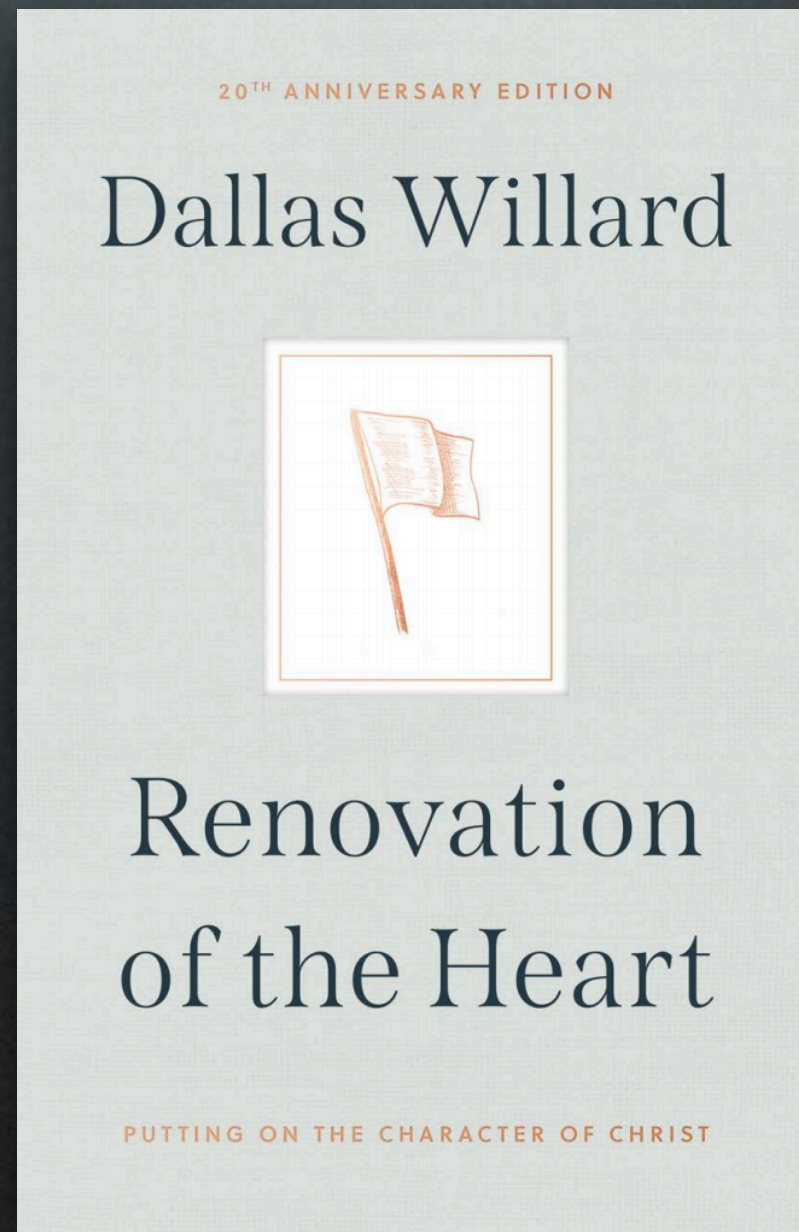


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RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 4 - Chapter 4 - “Radical Goodness Restored to the Soul”

