

Christ- Centered



Biblical Training

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

NOVEMBER - 2007 NEWSLETTER  
SPECIAL SUMMARY REPORT  
**GAINING MATURITY IN CHRIST-  
LIKENESS IS WHY WE ARE HERE;  
THE PRIORITY JOB OF THE CHURCH**

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

## HOW DO WE OBTAIN GOD'S BEST IN HIS PURPOSE FOR WHY WE ARE HERE - LEADING TO THE CHURCH'S PRIORITY JOB

(This is a Summary Document) ●1 ●2

**BACKGROUND UNDERSTANDING:** *In order to identify and understand the main or ultimate reason that God placed us here on the earth, we must be God and outcome oriented, not man and procedure oriented. We must see things in light of eternity, not just in terms of our present lifetime. We must differentiate between goal (objective and purpose - desired outcome) and method (or means - procedure) to accomplish the goal and objective. We will see that the Church's ultimate goal and job is God's method or means - His procedure. And some things that we often state are goals, are really part of the method to accomplish the Church's goal and method. For example, becoming greatly mature in Christ is the Church's goal, objective, and overall job. The Church's method or means to gain maturity (how the Church carries out her job) is to learn, train, and gain proficiency to exalt God, live godly as Christ lives, accomplish God's work, and stand strong on the basic Christian-Faith doctrines. We must define maturity and identify a sufficient curriculum, both academically and practically oriented, to accomplish the needed training. These concepts will be discussed and amplified.*

*We should respond to God to have His best, not just His good, with excellence and great commitment. How do we do this?*

**BASICS FOR WHY WE ARE HERE:** *This report deals first as to why we are here to have God's best by becoming mature in Christ-likeness, and thereafter with both why we are*

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1. **PREFACE:** Much of the contents of this newsletter was taken from longer referenced reports. They contain additional aspects and Scriptural development. You are encouraged to read them next for more details on this most important subject of becoming mature in Christ. They are found under **TRAINING** on the web site. This newsletter was written so you would not miss this needed information. **REFERENCES:** (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.*

2. **TARGET AUDIENCE:** This report is meant for Church and family leadership who have responsibility to train others and for those who want to go all the way with God. And of course it is meant for anyone wanting to find God's best. The report throughout mainly refers to Christians such as the meaning of "us" and "we." To gain the benefits of the subject of this report, one must first become a Christian. For the pathway to become a Christian, read my web site report: *God Is Reaching out to You to Become a Christian.*

*here and the main job and method of the Church. God created us with the purpose we would first become Christians and then, very importantly, to train to become mature●3 in Christ (The main job of the Church and family heads).●4 We are here to develop this maturity so we can live by His value in close fellowship with Him amidst His Truth, Greatness, and Great Glory forever. It is so we can live holy and righteous lives without sin and live amidst His absolute perfection and have the most perfect lives that exist. And then also to fellowship with each other in God's relationship living to glorify and enjoy God forever. Apart from this life from an eternal perspective, having God's best, in relationship living to Him, however expressed, there is nothing. He is and represents all the Truth that exists. He has all the value and perfection that exists.*

*As incentive for our people to pursue maturity in Christ, we should brief and train them to appreciate God's absolute Greatness and our extreme spiritual poverty. We can only live perfect lives under His Greatness and enjoy Him in His infinite Glory as He directs ours in all aspects. Thus, they need to know that we must be mature in Christ in order to have the spiritual ability to know and relate to God in His depth-breadth in eternity. They should be told that gaining this maturity is the main reason we are here and that God commands that we do.*

*In this life, appreciating His Greatness, we glorify Him as we return to Him in obedience what He has given to us or asks us to do. As we fellowship with Him and each other, we can enjoy Him forever.*

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

*In His Word, the Holy Bible, God command us, as Christians, to pursue maturity living as Christ lives and no longer teach and live only by the basics.*

*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,*

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

*Phillippians 3:8-10 - More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of*

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3. **MATURITY:** We use the word maturity to mean having a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living, living as Christ did in relationship to the Father with all of life's direction coming from the Father. Becoming mature is a lifetime growth, but we must do so with excellence and commitment as God works in us. There appears to be a continuum of many maturity skill levels.

4. **ENVIRONMENT:** The maturity is developed under the trials and testings of life established by the world, the flesh (our depraved natures), and the devil (Satan).

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*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 and, at the same time, we take no independent initiative. ●5 We sense the Father's leading by the work of the Holy Spirit. We are to believe that He is leading us even when we do not have specific direction under God's overall direction, especially in the details of life. He leads us with His Holy Spirit.

