

Christ- Centered



Biblical Training

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

September 2008 Newsletter Report

Summary:

**APPROACH NEEDED TO BECOMING
MATURE IN CHRIST-LIKENESS IN
RELATIONSHIP LIVING●¹**

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SECTION ONE

**NEWSLETTER PURPOSE; FUNDAMENTAL APPROACH NEEDED
TO BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST, GAINING WHAT GOD INTENDS, AND
ACCOMPLISHING HIS WILL IN EVERYTHING●²**

The purpose of this newsletter report is to describe in summary, “**after**” becoming a Christian, many of the key and necessary approaches to have all of what God has planned for us to become mature in Christ needed for eternity. It is a discussion of **procedure** (ministries) that leads to **outcome** (being mature). We must **first** have a complete understanding of the desired **outcome** if we are to choose and use sufficient and needed **procedures** (ministries) to gain the needed maturity - but only from the Bible. We can train (procedure) as church growth with what we know in the way we are to live as we will having (some) maturity (outcome). For this reason sometimes, we can confuse the procedure and the outcome. They can be similar or the same when one becomes more mature. One is growing to maturity and the other is living being mature.

As being shared in this newsletter report as a main topic, we can most likely best accomplish most of what God has planned if we are “both” outcome and procedurally oriented. One must clearly understand, that we should be outcome oriented with a “complete description (the best we know)” of the required outcome as defined by God in the Bible, not by us - not even defined by tradition. The outcome must include to become mature in Christ, and from love: (1) glorify and worship God; (2) know and relate to God in His depth-breadth; (3) evangelize the complete world; and (4) be there for each other. Only then can one use or select procedures that are needed to produce the needed outcome. As

1. PURPOSE: *The purpose of this current newsletter is to present more details on the concept of Outcome and Procedure to become mature in Christ and to better understand the job of the Church as a follow on to our August Newsletter Report: Summary: The Most Important Jobs of the Church: Particularly Now That the Endtimes Are Unfolding (Are Here). It is a wake up call for us to do better. This report is meant for those who want the best of God and are willing to work toward doing all His will.*

2. KEY REFERENCES: Read this reference from my web site: July 2008 Newsletter Report: Summary: The Most Important Concept to Learn and For Why We Are Here: To Gain the Spiritual Maturity to Know and Relate to God in His Greatness as you read this report for the Scriptures and more details.

Read also these references: June 2008 Newsletter Report: Signs That Show That We, As Christians, Are Becoming Mature in Christ; and December 2007 Newsletter-Report: Gaining Maturity in Christ-likeness Is Why We Are Here (We, Most Importantly, Are to Glorify God).

is being stated, none of us have arrived, so the procedure or method described or selected is a growth process. As we grow, we will adjust our procedures. But we need to know the method to achieve God's best, so we can work toward it. This is one main purpose for this newsletter report.

We should also differentiate what is outcome and what is procedure. If we are mainly procedurally oriented (not understanding the details and description of the needed output), we can choose procedures that do not produce the needed and required outcomes. This is particularly true if we have an inadequate description of the needed outcome. We can fall way short. We must not let this happen. Thus, we need to have a complete description of the needed outcome.●³

This report, then, is a summary of this needed approach or method (for being procedure and outcome oriented) and the details and Scriptural development are found in my other reports.●⁴ There are no doubt many approaches we do not know or could add. But this newsletter report is a beginning, particularly for the basic needed approach. All things must come from our perfect God as a source, and we need to appreciate His absolute and infinite Greatness for us to have an adequate incentive to seek out and do only what comes from Him, found in His Holy Bible. We should not add our own thoughts. **Everything that is good has and can only come from God. We are created beings, we have nothing good in us as a source - only what came from Him as a source.**

We fully understand that most likely all of us fall short of knowing a complete description of being mature in Christ and how we get there. We all should be in a state of growth - not there yet - but aiming to get there. But the described procedure or method for using "outcome" and "procedure" should put us on the road of getting nearer. We, as being stated, can regularly update our understanding as we learn more. And very importantly, we can learn from each other.

