

**PART ONE:
KNOWING AND LIVING BY GOD'S GREATNESS**

The Basics of God's Plan to Be Understood

**GOD AND HIS GREATNESS
MUST BE CENTRAL**

We are to live our lives under God's Greatness

by

**John M. Stephenson
Biblical Worldview Ministries
Updated May 3, 2006**

Christ-Centered



Biblical Training

Revelation 4:8 - And the four living creatures, day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

Biblical Worldview Ministries
PMB 283
1111 West El Camino Real #109
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Copyright © 2006 by John M. Stephenson

PART ONE: KNOWING AND LIVING BY GOD'S GREATNESS
PART TWO: HOW HISTORY UNFOLDS

Scriptures are taken from
the New American Standard Bible

The information in this summary was taken mainly from my longer and more detailed reports on God's Plan and Prophecy that develop the teachings from Scripture. They are available. We are to live always under God's direction so that He works all things in our lives for good. He alone is qualified to do this. You are especially encouraged to read my prophecy paper: *The Pattern View of Prophecy; The Rapture Doctrines of Prophecy Show Clearly the Rapture Will Come Post-Tribulational* next. See how over 40 doctrines and Revelation's seven-sealed scroll, taken together, teach clearly a Post-Tribulation Rapture. The view is based on studying God's Plan for history and placing prophecy in as the end phase of His Plan.

DISCLAIMER: This report presents our view of the Bible and what God intends for us. You are invited to study on your own to reach your own conclusions and pray for what God would have you do. We cannot be responsible for what you do or do not do. We have attempted to point the pathway to have God's intended best and, in our view, share for how the endtimes will come. This report is meant to come along side and bring added value. None of us have complete information.

<p>Christ-Centered</p>  <p>Biblical Training</p> <p>2 Chronicles 16:9; Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6</p>	<p>PART ONE: KNOWING AND LIVING BY GOD'S GREATNESS</p> <p>GOD AND HIS GREATNESS MUST BE CENTRAL The Basics of God's Plan to Be Understood by John M. Stephenson Biblical Worldview Ministries Updated May 5, 2006</p>
---	--

NOTE: This report is a summary of the major Bible teachings that show the Triune God and His Greatness must be central to all parts of our lives. **When this happens we are majoring in the only major.** This paper shows how the Bible's teachings are aligned and integrated in God's Plan for history for why we are here. It presents the big picture of what God plans for us. This paper puts things in perspective including the spiritual warfare, the Cross, maturity in Christ, and the endtimes. Thus, it can be very helpful to readers whether or not they may know many of the individual teachings. ***Thus, this summary, presenting God's overall plan, integrated together, based on His Greatness is a very important document to be read and understood.***

GOD'S BASIC PLAN - God wants for us as believers in Christ and His Cross to know and relate to Him toward His depth in eternity. This is so we can know and experience His Perfection and Greatness and live by His ways. It is so we can fellowship with Him and each other in His perfection forever. His Perfection is all there is. He wants all people to become believers in Christ's Cross for justification of our sin. The Bible teaches that as believers we know God now. But the inference is that we will know much - much more about Him in eternity even though we might not be told now in precise terms. More of God's Glory will be revealed in heaven. (Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Ephesians 1:18; 3:16-19; Philippians 3:8-11; Colossians 1:10; 1 Peter 5:1)

In order for us to know and relate to God toward His fullest, we need a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living by faith and love. This lifetime is meant that we gain this spiritual ability. We are told to pursue this maturity. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 3:19; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1; 11:35; James 1:2-4)

THE GREATNESS OF GOD - God's Greatness is beyond our comprehension. He is perfect, most holy, and complete in all possible attributes and character qualities. There is no sin or darkness or sin in Him of any kind or any amount. He has always existed and has eternal self existence in Himself. He lives in a different domain than we do. He has always known the past, present, and future as in concept that we know them now. In Him, there is nothing new to learn. He has always known everything. He interfaces with billions of humans and angels all at the same time. He is everywhere and has infinite power. (See our study on the Attributes of God.)

He is holy, righteous, and truth. Holy, holy, holy is our Lord God almighty. He has mercy, everlasting kindness, grace, and infinite love. He works with us on an impartial basis. He has infinite Greatness.

God is a triunity or trinity consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They have always existed. None were created. All things come from the Father, through the Son, and to us by the Holy Spirit. Together, they brought all creation. There is no evolution.