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.*

***We are to train with the advanced subjects that lead us to greater maturity. We are to train with the meat of God's Word (God's Whole Counsel), not just with the milk. So we must arrange to accomplish it in some manner as God leads and then with commitment and excellence, and now before the imminent endtimes Tribulation comes. We can only respond to God's leading according to the skill level of our maturity in Christ-likeness. He may only lead us to the degree we can and/or choose to respond and in different ways for our personal spiritual growth. So should we not want to have the highest skill level of walking with God we can have? Then we can live by more of His value and perfection, and live in closer fellowship with Him. This is working to have God's best for us.***

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5. **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.

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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.●6 (Repeated for emphasis.)*

Paul the apostle said: Acts 20:27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose (Counsel) of 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.***

*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.***

***Thus, Church leadership should ensure they are training with sufficient of God's Word (a chosen thorough curriculum) to bring their people to maturity in Christ and not just train mainly for some spiritual growth. In doing this, we are to be trained, including on the job, for how we live out the principles, not just know the principles. We, thus, need to be outcome, and not procedurally oriented. We should be open to God's leading to make changes. The minimum we should be taught is presented later.***

***This maturity, as stated, is needed to know and relate to God toward His fulness so we can live now, but especially in eternity, according to His Greatness and perfection without sin. We can have a deep and close fellowship with Him living amidst His Great Glory.***

***All the major events in biblical history lead us to becoming mature in Christ-likeness, living as He lives.●7*** He, as presented, did only what came from the Father as a source and

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6. **COMMENT:** We are to live as Christ lives with everything coming from God the Father to direct our lives. We can do similar things in ministry. But we of course cannot do the greater things He did and does from His perfection.

7. **REFERENCE:** *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 report is on my web site in **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.**

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without taking any independent initiative. He did what the Father gave Him the authority over. So when others saw Him, they saw the Father. They did not see Him, because He, from Himself, was doing nothing. (John 5:19; 12:49; 14:8-11) We are to live this way. (This way must be learned because from our sin natures it is natural for us to have life come from ourselves as a source and only partly from God.)

*John 14:8-11 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.*

Maturity is needed so we can live this way and know and relate to our perfect God toward His fulness in eternity. In this relationship, we will be living in His righteousness and holiness in close fellowship with Him and each other amidst His infinite and perfect Glory. In this life, we live perfectly without sin. By doing only His will, we will glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. ***Apart from this relationship living with God, in light of eternity, there is nothing.***

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

What must Be Central to Our Whole Christian Life is:

**(1)** *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.'* We will love Him more if we know of and appreciate His perfect attributes with infinite Greatness.

**(2)** *And Matthew 22:39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* (We are to live in sacrificial service helping each other.)

**(3)** *And if we love Him: John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.* (This implies we know the commandments), *and*

**(4)** *John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.* (This sacrificial service can be done physically, with time, with money, and with service.)

We will love Him for His Greatness and Perfection, for Who and What He is. We will love Him because He first loved us, such as what was demonstrated by Christ dying on the Cross.

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7(...continued)  
It is must reading.

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1 John 4:19 We love (Him), because He first loved us.

**Please grasp that God has and inherently is all the perfection that exists.●8 He has and is love. There is no other God and no one else has this perfection. Apart from Him and His Greatness, there is nothing. He created us so that we could know Him and relate to and live by His perfection. We should be thankful that we exist and have this most wonderful privilege to know and relate to our perfect God. We can fellowship with Him and live life perfectly without sin amidst His perfect and infinite Glory. Should we then not pursue His will and learn and train to live as Christ lives with everything coming from God as a source with excellence and with great commitment? Should we not want to live as Christ lives? He, being perfect, must work all things together for good in our lives. Every thought and action we are to have must come from Him as a source.●9 He may direct us with choices of His will knowing who and what we are in Him with different gifts and callings. Directing us, He is God all in all. This makes Him God over our lives. (Otherwise, we can act wrongly as gods over our lives. This leads to sin - a breaking of God's relationship laws.)**

**We should live in excellence before God with great commitment to do all His will. We should make the commitment to go all the way with God even if others do not. We must not make the most sinful mistake by our attempting to live like the Most High God by ourselves attempting to work all things together for good, even in the Church. This type action was the great sin of Satan. We must look to God for all direction.**

**Living His way, we can have the best possible life that exists, and we can live without sin. This is living by God's best. But most importantly, we can know and relate to our perfect God. This is the direction I am going to the degree that I understand. I am praying for more understanding. None of us have it all together. None of us are where we want to be, should be, ought to be, and can be. We all need work. But, we can help each other here. We are a team as brothers and sisters in Christ in support of each other. But we must stay on track. This is of course a growth process, that can take our entire life.**

