89:30-37; 111:7; Isaiah 42:1-4; 51:4; Amos 4:2; Jeremiah 4:2; 23:5; Matthew 12:18; Luke 7:29; Romans 3:21-30.)

**Light** - God provides His light to guide our lives in truth and righteousness. He is the light Himself. His light is His presence, His righteousness, and the commandments we are to keep. His light

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

guides our paths into righteous living and into an intimate relationship with Himself. (Psalm 27:1; 36:9; 37:6; 44:3; 78:14; 89:15; 119:105, 130; Proverbs 6:23; 29:13; Isaiah 9:2; 60:19, 20; Matthew 4:16; John 1:4-9; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36, 47; et al.)

**Long-Suffering** - God acts in long-suffering with kindness, patience, and forbearance to withhold His judgment for sin, so that many will be led to repentance, as He continues to draw people into a personal relationship with Himself in salvation and in spiritual growth. He does not desire that anyone go to the Lake of Fire. (Romans 2:1-8; 2 Peter 3:9.)

**Love** - God is love, and He loves everyone. His love acts sacrificially on the behalf of others. The fact that the Father was willing to lose fellowship with His Son on the Cross to satisfy His justice for our sin demonstrates His great love for us. This kind of love may not be known by any way other than through sacrifice at a high cost. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8, 12.)

**Loving kindness** - God acts to help those who love Him and keep His commandments and do His will. God gives Loving kindness to afflicted believers. Through His Loving kindness, He provides salvation and help to those in need. God acts in Loving kindness toward His repentant subjects who turn toward Him in obedience from their sin. (Psalm 5:7; 6:4; 25:7, 10; 31:7, 16; 33:5, 22; 36:7, 10; 40:10-11; 59:17; 61:7; 63:3; 64:3; 66:20; 69; 85:10; 86:5, 13; 89:2; 95:18; 106:1; 118:2; 119:76, 88; 136.)

**Mercy** - God's mercy provides for us when we do not deserve anything. Even when we have sinned, and are in great need, He brings us salvation and provides for us by His mercy. When we deserve judgment, He holds back and gives us another chance. (Luke 1:54, 78; Romans 9:16, 18; 11:32; 15:9; 1 Corinthians 7:25; Ephesians 2:4; Phillipians 2:27; 1 Timothy 1:2, 13; 2 Timothy 1:2, 18; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 1:3.)

**Omnipotence** - With His great power, God created the entire universe, heaven, the earth, people, and angels. He has infinite power to do anything without any effective resistance. (2 Chronicles 20:6; Jeremiah 32:17; Psalm 115:3.)

**Omnipresence** - God is everywhere present throughout all universes and space. He deals with each person in the world at the same time, even though there are billions of people and angels. (Psalm 139:7-12; Proverbs 15:13; Hebrews 4:13.)

**Omniscience** - God has always known everything that can ever be known — past, present, and future. Thus, there is nothing new that He can ever learn. (Job 37:16; Psalm 139:6; 145:3; Isaiah 40:28; 55:9; Romans 11:33; 1 John 3:20.)

**Provider** - God provides life's necessities to His own people, as they obey Him and do His will. He also makes provision for all people during times of prosperity and testing. But His provision may be withdrawn from those in disobedience when the time of His judgment comes. (Genesis 22:14; 45:11; 50:21; 1 Kings 17:4, 9; Nehemiah 9:15, 21; Psalm 78:20; Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 10:13.)

**Righteousness** - God's thoughts and actions are always accomplished in perfection in accordance with perfect spiritual laws. He is without sin or mistakes. He always thinks and acts in a right way

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

according to His perfect character and perfect spiritual laws. (Psalm 11:7; 111:3; 112:9; 119:142.)

**Self-Existence (Eternal Life)** - Self-existence is God's independent eternal life within Himself, whereby He has existence throughout all eternities of the past, present, and future. This self-existence and eternal life is independent of any outside entity. God has always existed and will always exist. Consequently, He is able to impart eternal life to others as they draw life from Him. (Genesis 21:33; Psalm 9:7; 41:13; 102:12; Job 36:26; Isaiah 40:28; 57:15; Daniel 4:34; John 5:26; 1 John 5:11.)

**Sovereignty** - God has self-rule and can do anything He wants that is in accordance with His character qualities, without any effective resistance. (Exodus 15:18; Deuteronomy 10:14, 17; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12; 2 Chronicles 20:6; Psalm 135:5-6; Luke 1:37; Acts 17:24-26; Hebrews 6:13.)