Summary: God and His Greatness Must Be Central

But as will be discussed, no one (human or angel) has ever seen or will ever see God the Father at any time (John 1:18; 6:46; 3 John 1:11). This is true now and will also be in eternity. God the Father lives in some infinite domain. We have to live by faith that He exists and gain revelation from Him. We will physically see the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 3:2). We will be in a form to see Him as He is.

THE WAY WE ARE TO LIVE - God intends for us to live such that our every thought and action will come from Him as a source as His direction for our lives. This is how as our Lord Jesus lives (1 John 2:6; John 5:19-20). He is the source of all truth. This is what makes Him our God. We will respond from our love of Him without taking any independent action or initiative for direction and what we say (John 5:19-20, 40; 14:6-10; 1 John 2:6). From our love of Him, we are to keep His commandments (John 14:15; 15:10) This is why it is so important to learn to live by great love for Him and each other. God is love. We will use our intellects fully in response to God and to learn of His Word as He directs us. God may give us latitude on how we do His direction and will. We use our intellects to help determine and carry out His direction, but not to establish direction.

We know this because this is how our Lord Jesus lives. We are told to live His way. Thus, we are to live that every thought and action must come from God. (John 5:19-20, 40; 14:6-11; 1 John 2:6)

We are also to walk by faith in order to please God (Hebrews 11:6). We walk by faith for God to act the fullest in our lives. If we do not live by faith in what God does or has done, we will sin (Romans 14:23b). We are to trust God to fulfill His promises (1 Peter 1:5-9; 2 Peter 1:1-11). We activate our faith by obeying the instructions associated with the promise. Then we live without sin and gain more revelation from God.

In these ways, we can live by His perfect ways in holiness and righteousness without sin. In practice then, He will be our God. He will be God all in all. We are without inherent ability to live a perfect life. All direction, by necessity, must come from our perfect and one and only God. He must work all things together for our good. (Romans 1:18; 8:28; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 Peter 2:3-4)

DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW WE ARE TO LIVE - As stated, we cannot direct our lives because we are without inherent holiness and righteousness. We do not have complete knowledge of our circumstances. We will obey God from our love of Him. We will do this respecting and loving Who and What He is in His perfection. ***This is why it is so important to develop a great love for Him now as we keep His commandments.*** Without sacrificial love we are nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3) We do not live holy because we live selfishly from our depraved natures. We are to love Him with our total beings and others as we love ourselves. We are to consider others as more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:2-4). When we obey Christ, keeping His commandments, we abide in His love just as our Lord keep the Father's commandments and abided in His . (John 14:15; 15:9-10) (We will not obey as robots.)

We are not to live under our own power, but by the direction of Christ as He lives in us. This is a walk of faith that Christ is constantly working in and leading us. Our live is now from Him as a source. When we live our lives with us being the source, we live under law. Thus, we live under grace when we live by our new divine natures in response to God and we live under law when we do things from ourselves as a source.

Galatians 2:19 "For through the Law I died to the Law, that I might live to God.

Summary: God and His Greatness Must Be Central

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.

We, as stated, are told in the Bible to live as Christ lives. He took no independent action or initiative of any kind or of any amount. He only did what came from the Father as a Source. Thus, He could say that he who has seen Me, has seen the Father. He could say this for He, from Himself as a source, was doing nothing. Our Lord is the visible image of the invisible 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.

Colossians 1:15 And He is the (visible) image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. (Comment: Mine.)

We as individuals and the Church are to live this way. Then the world will see God the Father acting in us as we live out our lives at His direction. We can say he who has seen us, has seen the Father, because we, from ourselves, are doing nothing. Thus, to make God known, we need a life testimony of the Lord before the people, not just an academic knowledge. Then they can know that God lives.

As we live this way, we live holy and righteously without sin, according to His perfection. We learn of His heart - what is important to Him. Thus, we should learn of His perfect ways so He can lead us in them.

Knowing and relating to God, and fellowshiping with Him and each other according to His perfect ways, is His purpose for us. This is all there is. But we need to search out His ways and carry them out with great commitment, as He leads us in them. We will do this if we have some appreciation of His infinite Greatness. We were created for this purpose according to His will and pleasure. What a great privilege we have. *We should be very thankful that we exist and can know and relate to our perfect God.*****

LIFE IN ETERNITY - In eternity, God will direct all our thoughts and actions (as believers in Christ's Cross). He will do this commensurate with our maturities, personalities, callings, knowledge, fellowships, and gifting. He must do this to be our God (Otherwise we act as being god.) He must do this from love for us to live holy and righteously and have close and intimate fellowship with Him and with each other. This is the only way we can live perfect, productive, and satisfactory lives and have great fellowship with each other. We must live by faith to continuously gain more revelation from God of His Greatness. We must live by faith to avoid sinning.