This maturity in Christ is developed in our divine natures that we were given at salvation - not in our sin or depraved natures. In this relationship life, all direction and way of living comes from the God the Father (now from His Bible). We are to obey Him to the scope of that direction without taking any independent direction. Then, when people see us, they see Him because we, from ourselves as a source, are doing nothing. When we do this, we are gaining maturity and living as our Lord lives. **Thus, churches, understanding God's Greatness to put in His Bible ALL that we need for direction, should search the Bible for ALL that God wants for our direction and do only these and to the scope intended with great commitment and excellence. (Note the ALL.)** Has your Church done this? Has mine? If we do not become Christ-like to the degree God has planned, then we can limit our knowing God in His depth-breadth. None of us should want this. Thus we should help each other and be willing to go

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8. **ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:** Read my report: *The Attributes of God* on my web site.

9. **OUR NATURAL WALK:** As we walk through life, we should believe that God is guiding all that we do, and we, from ourselves as a source, are not directing our lives and causing things to occur. We should mentally check what we are doing with Scripture to keep from sin.

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through life's testings and difficulties for our maturity development. In order to gain maximum maturity, we may need to go through great difficulties, trials, testings, and persecutions. Much of the world is there now. God will direct us into testings to the degree we have knowledge and the willingness to respond correctly. We are to respond as our Lord does by saying it is written we do it this way.

The more mature we are, the more we can be used of God and know more about God. ***The more we can live in loving example service to others.***

***Remember, because God is perfect with infinite depth-breadth, we should pursue maturity so we can know more of His depth-breadth and walk in it. He has the only value that exists. We have value only when He puts His value in us. So should we not pursue maturity in Christ with excellence and commitment? Again, there is nothing else. So how do we do this? Aspects will be discussed in summary.***

## **DISCUSSION**

In heaven, as now, we are to trust God by faith to fulfil His promises as we obey the instructions with the promise to activate our faith for Him to work all things together for our good, according to the promise. ●10 We should memorize many promises. Then, by trusting God to fulfill His promises, we live without sin, and we will receive new revelation from God of His will and Scriptures. We live without sin because all comes from God and none from us. No doubt God will give us more promises with instructions in heaven. We will not sin in heaven because our divine natures cannot sin and all direction will come from God, never from ourselves as a source. This is why God must direct all of our lives - live without sin and gain revelation,

*2 Peter 1:3-4 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.***

*Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by 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.*

In heaven, as now, we, most likely, we will never see God the Father visually because He is omnipresent. We are to walk by faith now and in heaven that He exists. Of course, we will see Him as He lives His life out through us and especially through our Lord. Our living testimony

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**10. EXAMPLE OF LIVING BY FAITH:** God at the Battle of Jericho promised Israel that He would give Jericho into her hands. But the Israelites had to activate their faith in Him to do as He promised by going around the city once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. Their activated faith became living faith, and God brought the walls of Jericho down with an earthquake allowing Israel to take the city.

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shows that He exists. God will most likely instruct us through our Lord for all new things and what we are to do and live out. He may give us a new Bible and many new commandments and promises. The God that Old Testament believers saw was the Lord Jesus Christ.

*John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

We are to love God and obey His commandments to live holy and righteously. We are to walk by faith that God is directing everything we are doing now so that He, not us, is working all things together for our good. Doing this we live without sin because all is coming from God. We also will receive new revelation from God. We are to live by hope that one day we will be with Christ in heaven. This is a type of living by faith in what the Scriptures teach. We activate our faith by pursuing the Christian life in relationship to Christ and God under the Holy Spirit's leading, believing that one day we will be with Christ.

We are to believe that what we are doing came from God and not from ourselves as a source and should be based on some Scripture. This life requires training and leads to the end of pride and self-esteem. It leads to humility and living under God's headship as a servant. Only Christ should be first place in our lives. We should step down from being first place and trust Him as our head to lead and bring all the results needed. Only then can we live without sin.

As you know, God gives us certain gifting and abilities to accomplish His work and to grow in Christ, perhaps to train us in specific ways for His will and work. We work as a team. God gifts us in many different ways. These giftings and abilities are to be used in response to God in life and in ministries, not for us to direct our lives independent of God. For example He directs us, not only in ministry, but also to work for a living and to care for our families. We are not just to become Christians, be involved in God's work, do good things, and attend Church, even though these vitally are to be done. We are to learn to live by faith and love and pursue maturity in Christ and trust God to work all things together for good, including in our jobs and in our families. When we do not live by faith that all is coming from God, then by default, we live the god role like the Most High God with life coming from us. This is true even in the ministry. This, as stated, was the great sin of Satan, and most all other sin flows from this. We cannot live holy and righteously this way.