(The main thing is one attempting to know and understand the needed biblical outcome or going their own way. This is similarly true for procedure. Our churches are in different states of conditions. Many are working to do biblically right. Others want to do right. And still others are going their own way, such as based on tradition, or attempting to produce results

3. IDENTIFICATION. Some identify discipleship to become more Christ-like for the goal or outcome. But this is procedure and can be the goal if sufficient characteristics of Christ are trained for that which would exist if we were mature in Christ. The training must include a complete curriculum, but this is not always (generally) the case. We generally, as we begin, do only a small portion of what is needed, even though what we are doing can be good type things. Thus, we need continued study and obedience from faith to gain the needed revelation. Being mature in Christ in relationship living with the Father is the needed and desired outcome. Becoming Christ-like includes doing ministry, and glorifying and worshiping God with everything coming God the Father as a source. We train in these for growth and being mature we will be doing them. But if we are not training in them?

4. DEVELOPMENT: See key references under footnote 2 for this and others on my web site for details for how we become mature.

to gain numbers without also obeying God to mature their people at the highest skill levels.)

But this is generally a multiple step process. We may be only allowed to gain understanding of many mature characteristics until after we grow in some maturity - we are in a growth process, but only then in actuality if we have the proper aim. Thus, as stated, we may have to update our outcome descriptions periodically. If we stay in great disobedience to God, we may never learn of the needed outcomes and procedures to get there. This appears to be true today of or in many-many of our churches. Thus, many or most churches appear to be dumbing down instead of growing in maturity. ***Instead of trusting God to do according to His promises, they (generally church leaders and pastors) are going much of their way by sight - personal choice. Such does not bring the needed revelation of the Scriptures. (As will be stated, we can gain the needed answers by revelation if we walk by faith and trust God to give us His leading.)***

We must also understand that for God to be God in our lives in practice, both the outcome and procedure must come from God as the source, meaning today only from the Holy Bible (in our most accurate translations). Only then is the source from God. We must not identify or characterize the main outcomes from ourselves as a source. Doing so most likely will lead to wrong or inadequate outcomes and procedures and sin because God does not accept things from ourselves as a source, and we in ourselves do not have perfect truth. Thus, we will choose inadequate outcomes and incomplete and/or wrong procedures. God sometimes gives us latitude to choose in the applications regarding the procedures based on His leading. And even then, we must believe these came from God and led by the Holy Spirit, and not from ourselves as a source. Only God is to have the credit. Only He alone is perfect, complete, lacking in nothing, and worthy of praise. When we live His way, we can more greatly glorify God and have great fellowship with and enjoy Him.

For examples: (1) we should work to evangelize our complete or entire local areas (outcome), not just do some evangelism (procedure); and (2) we should work to mature our people, including our children and youth, in Christ using more complete training toward the maximum we understand (outcome), not just disciple them using random teachings (instead of teachings from a reasonable complete curriculum that trains toward maturity) in some degree to live Christ-like (procedure). These presented limited procedures do not get the job done. This happens because our churches have not identified the needed outcome. This is one reason our churches are not maturing their people and are not evangelizing their entire local areas. Another main reason of course, is that they are not adequately obeying and studying the Scriptures, assuming they know the Scriptures. This is sin. **(E.g. If we are doing only some evangelism instead of working to evangelize complete areas and/or teaching for spiritual growth instead of more completely for maturity maybe; (1) we do not know how to reach the entire area; (2) we do not have an understanding of what maturity is all about and how to get there; and/or (3) we have an incomplete definition. Also, we may choose not to.)**

Another aspect we must understand is that if we are to change the (our) world (outcome), we must evangelize and disciple the children and youth to maturity as high priority (procedure). This is because statistics show that 85% of the people coming to Christ world wide do so between the ages of 4-14 and 99% before they leave college. If we do this job with excellence our world will be changed as these grow up to become adults. But what are

we doing as churches and what is happening in our schools? We are going in the opposite direction. So what is the expected outcome?

When we fall short, this is symptomatic of not being adequately outcome oriented which is the “cause” of the symptoms. We use less or inadequate procedures than that required. All symptoms where we fall short result from not appreciating God’s Greatness such that we seek and do all of what, and only what He has planned. We go some of our own way, doing less than what He has planned, and even in wrong ways. This results in sin because it results in our attempting to work all things together for good at least to some extent. This is true, even if it is not our intent or desire. For this we need to be seeking the truth in these matters, or we can remain just rocking along. Only our God is qualified to work all things together for our good. (Working all things together for good was Satan’s main sin. We must not do the same even when we do not want to. This requires our growing in Christ.)