GROWING IN MATURITY IN CHRIST-LIKENESS - As stated, in order for us to relate to and to know God toward His fulness (His objective), we need to develop a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. This life is patterned after the relationship of the Father with the Son (His method). The Bible commands us to pursue this maturity (Hebrews 6:1).

Our spiritual maturity is and can be measured only by God. The measure of our spiritual maturity is how we respond to God's leading in every aspect of life in comparison to how Christ, being perfect, would respond, if He were to act in our place.

(We require an ability to do all things and increased capability things require more ability. Such a comparison would be flying a single engine Cessna 172 airplane versus flying a military single or four engine jet. It would be like playing the scale on the piano versus playing a concerto.)

There apparently are a continuum of spiritual abilities in Christ-likeness. We respond with our spiritual abilities automatically. It is like playing the piano. One does not think were his fingers go. They just go.

To become mature in Christ, we need to at least:

1. Live according to the relationship principles that our Lord has with His Father in head-subordinate relationships. These principles carry over into marriage and families. Living this way, people will see the Father in us.

2. Live by sacrificial love serving God and others keeping God's commandments. We do this to live holy and righteously and respond to His moment by moment leading of His Holy Spirit. When we do we accomplish His will and work. (John 14:15; 15:10)

As an example for how we are to live by love, if we have great love, we will lay down our lives for the brethren. (John 15:13)

3. Live by faith in God to implement His promises. Our faith is activated by carrying out the instructions associated with the promise. As we do, we live without sin, and we gain more revelation of and from God. We believe that God exists. Then God carries out the provisions of His promise. (2 Peter 1:1-11)

An example for how to live by faith is in the battle of Jericho (Joshua 6; Hebrews 11:30). God promised the Israelites that He would give Jericho into their hands. But they had to circumference the city with their people as He required. Doing this they activated their faith. Then God brought the walls down and allowed them to defeat Jericho's people.

4. Live by the character qualities of Church leadership to walk upright with integrity. (1 Timothy 3:1-10; Titus 1:5-9)

Living this way requires that we know relationship living, the commandments, promises, the principles of how we live by love, and character qualities. We should make an effort to know them. I have a report entitled: *Living by God's Righteousness* as an aid that helps us to do this.

IT IS KEY THAT CHURCH LEADERS TRAIN THEIR PEOPLE, INCLUDING THEIR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, TO WALK AS CHRIST WALKED WITH THE FATHER. THEY NEED TO CARRY OVER THE RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES INTO THE FAMILIES.

We receive more revelation of God as we live by faith. Thus, we should learn to live by strong faith with great commitment (Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 2:2-4). This is so we can know more of God

in eternity as well as now. We will want to know more and more about His perfection. Because God will lead us in a manner that we respond to Him from love, we should learn to live by great love. (e.g. Live by the teachings of 1 Corinthians 13.) Then we can live more holy and righteously. (Becoming more mature in the above is part of our goal or objective to become mature in Christ-likeness.)

DISCUSSION OF PRINCIPLES AND TEACHINGS THAT HELP US BECOME MATURE IN CHRIST

- Living by love and faith in head-subordinate life living, we become mature in Christ by at least a four item approach learned from the Meat of God's Word. In this approach, we learn in depth and practice the teaching in the trials and temptations of life. This four item approach includes: (1) glorifying, pleasing, worshiping, honoring, and obeying God; (2) living in godly unity relationships patterned after the Son's walk with the Father by faith, sacrificial love, holiness, and hope; (3) helping to accomplish God's work of world-wide evangelism, discipling converts to maximum maturity, building godly families, planting churches, and reaching out to the needy; and (4) knowing and standing strong on basic Christian-Faith Doctrines including the Attributes of God. We should have and live by the required character qualities of Church leadership. This training should be application, life, and ministry oriented help us become mature in Christ. The training should bring exaltation to Christ and to the Father. All of this and much more are under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

When we respond to the above in obedience, we are filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). God will work all things together to bring us to maturity in Christ-likeness. For this to occur, we train with God's Whole Counsel (Acts 20:26-27) - all or much of God's Word with an application emphasis. Then as stated, we will concentrate on glorifying God, living a godly life, accomplishing God's work, and standing strong on basic doctrines. This is in contrast to learning mostly Bible content and knowledge, though both are needed.