In heaven, in my understanding as presented, God, from His Greatness and Perfection, will direct every thought and action we will ever have. He must do this because He alone has righteousness and is omniscient. He may give us choices and special authorities. He may lead us to have the best we can have.●11 He is the only one who has value. This makes Him God. We are unable to direct our own lives to have God's best. We, as stated, are without ability to work all things together for good. We have extreme spiritual poverty.

It will be like an orchestra. We play the instruments with precision as gifted, directed, and taught, and He will direct the entire orchestra. He is the only one who is holy, righteous, true, and omniscient. We need maximum maturity so we can accept maximum direction and respond

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11. **FAITH-ACTION STEPS:** This is what happened to me, taking faith-action steps, when looking for an apartment. I could not find a better apartment with location and amenities.

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accordingly and know and experience more of His Greatness. We can take faith-action steps to discover His leading. We should want to gain maturity so we can have a maximum direction and knowledge of God. He, most likely, will only lead us to the degree we can respond (without sin), according to our calling, gifting, and maturity. And then, in heaven, when we see each other, we will see the Father because we, from ourselves, will be doing nothing. Then we will be living as our Lord lives. Then, as stated, it will be God all in all. Then we will live perfect lives, learning much from God, and be in perfect fellowship with Him and each other.

The Bible does not teach directly either way. God has left it as a matter of faith. But there are about 8 indicators that, when taken together, signal strongly that the maturity we have at death, we may have forever.●12 We are here now to gain this maturity - to become mature in high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. 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 leaning process in relationship living, we sin (make mistakes), and no sin will be in heaven.●13 And further our sin natures will be removed from us so we can no longer sin. 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.

*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,*

***God, in eternity, may use the maturity He commands that we have in different ways than we can know now. Even now there can be aspects we do not know. Thus, we need to pay attention and obey God to pursue this maturity. Then we can have God's best and the most of what He has planned for us regardless of whatever else we might know or think we know. This, in my understanding and pursuit. This is why we are here.●14 ●15***

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12. **GRACE:** We are saved by the Grace of God for eternal life salvation, and we are matured in Christ by the Grace of God. However, in each case, we are to believe certain doctrines by faith and we are to activate our faith by obeying God's instructions for gaining salvation and maturity in Christ. We do this by God working in us. The unbeliever who remains an unbeliever rejects God's Grace to be saved. And also, in effect, the believer rejects God's Grace if he refuses to obey adequately God in order to gain maximum maturity in Christ. Maximum maturity in Christ is not expected to happen to all of us automatically when we die.

13. **SIN:** Sin is something that is disobedient to and displeases God in thought, word, or deed. Thus, it is something that breaks His spiritual relationship laws. This requires God's Justice to be satisfied.

14. **MATURITY IN CHRIST AT DEATH:** I realize because there is no direct teaching so that few Bible teachers talk about it. But what if our maturity is fixed forever at death? Can anyone prove it is not? It is most wise to obey God and pursue maturity so we will have the best we can have at death. But the problem is that our church teaching is going mainly to first level which greatly limits this from happening unless people go on their own. This is what I am doing. But we can all use help, and we can help each other.

***(If our maturity could increase in heaven and if He chose who would be saved, God could have just created us and put us in heaven. Then no one would need to go to the Lake of Fire. But because the***  
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## SUMMARY ABOUT BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST FROM THE TOP DOWN AND THE JOB OF THE CHURCH

- \* **God's Objective** is that He will direct our lives so that we can know and relate to Him In Is depth-breadth throughout eternity living by His Greatness. It is for us to praise, glorify, and enjoy God throughout eternity living by His perfect ways in a perfect life of His holiness and righteousness without sin amidst His perfect and infinite Glory. He wants that we can have and live out His perfect value. When we live God centered and by His ways, we live without sin. **Imagine living in the environment of absolute perfection and glory without sin of any kind.**
  
- \* **God's Method or Requirement** to have this life is that we gain a maximum maturity in Christ so that He can direct and lead us in maximum ways according to His Greatness. For this to happen, we need the capability for us to respond. Thus, for the capability to do this is to bring us to maturity in Christ, living as He lives with everything in life coming from God the Father in relationship living, living by love keeping the commandments and by faith, trusting God to fulfill His promises and work all things together for good. **We will keep His commandments under His direction because of our great love for Him, not because we have to or as robots. He will direct us based on our love ability to respond. This is why love is so important to be developed so He will command us in the greater ways. This capability is so we can respond properly in a maximum way to God and thus, live by His perfection and without sin. As presented, two aspects in our maturity are: (1) live by love keeping God's commandments to live holy and righteously, and (2) to live by faith, obeying the instructions with the promise, to live without sin and to gain revelation from God. As a result of both, He works all things together for good and fulfills the actions in His promise.**
  