As shared in other reports or documents for falling short, examples of not knowing the needed outcome as defined by God (Not knowing the desired outcome (is cause)) and not knowing and doing the needed and wrong procedures (is symptoms of the cause) includes:

1. To be successful with God and have the best that He offers, we must be outcome oriented so that He works all things together for good (and we do not try), and that we live such that all of our life for thought, action, and direction as we live comes from Him. This requires us dying to self as any guidance over our lives and we live out what Christ is currently working in us (Galatians 2:20). We learn to live with everything coming from God as a source (the Bible)- no exceptions. Then He is truly our God, and it is God all in all. ***Dying to self and living only by what comes from God is the only way we can live to glorify God and gain maturity in Christ. Thus, if we want to glorify God to the utmost, we must completely die to self will in order to live by His will. Thus, we will study the Bible for what He wants done and do so with excellence.***
2. We can do some discipling toward maturity (being somewhat procedurally oriented) without: (1) adequately maturing with the proper understanding of maturity; (2) knowing what are all the procedures needed; and (3) seeing the need (not being adequately outcome oriented) because we do not realize the maturity we have at death we may have forever. We do not realize that the main reason we are here is to gain maximum maturity so we can know and relate to God toward His Greatness and Perfection in eternity. ***We overlook that God commands we pursue maturity.*** We do not study to determine what are all the needed characteristics. So we disciple in some of them, but insufficient of that needed, especially to live as our Lord lives with everything coming from God the Father as a source. Thus as a result, we can believe wrongly (or do not think about it) that we can disciple our people to some lessor degree and extent without hurting their eternities. Thus, not adequately maturing is symptomatic of not knowing the strong need to mature our people - the cause. (However, having maturity helps to prepare us for handling the persecution of the endtimes.)
3. Now many churches appear to be (are) doing mainly first-level (pabulum) training (procedurally oriented) without also training to maturity so we can reach the youth. Many believe they are maturing their people, but to what level? This can be without realizing we are implementing key satanic strategy and hurting our own people for they will not have the maturity (outcome) needed

to have God's best in eternity. This low level only training by "our" choice does not bring maximum glory to God. It tends to emphasize glory to man which God rejects. (If we were outcome oriented knowing the situation, we would not implement satanic strategy.) The result of training inadequately is that we build (are building) the immature Church (the Church is being transformed) to have a loss of biblical intellect, having but a low plateau of biblical knowledge. This gives Satan more power to bring the endtimes with world government. Thus also, when our youth get into the Tribulation and under world government, they will not know we are in the endtimes and will not know the why of what is happening and where it is going. They then will be further transformed for world government and religion. Thus, many or most will fall away from the faith under the coming persecution of the endtimes Tribulation. This falling away gives Satan more power. (This is the result of a disobedient Church (e.g. church leaders and pastors), not being adequately outcome oriented.)

Of course, as being stated, all of the above in 1-3 is a growth process, all led of God, where we will need to help each other. We can make changes as we learn more. But we need to have a first overall study with all being placed on paper for our starting. Then we can more easily update things as we learn and experience more of living His way. But we must understand that the best and sinless life must be one that is directed by God in all aspects. We should work to this end. But all under God's leading. The Christian life is not a do it yourself process, even knowing many Scriptures, and having great intellect. God gives intellect to help us study and learn the Scriptures so that He leads all of life.

Thus, if we are to have the most success now and especially in eternity, we must know only from His Holy Bible all of what God wants done, how and to the degree by how He wants it done, what He wants us to become, and how we are to live. Then we will obey to the fullest with excellence and expediency. (All of this is to be interpreted to us by the Holy Spirit or we by ourselves, can make inaccurate interpretations and go in incomplete and wrong ways.) ***We will do these right things, if we appreciate His absolute Infinite Perfection and Greatness, realizing there is nothing else.*** This involves living by faith so that all we are doing we believe is coming from God as a source - living as Christ lives. It is trusting Him to do as He promises, and activating our faith with obedience to His instructions. It involves loving Him for who and what He is. It involves loving God and each other. Then we will keep His commandments and serve each other sacrificially. We will have more incentive to live this way, if we have the blessed hope of one day being forever with Christ in heaven when we will see Him face to face. There is much-much more, even much-much more than we know.