A CURRICULUM IS NEEDED - We should develop a written or equivalent curriculum representing a version of God's Whole Counsel that is highly applications oriented for this to happen. The curriculum should contain all the elements and training that is needed, as far as we know, to bring us to maturity in Christ. Then we are outcome oriented. We are aiming at achieving a definite goal. Otherwise it probably will not happen. We will most likely do less than required. We can always make changes as God leads. Otherwise we can choose good, but random teachings for growth, being more procedurally oriented. Doing this we gain less maturity. Training can be four ways. We can have: (1) people do home work answering questions; (2) discussion of the questions in class; (3) a teacher present the teachings; and then (4) a text of some kind given to the people to read afterward. This is the procedure that Bible Study Fellowship uses. We should add some on-the-job training.

SUMMARY: GOALS AND METHODS - Becoming mature in Christ-likeness is God's method for us, so that His objective of knowing and relating to Him in His fulness can be realized. Becoming mature in Christ-likeness is our objective so we can fulfill His method (being mature) and objective (knowing and relating to Him in His depth). Our method to become mature is to: (1) glorify and worship God; (2) live a godly life in unity relationships by love and faith as Christ walked with the Father; (3) help accomplish God's work of evangelism, discipleship, planting churches, and helping the needy; and (4) standing strong on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. This is all there is.

However, of course, none of us are as mature in Christ as we want to be, should be, can be,

or ought to be. We all need work. I know that I do. But we can work toward becoming mature in Christ with great commitment and help each other reach the needed and desired results. We can and should especially work with the children and the youth. Whatever has been the past, let us work together to make the future under God the best we can have .

Philippians 3:13 - Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

OUR SPIRITUAL ABILITY AND MATURITY MAY BE FIXED AT DEATH FOREVER (We Should Pay Attention Because it Effects Our Lives in Eternity) - The Bible does not teach directly whether or not our spiritual ability in Christ-likeness is fixed at death or whether or not it can be increased in heaven after death. God has left it as a matter of faith. And God may use our spiritual ability in heaven in a different way than we can know now.

(We may have different understandings here. But what if it is true that our maturity is fixed forever at death? Can one prove it is not true from Scripture?)

Our belief is it is most likely that our spiritual ability we have at death, we will have forever without further opportunity for improvement. Although we give the potential that God will do something we cannot know now. But we are living life as if our maturity can be fixed forever at death.

Our belief is based upon: (1) God commands us now to pursue this maturity; (2) all of the Bible's major events from Genesis to Revelation lead us to becoming mature; (3) the developing environment of the world, flesh, and the devil is not allowed in heaven; (4) when we make mistakes in our development which is sin and there is no sin allowed in heaven; and (5) God chose not to create us with maturity, but chose that we develop this maturity. Because of these, it appears most strongly that our maturity we have at death can indeed be fixed forever. At least it is fixed by the methods that we know about. God has given this lifetime to become mature in Christ. Now is the time for salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). We are appointed to die and then the judgement (Hebrews 9:27). In our view, it is most wise to pursue maturity as God commands. ***We should pursue this maturity with great commitment so that we will not miss what God plans for us and so we can have His best.***

(I realize we all have questions such about those who die young or do not know much of the Bible. But God is just. It is better to be created and exist and have little maturity, than not to exist. But we need to pursue maturity so we can know God toward His fullest. This is the main and only value that exists.)

COMMENTS ON DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN MATURITY - Without Christ's Cross, we may never be able to understand the depths of God's love, mercy, and grace - particularly His great love. From His great love for us, God gave up fellowship with His Son while Christ was satisfying God's Justice for sin. Christ became sin who knew no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). This was a very high price, perhaps the highest price ever. And, as stated, God may use our maturity in heaven in a different way than we can know now. Thus, we should obey God and pursue this maturity as God commands for what ever reason He may have. ***We do not want to miss God's best for us. So how do we pursue maturity?***

(We do not want now to become or not become what would impede our knowing, relating to,

and fellowshiping with God in His depth in any way. We do not want to preclude our having the most perfect and complete life in eternity we can have. We do not want to impede any plan that God has for us. True we do not have all the information we would like. But if we obey the Bible to God's fullest, we should have the best we can have in eternity even if we do not understand everything now. Thus, we should carefully search out God's will and do it with commitment.