- \* **The Church's Objective and Main Outcome Oriented Job (God's Method)** is to bring her people (those who will respond) to this needed maturity in Christ in this lifetime (implement God's method) as led of God. ***We are to take our people to the highest maturity levels we understand, living as Christ lives and pray for more understanding.*** We are to live out what we are teaching as a testimony to others. There is, as stated, the strong possibility

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***Cross may be the only way that maximum sacrificial love can be demonstrated and understood, this life with a choice, no doubt, was needed. There can be other aspects.)***

15. **WE ALL HAVE QUESTIONS:** Of course we have questions about those who die young, do not have the Bible background, and are not adequately taught. God promised us fairness, but not equality. It is better to be in heaven with little maturity, than not to exist. Those in countries who are being persecuted and who may know little about the Bible, but obey what they know, can be much more mature than we are here in America who know much more, but are doing but little with it. We often follow God's leading to search out for God's help and obey God when we have great need. Such can be the case for those in our persecuted countries. But here in America, where there are perceived less needs, our people may not have sufficient motivation to search out God and for all He has for us. They tend to depend upon themselves and their prosperity. They have less than the needed fear and awe of God. And many churches often work for numbers and money (having large facilities) at a higher priority than working to mature their own people.

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that the maturity we have at death, we may have forever. Whether it is true, God commands us to pursue this maturity. (We will go into eternity with all of us having different maturity and skill levels - whatever we reached in this lifetime. Will our maturity levels increase in eternity? We are not told in Scripture. (What if it will not increase?) But if we obey God now to pursue maturity, we will have the best of God that He wants us to have.●16)

\* **The Church's Method (HER ACTIVE MINISTRY AND IMPLEMENTATION JOB) to bring her people to a maximum maturity in Christ *is to train her people in depth-breadth, both academically and practically, with some on-the-job training to (must do all four):***

**1. Worship, Exalt, and Glorify God:** We must learn and train 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 in close and intimate fellowship.

(Psalm 150; Matthew 22:37-38; John 4:23; 15:10; 17:4; Acts 5:29; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 1:9-11, 18; Hebrews 11:6.)

**2. Live Godly as Christ Lives:** We must learn and train to live godly lives in head-subordinate relationships 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 live by love to live holy and righteously and to know the heart of God. We will live by faith in God to fulfill His promises (we must know them) to be without sin, receive revelation from God, and have God work all things together for good in our lives. We must activate this faith by obeying God's instructions with the promise. We will live by faith to know which commandment to obey as we live life.

(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.*)

***Our maturity is measured only by God. It is the degree that 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. Our Lord is our only role model. Of course He can and does respond to the Father in much-much greater ways than we can.***

**3. Help Accomplish God's Work:** We must help and train to (1) evangelize the entire world, including our **ENTIRE** local area, to receive Christ as Savior; (2) disciple converts to

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16. **LIFE:** As Christians, we are not just to hear a good sermon each week, attend Sunday School, be involved in God's work, and then live righteously, regardless of their vital need. We are also to learn the techniques for living the Christian life such as living by faith in every aspect of our life and live by love sacrificially serving each other. We need to learn the maximum in ways to walk with God in our experience.

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become mature in Christ-likeness (not just work for spiritual growth); (3) build godly families; (4) plant new churches; and (5) reach out to and help the needy. (As we experience God using us in ministry such a leading child to Christ, we are not the same person any more. Have you led anyone to Christ?)

(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 stand strong on the priority basic and foundation doctrines of the Christian faith for which we would be willing to die, without falling away. These doctrines must include the Greatness and Attributes of God. These priority doctrines would be found in a good Church doctrinal statement. ●17 (See the doctrinal statement on my web site under **About Us** 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.*

***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 so we have an example to follow as we are being trained. We need teachers, preachers, and family heads that are good 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 we hear the preacher, but do not see the sermon lived out, nor does he give testimony. Very***

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**17. OTHER DOCTRINES:** Now that the endtimes are here, we show know how endtimes prophecy unfolds so that we can be alerted, trained, ready, and prepared. Apart from this fact of going to be with Christ at the Rapture and that He is coming again, the details of the endtimes should be in secondary doctrinal statements because they are not details for which we would die. This should be true even if we hold them strongly. And people do believe differently here. There are some other doctrines we want to know but upon which we are not willing to die. They often relate to whether or not God chose us to become Christians (the elect) or did He know that we would become Christians. Regardless of our belief here, we must share the Gospel for people to become saved.