**Spirit** - God's substance is spirit — invisible, indivisible, and present everywhere. He does not have a physical body as humans do. He cannot be discerned by our physical senses. Those who saw God in the Old Testament times saw the Lord Jesus Christ, not God the Father. (John 1:18; 4:24; 5:37; Romans 1:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16.)

**Truth** - God knows all the absolute truth and laws that make and run a perfect universe, in every respect. Furthermore, He is truth. Using His truth is the only way we can live perfectly without sin and without breaking spiritual laws. All of His commandments, concepts and laws of interpersonal relationships constitute part of His truth. (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 31:5; 86:11; 108:4; 117:2; 119:142, 151; Isaiah 65:16; John 14:6; 17:17; Romans 3:8.)

**APPENDIX ONE:  
BE AWARE, NOT FOR FEAR, BUT FOR ALERTNESS:  
OUR MATURITY IN CHRIST MAY BE FIXED FOREVER AT DEATH**

***The Bible does not teach whether or not our maturity in Christ we have at death can or will increase in heaven. But there are indicators, not proofs, our maturity is only developed in this lifetime - it will (may) not increase in heaven (at least in any way, we understand now). But if we obey God to become mature in Christ, we will have the best we can have under God, whatever is the Truth. He may build upon our maturity in heaven in different ways than we can know now. So why not pursue maturity as He commands? We will need to help each other in this endeavor.***

These indicators signal that our maturity very likely will not increase in heaven include: (1) all of biblical history is designed to mature us in Christ - the reason we are here; (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.

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

(We wonder that if our maturity could increase in heaven by some manner, then why have 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 in heaven, God may mature us in different ways than we can know now. ***But we should pursue maturity as God commands with excellence to have the best of God we can have. There is nothing else. But, in my view, not to pursue maturity, and our maturity is in some way fixed forever at death, is making a most terrible lifetime mistake. This is because knowing and relating to God now and throughout eternity is all there is.***)

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.

**APPENDIX TWO  
MYSTERY CONCERNING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

A mystery comes when we observe that we, as Christians, do not see all things the same, have different sets of doctrines, like different choices of music, respond to God with different commitments, have different maturity levels, and where mature people in Christ can have different views on the Christian life and how the endtimes unfold. We have different levels of discernment. God gifts us differently so we learn and serve differently. He requires us to work together as a team. We wonder about those who in some countries are being greatly persecuted and others are not.

God is fair to each of us, but He did not promise equality. He does not show partiality.

*Acts 10:34 - . "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, Romans 2:11 - For there is no partiality with God. Galatians 2:6 - .God shows no partiality. Ephesians 6:9 - . and there is no partiality with Him.*

He did not promise we would all have the same maturity and know Him the same amount. The main thing is that we get to know Him and relate to Him the best we can have in eternity. God is fair even if we have different maturities. ***Thus, I believe that we can have the most if we greatly love who and what He is and pursue loving Him, living by faith. We will learn to live as Christ lives with experience. Doing so we will learn and obey the commandment and memorize His promises. We will have lives centered in Him, and work as a team. We need each other.***

I believe things begin the best when we commit to going all the way with God in relationship living. We can begin by presenting ourselves to God (in all that we are and have) and request that He direct our lives in and from His perfection. We begin by conforming ourselves to God and not to the world.

*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.*

**Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here:  
To Gain the Spiritual Maturity Needed to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness**

*Romans 6:13 .... but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

Church leaders and pastors can help by doing training instead of mainly teaching. We want a doctrinal background. But we should emphasize relationship living, living as Christ lives. When we train, in my view, we teach what to do, how to do things, and give examples and personal testimonies for how to live out the principles. We should have some form of on-the-job training by practicing the principles in our homes, working in our churches and ministries, and applying Scriptures to case studies.

***Church leaders need to discern that Satan is working in these endtimes to transform the churches for the endtimes from orthodoxy and strong belief to become the immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of biblical knowledge.*** He does this by using mostly only first-level training (if that) and the devil's and world's loud rock type beat or no melody music (that desensitizes a person to the leading of the Holy Spirit). In our view, God does not accept such music or is He worshiped by such music. We need the great hymns of the faith such as *To God Be the Glory*. ***Is your church being transformed or has been transformed? Is mine?***

For a detailed background, read these references on my web site: (1) *Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes with their Impacts and Indicated Solutions*; and (2) *Our Churches Are Falling Away, Being Transformed by the Dialectic Process to Bring World Government*.

***The bottom line is that if you want to become mature in Christ; (1) one must not sit under rock music or most contemporary music, but instead under the great hymns; and (2) one must sit under more in-depth-breadth training centered in living as Christ lives in Christian relationships with training how to live out the relationships.***