This growth process is largely true because God does not reveal things to us until we live by faith in Him to do what He says and we have the associated obedience. Thus, if we live by design to fall short in our disobedience, incomplete obedience, or go much of our own way, we may never know of the best He offers and wants for us - living His way in detail so we can know and relate to Him in more depth to experience living by His absolute Greatness. (The understanding of the Bible is not mainly academic. It comes from God working in us, and the deeper things by the revelation of the Scriptures we receive as we walk by faith trusting God to fulfill His promises.)

Thus, we, in my view, should work for excellence before God. We need to be outcome oriented for “all” of what God wants done “with complete descriptions” of the desired outcomes (as best we know from the Bible). *This is key if we are to live by all of God’s best.* Then ascribe tasks as procedures (mostly using the Bible’s inputs) to accomplish the desired outcomes. We should write out in detail a description of the needed outcome and how these tasks are to be accomplished and how their accomplishment produces the desired outcome, expecting leading from God. Place all on paper (In computer). As stated, update our inputs as we learn more, including taking inputs from others. *As stated, in a growth process, we must have the most complete descriptions of the outcome we can learn in order to know and use the best and proper procedures (with the needed obedience and training).*****

(Generally by observation, many, if not most, of our churches are only working some and inadequate procedures, and thus, fall way short of accomplishing the needed outcome. For example, they say they are working to disciple their people to be Christ-like, but do they have a detailed description of what it means to be completely Christ-like? So the outcome is not achieved. Another example, is that churches state they are doing evangelism, but do they do critical analysis to determine how many water baptisms are they having each year of new converts from the community to show they are actively doing evangelism?)

Thus, we must not be mainly or only procedurally oriented. We should work to accomplish the complete job God has put before us, being outcome oriented. Then we will chose the needed procedures after we have established a description from the Bible of the needed outcome. If we remain mostly procedurally oriented, we most likely will accomplish much less of God’s desired outcome. But if we choose procedures to produce the outcome we “now” understand (being it now incomplete), living by faith, we can continually gain more understanding of the outcome and thus adjust our procedures.

We may never gain the complete desired outcome, but we should (helping each other) work toward it with excellence, or there is little opportunity to get there. In all of this, the person of Christ must be center, not our church organization or leaders, and certainly not ourselves. Many if not most of our churches are in a state of compromise doing some from God and some from themselves. We must not let our churches remain there. We can always add more details as we learn and progress. Walking by greater faith, as stated, we gain more revelation from God. It helps to put all on paper (in computer) and regularly update as we learn more. (Are our churches walking by the faith needed to gain revelation for the needed understanding from the Scriptures? This is why many churches today are going wrong ways. We must not allow this to happen to us.)

It is a must to implement this two-step procedure of being adequately outcome and procedurally oriented if we are to gain the most of what God has planned for us.●⁵ The

5. **CONTENT:** We must remember that teaching mainly Bible content and doctrines, Church history, the chaos of the cults, etc., however important, does not bring maturity in Christ as a life, even though very important in our minds for needed background and stand. We must train them with the principles for how to live out the Christian life as Christ lives, walk by love, walk by faith, and accomplish ministry, etc. Otherwise we can be a somewhat knowledgeable Christian, but with little maturity. We must live the life, as well as knowing the doctrines We must understand this, not only in our churches, but very importantly in our
(continued...)

remainder of this newsletter applies this approach to some degree for how we become mature in Christ and accomplish all or most of what God wants done in a growth process. But we must clearly understand, if we do not define the outcome and procedures carefully and in depth from the Scriptures we can continue in the wilderness and not gain the needed maturity in Christ that is needed for eternity - and of course for now. This report is a summary.●⁶

SECTION TWO
APPLICATION OF BEING BOTH OUTCOME AND PROCEDURALLY ORIENTED
TO GAIN MATURITY IN CHRIST

(Mainly only the key aspects are shared in summary.
Refer to References for Scriptures and Details)

SOURCE: For all to be correct for what we do and gain maturity in Christ, everything must come from God (nothing from man) as a source. Thus, all truth must be (will be) found in and come from God's Holy Bible. This applies to the Outcome and to the Procedures. Thus, the identification and description of all outcomes and procedures must be found in God's Holy Bible. Otherwise, one cannot know if they are of God and all (most) will not be. (As will be stated, God often gives us latitude for us to choose some of the details in the procedures that are in agreement with His direction.) (Of course we must seek God's will by faith-action steps when we work with different cultures and with people with different educations.)