We are talking about eternity here. There is no second chance after death that we know about. There is no purgatory. As stated, after death comes the judgment of what ever state we are in at the time. We should be very much aware that because God commands that we pursue maturity, it is sin if we do not. It can be sin if we work mainly for spiritual growth (being procedurally oriented) without the intent and commitment to gain maximum maturity, the best we can have and what God has planned (being outcome oriented.)

Of course, God uses our greater maturity now so more of His work can be accomplished. And our Lord said that He glorified His Father in heaven because He accomplished all the work that His Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). We glorify God when we have fruit in our lives as God leads us (John 15:8)

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

So gaining more maturity such that we accomplish more of God's work, we will glorify God more. He does not need glorification. But we need to do so to be humble, have a right relationship with God, live godly, and to gain more maturity. We cannot become mature in Christ without from love living holy keeping God's commandments. We cannot become mature without faith, trusting God, not ourselves, to work all things together for our ultimate good (according to His promises). When we do all things in our lives, we should believe that all ideas came from God, not from ourselves (of course they must be biblical). Only then can we live holy without sin and help to proceed to maturity in Christ-likeness. We use our intellect in a responsive mode to God and learning of His ways, not in determining direction.

KEY SOURCE OF ALL OUR PROBLEMS (We Should Pay Attention Here) - In my view, if we understood God's Greatness and our spiritual poverty, Bible doctrine, and had great love for Him, we would do for direction with great commitment only that which is in the Bible. We would do it to its full scope and intent for direction. We would search out His will in the Bible and implement it with commitment.

In order to live completely by His ways and direction, we should be working to become highly mature in Christ-likeness with spiritual ability in relationship living at the highest skill levels. Our whole purpose for living then is Christ and have Him exalted by everything we think and do (Phillippines 1:20). Our goal is not just to enjoy the world in which we now live.

In our perception, not knowing or appreciating God's Greatness leads to the falling away of the Church and to the coming of the endtimes Tribulation. God uses it to bring history's termination.

The key source of all of our problems is when we, ourselves, not appreciating God's Greatness and not having a proper response to Him, attempt to go our own way. We attempt ourselves to work all

Summary: God and His Greatness Must Be Central

things together for our good and benefit. We work to become, have, and do what we want for ourselves and for our churches. This is the source of all sin because we are without ability to do this without sinning. When we do, even not intending to, we act wrongly like the Most High God. We act as a god over our lives. This is idolatry and pride.

Such action results by our not loving Him sufficiently from our total being. We inadequately obey His commandments and will. This leads to the symptom (of the cause of not appreciating His Greatness) of our attempting to work all things together for good ourselves which we cannot do. Doing this is pride. Pride is acting from one's self like the Most High God as a god.

When we attempt to work all things together for good ourselves and for our churches (which we cannot do), we sin and act like the Most High God. We act like a god over our lives. We do this even if we do not intend or desire to do so,

We do this with the intention to have what we think is God's best for our lives and churches. We attempt to be in charge by design. We believe we have the ability, by default (have not learned to trust God), or by not having been trained not to sufficiently. In doing this, we sometimes believe we are doing God's complete will, when in reality we may not be. This can be partly sin. Satan and Adam and Eve did this (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 14; Genesis 3). Using our depraved natures, we do this (Romans 3:23).

Thus, because of God's Greatness and our spiritual poverty, God must by necessity work all things together for our ultimate good. Everything must come from Him as a source. This is the only way we can avoid sinning and live holy and righteously. This is what God intends. We must carry out His will to His intent and scope so that He accomplishes working all together for our good. He is the only one qualified to lead us. This is what makes Him God. Thus, He must direct all things in our lives.

Going our own way leads to our being procedurally instead of being outcome oriented. We do not have an eternal perspective to reach the largest mature spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living that we can have. This spiritual ability is needed so that we can know and relate to God toward His fullest. As a result, the Church can work to do some evangelism, but not to evangelize complete areas. She can work for some spiritual growth, but not to become mature in Christ at the highest skill levels that is needed in eternity. She does not train to know as much as one can about God and His perfection. The problem comes when we think we are, but in reality we are not.

Another major symptom is that we do not understand and appreciate the spiritual warfare between Christ and Satan. We do not know and avoid Satan's strategies. His strategies that we implement will be discussed later. They generally result in churches teaching less of God's Word such as mostly the Milk of God's Word without also teaching the Meat of God's Word (His Whole Counsel). They lead to doing little evangelism in the community away from the Church property. ***Saying it in another way, when we teach but little of God's Word and do but little evangelism, we are implementing satanic strategy.***

We also do not recognize the signs that show the Tribulation can come at any time. So we continue business as usual believing the current times will continue long term. They will not.