***often, sermons, although being good, come across as if no one has lived these things out before.***

The above four topics can be taught to a large degree in depth-breadth under three topics: (1) Christian-Faith Doctrines with God's Greatness and Attributes (Item 4 above) See my doctrinal statement and report on God's attributes; (2) God's Plan for History with the Spiritual Warfare and Endtimes Prophecy (needed background - read my reports in Biblical Worldview and in Prophecy on the web site); and (3) Christian-Life Relationship Principles (Items 1-3 above). We plan to add more training to the website. ***Those who teach Christian-Life Relationship Principles should have family and ministry experience and have lived out most or many of the principles with testimony.***

***(We should train all our people and especially our children and youth in the four topics. This includes the youth and other new people God brings into the Church.)***

### **THE NEEDED TOPICS OF CHRISTIAN-LIFE RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES WITH MINISTRY TRAINING**

Our training for gaining maturity and doing ministry should include the following:

- \* Knowing, Understanding, and Living under God's Greatness and Attributes
- \* God's Goal: Becoming Mature High-skill Spiritual Ability in Christ-likeness in Relationship Living
- \* Learning to Live Life Patterned after the Father and Son Relationship; Living as Christ Lives
- \* Head-subordinate Relationships; Building Strong Families; Secrets for Finding a Spouse
- \* Living in the Triunity of Life Patterned after the Trinity; How to Correct Relationship Problems
- \* Recognizing and Correcting Spiritual Problems; Counseling (Case Studies)
- \* Having God Work All Things Together for Good - the God and Servant Roles
- \* Living by Faith; Claiming and Using the Promises, Living Without Sin and Gaining Revelation from God; Trusting God to Take Us to Live in Eternity with Christ in the New Jerusalem.
- \* Testings and Sufferings That Develop Our Faith; Standing Strong under Persecution
- \* Living by the Love That Keeps God's Commandments in Sacrificial Service to God and Others to Live Holy and Righteously, Learning God's Heart
- \* Living by Hope with a Pure Heart That Keeps One Pure Without Immorality to Know God; Glorifying God in Our Bodies
- \* Living Necessary Attitudes, Leadership and Beatitude Character Qualities, and Doctrines
- \* Having a Strong Personal Prayer and Devotional Life
- \* Living under the Leading and Filling of the Holy Spirit
- \* Knowing Why We Have Eternal Security in Christ
- \* Living God's Way under Spiritual Warfare; the Dialectic Process
- \* Learning to Teach, Lead, Witness, and Evangelize; Training to Lead People to Christ and mature them in Christ
- \* Methods That Develop Our Personal Walk with God
- \* Keys to Good Bible Interpretation

**(I have taught most or all of these and plan to add more of this training to the web site. There are charts on the site now.)**

## MINISTRY TRAINING EMPHASIS

***The Church's ministry, as stated, is to be outcome oriented, not just procedurally oriented. That is, we are to, working with other churches, evangelize our total (entire) local areas, not just do some evangelism. We can use many methods (but using only the Scriptures). We are to mature our people in Christ to the highest maturity level we understand (and pray for more understanding), and not just work for spiritual growth. We need to train to be there for each other in sacrificial service. We need a detailed well thought-out curriculum (academically and practically oriented) for all of this with the provision to make changes as we learn more and receive leading from God. We should allow teachers, as they are led of God, to emphasize different aspects. And we need to see what God is leading us to do as our part in evangelism, especially of the children. (Selecting topics randomly, even though taught well, does not bring maturity, even though it helps in growth. We need to be outcome, not procedurally oriented. We need a curriculum of God's Whole Counsel that does the needed job.)●18***

We are not to train people just with Bible content and knowledge, but, using the Bible, we are to train people to walk with God, live godly with maturity, and do His will and work, being Christian (Christ) life oriented. ***We are to train at the middle of the upper half of our people and have boot camp training for new people to bring them up to speed. We are to bring all our people to the higher walk with God with great maturity.*** We should involve them in ministry. We must not stay mainly at the lowest common denominator as many churches appear to be doing today to teach especially the youth. Because, in this case, after the first year of training, very few gain, and we develop an immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of biblical knowledge We have learned only the fundamentals and have but little to which to look forward. Are we there now? ***When this happens to most of our churches as is happening today?***

Thus, our first priority is to mature our own people, not mainly to train new people and reach the lost and the youth. If we do not, we leave our own people immature. ***This results in the sin of omission.*** This will happen when we train mostly at the first-level. When we do not work with our own people as first priority and take care of them, we can be worse than unbelievers which is sin. When the new people learn the basics, what is next - we leave them immature and without future growth. Our regulars will still enjoy the good sermons, but how much will they grow? So why attend any longer.●19 Because in effect, by doing so, we are (without wanting to) attempting ourselves to work all things together for good, when we are not doing all what God wants. (The problem comes when pastors and teachers plan sermons and teachings that most everyone (the regulars and older people) knows and have known for a long time.)