DESIRED OUTCOME: The outcome is to live as Christ lives with all of life's direction in action and in thought coming from God the Father through Christ, our Lord and King. Then when people see our actions, they do not see us because we, from ourselves, are doing nothing. They see Christ and the Father. It is Christ living His life out through us. Then we live perfect lives. This life results when we love God with our total being and love others as ourselves. It results when we die to self, no longer attempting to work all things together ourselves for our good. We will be living keeping God's commandments, abiding in His love, and trusting God to fulfill His promises to us. We will serve others sacrificially from our love. Then we will be living holy and righteously without sin and receiving revelation from God. This is the desired outcome. In order to determine God's desire for us in ways that are not in the Bible declaratively, we can take faith-action steps, trusting that God will reveal His will. I have lived this way many times to determine some of the details in life such as a choice of a spouse, a job, and church to attend.

Because all of what we are doing is coming from God, living obediently as God desires, we

5(...continued)
seminaries, Bible colleges, and Christian Grammar and High Schools.

6. **GOING OUR OWN WAY:** If we choose to go our own way or an inadequate way with God, we, in practice, remain in the wilderness without entering the promised land of becoming and being mature in Christ. We live by pride and lust, perhaps not meaning to. We, perhaps not wanting to, live attempting to work all things together for good by ourselves. We live this way from pride believing we can. This is sin. As a result, we will know less about God in eternity and relate to Him in a lessor way than we might otherwise would.

will glorify God in all thoughts and actions. We will carry out what He has given us authority to do, but by His leading and ways. We will be doing nothing from ourselves as a source. We will be enjoying God forever. In this world, when events come up or when we are being tested, we will respond it is written in the Bible from the Father, we do it this way. Thus, we will do what God wants us to do.

NEEDED PROCEDURE: The procedure we choose, as written in the Bible, is to produce what is written for what our experience will be when we have reached the desired outcome - mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness living in relationships patterned after the Son's walk with the Father. Christ our Lord is our only example or model. Our maturity is measured by how much our life would match His if He were to act in our place. The reason we are here is to gain this maturity and live this way in our experience - really being second nature to us as some say.

The overview topics, in our view, for the minimum required and needed training (**procedure**) to gain maturity in Christ (**outcome**) consists of the following four topics (**procedure**) where each has much depth and breadth (all four main topics are needed): (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. For this input, read our web site report: 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.

The result of learning and living out these procedures are part of becoming mature in Christ. Sometimes, as stated, it is hard to differentiate between that of procedure and outcome. Generally outcome is what one is and how one lives. Procedure is how one is trained to get there. For example, we could be training to evangelize our entire local areas (procedure) and being mature we will be evangelizing our entire local areas (outcome). For example, if we are training to become mature in Christ, we will be learning and practicing glorifying God. If we are mature, we will be glorifying God. As we train, we can begin by implementing what we know and studying for more understanding. As we live out what we know from faith in obedience and trusting God to bring results, we should receive more revelation and understanding. (We can be glorifying God in what we do from God and not when we do things from ourselves as a source.)

The curriculum in Christian-Life Relationship Principles for living as Christ lives in order to gain maturity in Christ (**outcome**), 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 (**procedure**) (I have raised a family and have taught these over the years).

(1) The Attributes and Character Qualities of God in His Greatness; (2) God's Goal for People:

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Approach Needed to Becoming Mature in Christ-likeness in Relationship Living

Mature High-Skill Spiritual Ability in Christ-Likeness; (3) Learning to Live Life Patterned After the Father and Son Relationship; (4) Head-Subordinate Relationships; (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) 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); (16) Methods and Devotions that Develop Our Personal Walk with God; and (17) Life Under the Leading and Guiding by the Holy Spirit. All of these must be led and taught by the Holy Spirit.

In all of the above, there should be training to die to self, living out what Christ is working in us, and only trusting God to work all things together for good.

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 living out the principles, testimony for how one lived them out, and some form of on-the-job training. 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 the doctrines.

Thus, we should train for gaining experience, not just having knowledge. We must learn how to live the Christian life, not just know we should do it.