We can and should make plans to determine and implement God's direction to His full intent

and scope. We should trust that He gave us the plans. We should not use our own ideas for direction. We should trust that He, not us, will bring the results. In doing so, we should work to accomplish the scope and intent of what God has directed. (Proverbs 16:9.)

As Christians, we take some things for direction from the Bible and wrongly add some things from our own minds. Thus, we have a degree of a lukewarm life. We work to having God work some things together for good. We also act in other ways, trusting ourselves to work all things together for good.

The problems increase when we use more of our own ideas, apart from the Bible. The endtimes Church is headed in this latter wrong direction. As stated, we do this by working for some evangelism, but not working to evangelize our entire local areas. We do this by working for some spiritual growth, but not attempting to mature our people in the highest skill levels of mature spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living that we understand. We do this by working for numbers bringing in the youth. We do this by using the world's loud rock beat music (whose source is voodooism, paganism, and immorality), instead of working with a higher priority to mature our own people and using good music such as the hymns. We do this by speaking in false tongues.

It is not our intention to do wrong or inadequately do God's will. None of us want this. But when we do less than or in opposition to what God intends in His Bible, it results in a degree of a cold response and disobedience. We sin of both commission and omission. Again, none of what this. We must do what God wants, not what we want. The above, in my view, are the Bible's principles.

The great sin of Satan, that being spiritually immature and not understanding God's Greatness, was to act like the Most High God. He was enamored with his abilities, not with God's perfection and Greatness. Thus, he acted to become, have, and do what he wanted. He was attempting himself to work all things together for his good or benefit. He wanted to be in charge and rule over his life and over that of the angels. Thus, not being able to do so, he sinned. As a result, he came under God's condemnation. God sentenced him and his angels to the Lake of Fire for eternity. This could be original sin or that patterned after it. (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

As stated, no angel or human has ever seen or will ever see God the Father at any time including in eternity. They can only see God the Father as they observe the life of Christ that He lived out that came from the Father. Satan physically only saw the Lord Jesus Christ. For Satan to obey God the Father, he would have to walk by faith and from love. (Thus, we will live by faith and from love in heaven.) Being immature, he did not do this. His pathway was to act like the Most High God, using his own thought process and not what Christ no doubt taught him. He wanted to be in charge like Christ was in charge. Christ was under the Father's authority. But Satan did not understand this.

The principle here is that when we are mature in Christ-likeness, we will trust God to work all things together for good. We will take every thought and action from God. We will not take any independent initiative for direction that is not in the Bible. Immature people will act to trust themselves to work all things together for good acting independent of the Bible. The lukewarm churches, perhaps most churches, do some of both. Are churches (and you and I) somewhat immature in Christ? We all need work. At least I do.

As will be discussed, this was the great sin of Adam and Eve in their immaturity. They ate of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They did so they could become wise and run their own lives - work all things together for their benefit. They did not know of God's Greatness

Summary: God and His Greatness Must Be Central

for Him to do so. They thought they had to do it.

We are to activate our faith in God to work all things together for our good. We do this by from our love for Him keep His commandments, and from His purpose for us, accomplish His work. When we accomplish His work, we glorify Him. We have problems when we take independent direction and/or do not act to the intent and to the scope that is in the Bible. (See Romans 8:28.)

We grow more when we have dynamics in our lives. Examples would be that we train and work in the community to evangelize people including the children. We work in our families for Christian growth to maturity. We grow when we spiritually stretch ourselves.

We should believe in God's Greatness such that we know that God placed **everything** in His Bible that we need for direction. God may give us leading to carry out specifics in that direction. We do this by faith. We should believe that the whole Bible in the original manuscripts is without error which is the truth. (2 Timothy 3:16.)

When we do not appreciate all that we read in the Bible, we should assume it is true, and study to discover why it is true. (For example, when we do not appreciate why God sends unbelievers to the Lake of Fire, we should believe it is correct and just and then study why it is.) Then we learn. Not to believe **the entire** Bible to be true is folly and one does not appreciate God's Greatness. He would not give us a Bible that contains error. In such a case, we cannot determine what is true and what is error, unless we set our selves up as the authority, which we are not. Doing so is extreme pride - arrogance.