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18. **TRAINING:** We can add advanced training on these needed subjects without changing all other things we may be doing. We can provide the training at different times or we can integrate it with what we are doing.

19. **LOWEST LEVEL:** Years ago, I took a Greek class where the instructor worked mostly at the lowest common denominator of the group. As a result, half way through the course, half of the class (the brighter ones) left. There was little purpose is staying.

## WHAT TRAINING SHOULD INCLUDE

We need to see that teaching by itself may not bring training. We have training when our people know the principles, know how to live them out, and are actually living them out in application with some on-the-job- training. (I said to myself that I learned more in the first year of working than I did in all four years of college.) Thus, we need to train with what to do and especially how to do it. ***Teachers and preachers help us more in their good teaching if they would also include how we are to live or carry out the teachings with sharing of some testimony from their own lives as to how they lived them out. And of course, we, personally, must live them out.***●20

## NEEDED UNDERSTANDING

We must understand that our churches, including in our youth groups, consist of the gung ho, the very faithful, the watchers (mainly attendees), and new people. We, as stated, should always train at the middle of the upper half of our people. We should not train mainly at the level of the watcher and new person. We should draw these people up to the higher level teachings. We should spend much more time in training with our own gung ho and very faithful than we do with the others. We can have a separate boot camp training for new people to bring them up to speed. But if we only train at the beginning level (if that) as our seeker friendly and emerging churches appear to be doing, we become, as stated, the immature Church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of biblical knowledge. ***Not knowing endtimes prophecy, our people will not know what is happening when the endtimes unfold.*** If we are gaining large numbers of new people, we can have special church services, seminars, and special classes for them. But we must maintain maturing our own people at a higher priority.●21 Our people, as stated, must know and appreciate the need for more advanced training (the meet of the Word). They must know that it is important to the elders and pastors. Then they will look forward to the training and will come out even when we have the training other than Sunday mornings.

We should understand that satanic strategy is to transform our churches from orthodoxy to become the immature church by using mainly first-level training. This brings aspects of the sins of omission in our leadership that allows Him (Satan) to bring the endtimes and have our churches not know what is happening when they come. The problem in our churches today rest more in what they are not doing than in what they are doing. Many churches are doing good things. But is this God's good or His best? Are not sins of omission involved?

Our churches should to be trained to appreciate God's Greatness, realize that our maturity can be fixed at death, the need to train to mature their people, and avoid implementing satanic strategy. They should do critical analysis of their ministries to see how well they are maturing

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20. **EVANGELISM:** We, as stated, are changed people when God uses us to lead another to Christ, especially a child or young person.

21. **WRONG APPROACH:** What would think of a father of a family who taught only the fundamental things for life without the more mature things and spent most of His time bringing new people into the Church? Is this not what our churches are doing today.

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their people (are they in ministry and taking advanced training) and especially also how well are they evangelizing complete local areas, especially the children and the youth (how many water baptisms are they having of new converts from the community). Then as the children grow up, doing the proper ministries, we will become the mature and worshipping Church. This must be our implemented goal.

What is happening now in many of our churches especially when we are dumbing down our training and using rock-type music? We are not training adequately with the four basic topics listed previously, particularly Christian-Life Relationship Principles and endtimes prophecy. We are leaving our people with inadequate maturity for eternity and to be blind sided when the calamity comes suddenly to take us into the Tribulation, when all rules change. This is sin of omission. (We must turn around and mature our people and accomplish area-wide evangelism, especially that of the Children. Statistics show that 85% of people coming to Christ do so between the ages approximately 4-14.) Thus, not maturing our people and evangelizing the children, we are implementing satanic strategy to become the immature Church. It is a matter of degree in our churches. We should (must) turn this around.●22

### **SUMMARY**

***We are to identify all that God wants us to do and do it with excellence and commitment. If we will do this, we can be a larger testimony to other churches. We can be an example Church which is now greatly needed, This testimony is needed greatly now that many of our churches are falling away with pablum teaching and using loud-beat rock music.***

And as stated, we are not just to do some evangelism, we are also to help evangelize our complete local and foreign areas working together as churches. We are not just to disciple our people to grow in Christ, we are also to mature our young and most faithful people in Christ at the highest skill levels we understand. ***Thus as stated, we are to be outcome oriented, not just procedurally oriented. We are to seek God's best and all of His best. Then we become the mature and example church that is vitally needed.***

***Lets work together maturing our people, including our children and youth, in Christ and help evangelize our complete local areas. We should go all out to establish after-school Bible clubs. We can work with from 15-30 children per school. In this, we can work with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). We can use the high quality CEF training materials in our Sunday Schools. Doing these, we will have the best of God both now and for***

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22. **ROCK MUSIC:** People believe differently here, but for this to happen, we must get our young people out from under loud beat type rock music. Such music, in our view, is not of God and certainly not His best. It can impede spiritual growth. **Music is not neural.** Rock music emphasizes body motion and not the spirit and soul to give one's heart in worship to God. Of course people can be different here, but rock music has led some youth into immorality. Why not use the best music when worshipping God. This would include most hymns, Gospel music, and praise songs (not repetitive). Rock music is mainly for the attendees, not for God. Does God listen to it.? There should be some good contemporary music that does not have the loud repetitive rock type beat that our young people should like.

*eternity, and we will be prepared for the endtimes before they come.*

**SUMMARY OF KEY ASPECTS  
NEEDED TO GAIN MATURITY AND TO LIVE AS GOD HAS PLANNED**

(There are additional aspects not presented.)

**TRAINING:** We are to be centered in God's Greatness and training our people to become mature in Christ by training them academically and practically in at least all these four categories listed previously. We are to trust God, not ourselves, to work all things together for good, living the servant role, without taking any independent action. Activating our faith, we will from love, keep His commandments, and from His purpose, help accomplish His work. ***Our Lord said that He glorified His Father in heaven, because He accomplished all the work that His Father gave Him to do.*** We glorify God when our lives live out what comes from Him and what He has asked us to do. When we do what we think, coming from ourselves as a source, we in effect, without our intention or desire, glorify ourselves, even in the ministry. This can be sin, even when doing good things. This can be true even when doing work in the Church.

The following items in summary are key things needed in our lives if we are to have God's best, both now and in eternity (We should train in all of these and especially in the four items previously presented):●23

- \* Know and appreciate God's Greatness and Attributes, so that we are willing to give our lives over to Him and let Him guide our lives and hold our future.
- \* Learn to live as Christ lives in head-subordinate relationships patterned after Christ's walk with the Father. Learn to live with everything for direction coming from God the Father (today, from the Bible). This is a "first place" in life, particularly lived out in our families and marriages. As we live, have others see Christ in us, and not we ourselves because we, from ourselves, are doing nothing. There is little maturity apart from this life.
- \* Love God with our total beings such that we keep His commandments. This means we know the commandments and are walking by faith, trusting God for what commandments we are to keep and live out. Then we live holy and righteously. We should regularly read the commandments.
- \* Love others as we love ourselves so that we serve others sacrificially. We, like God, will not want anyone to perish. Thus, we will be in ministry somewhere, particularly helping the children and youth become Christians and grow in Christ. We should consider placing many after-school Bible clubs.
- \* Walk by faith trusting God to fulfill His promises. We should memorize many promises. We will activate that faith by obeying the instructions with the promises. Then we live without sin and receive revelation from God. We live without sin because all is coming from God, not

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23. **ROCK MUSIC:** We should no longer use rock music and its derivatives in our churches. We should search for other contemporary music and use the hymns, Gospel music, and praise songs (not repetitive).

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from us, as a source. We will have spiritual insight. We are to trust God to work all things together for our good such that we from love, keep His commandments, and from His purpose, help accomplish His work.

- \* Work to possess and take on the spiritual requirements (character qualities) of Church leadership and the Beatitudes and live by them.
- \* Training will include teaching others what to do, how to do it, and give personal testimony for living it out. We will provide some on-the-the training. The life of the teachers should demonstrate how the principles are to be lived out.
- \* Have a strong prayer and devotional life. We will pray about all things and regularly read and study our Bibles.
- \* Have sharing times and prayer in church fellowship groups.
- \* We are to train our own people to become mature in Christ at the highest ability levels we understand with a curriculum that is both academically and practically oriented at a much higher priority than we do to reach new people. We are to work more time with the gung ho and the very faithful than we are with the watchers and new people. We should train in the middle if the upper half. We can provide a boot camp fundamental training for new people to bring them up to speed. (We must not dumb down our major teaching and use rock music to reach the youth at the expense of not maturing our own people and using proper music in worship.)

**NOTE:** My report: *Living by God's Righteousness* has many promises to memorize and commandments to read. It also has the attributes of God, the requirements for Church leadership, principles of love, and material on prayer. It is available on my web site under TRAINING.

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.**