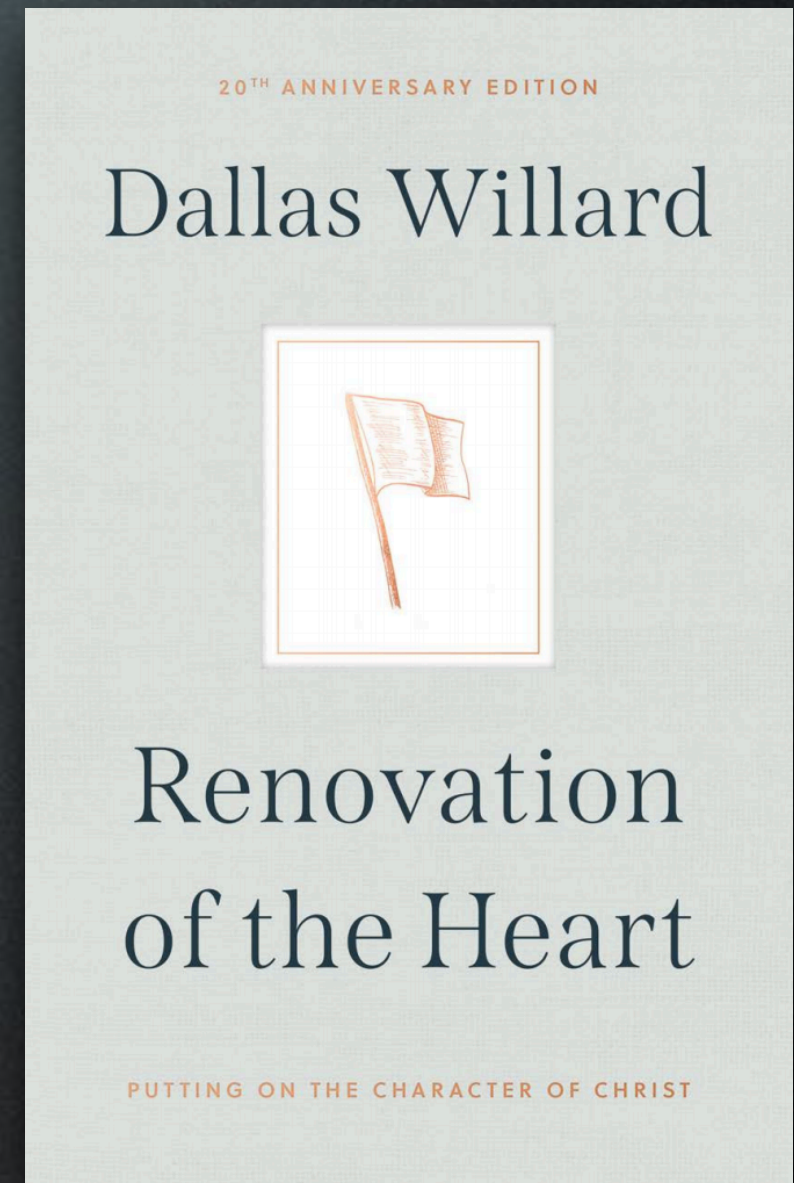


Session 3 Review

The ruined soul must be willing to recognize its own ruin before it can find how to enter a different path, the path of eternal life that naturally leads into spiritual formation in Christlikeness.

2021 Edition::p. 56

2002 Edition::p. 59



RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 4 - Chapter 4 - “Radical Goodness Restored to the Soul”

The Foundation for Spiritual Formation

A shift toward self denial is needed to reorder the six dimensions of the human self in subordination to God.

Christian spiritual formation rests on this indispensable foundation of death to self and cannot proceed except in so far as that foundation is being firmly laid and sustained.

2021::60
2002::63-64

Losing Our Life to Find It

“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 10:39

“Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

Matthew 16:25-26

We must simply lose our lives – those ruined lives about which most people complain so much anyway. We must not make our survival the ultimate point of reference in a world. We must not treat ourselves as God.

2021::60

2002::64

Taking Our Cross

“And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:27



Dallas' teaching as a pivotal question & its result:

Am I genuinely convinced the only real bargain in life is surrendering myself to Jesus, abandoning all I love for Him and to Him?

IF NOT...I cannot learn the other lessons Jesus wants to teach me, and proceed to total spiritual transformation, renovation of my heart and life.

2021::63

2002::66



“I surrender all.”

The True Meaning of the Cross

Spiritual formation of self-denial is not...

- One more technique
- External overt practices
- Group identity
- Self-rigtheousness
- Dreary and deadly
- Terrible, painful & costly



Spiritual formation of self-denial is...

- a loving vision of Jesus & His Kingdom in our inner being
- counting the cost of non-discipleship
- the only reasonable path

2021::63
2002::67

The Call to the Great Life in the Cross

“Repent, for life in the Kingdom of the Heavens is now available to you.” Matthew 4:17 (paraphrase)

Jesus’ presence, actions, and teachings are manifested and explained in the Kingdom.*

Jesus made disciples by presenting and introducing them into the Kingdom by...

- > Reaching their hearts
- > Changing their vision of reality
- > Changing their intentions for life



2021::64
2002::67-68

* Study *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me.”

Matthew 16:25-26

The new vision becomes an attachment, an ever greater reality. The old attachments are pushed toward the exits.

*We come to want to not want what we now want,
And to want to not think of what now lives before our mind;
And we come to want to be made willing for what we are not
now really willing.*

Self-denial is always the surrender of a lesser, dying self for a greater eternal one. Jesus does not deny personal fulfillment, but shows us the only true way to it.

• Joy • Giving • Forgiving •



2021::64

2002::68

Supported on the Kingdom

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.” Luke 12:32

Jesus' resurrected presence with us, along with His teaching, assure us of God's care for all who let Him be God and let Him care for them. It is love of God, admiration and confidence in His greatness and goodness, and the regular experience of His care that frees us from the burden of looking out for ourselves.

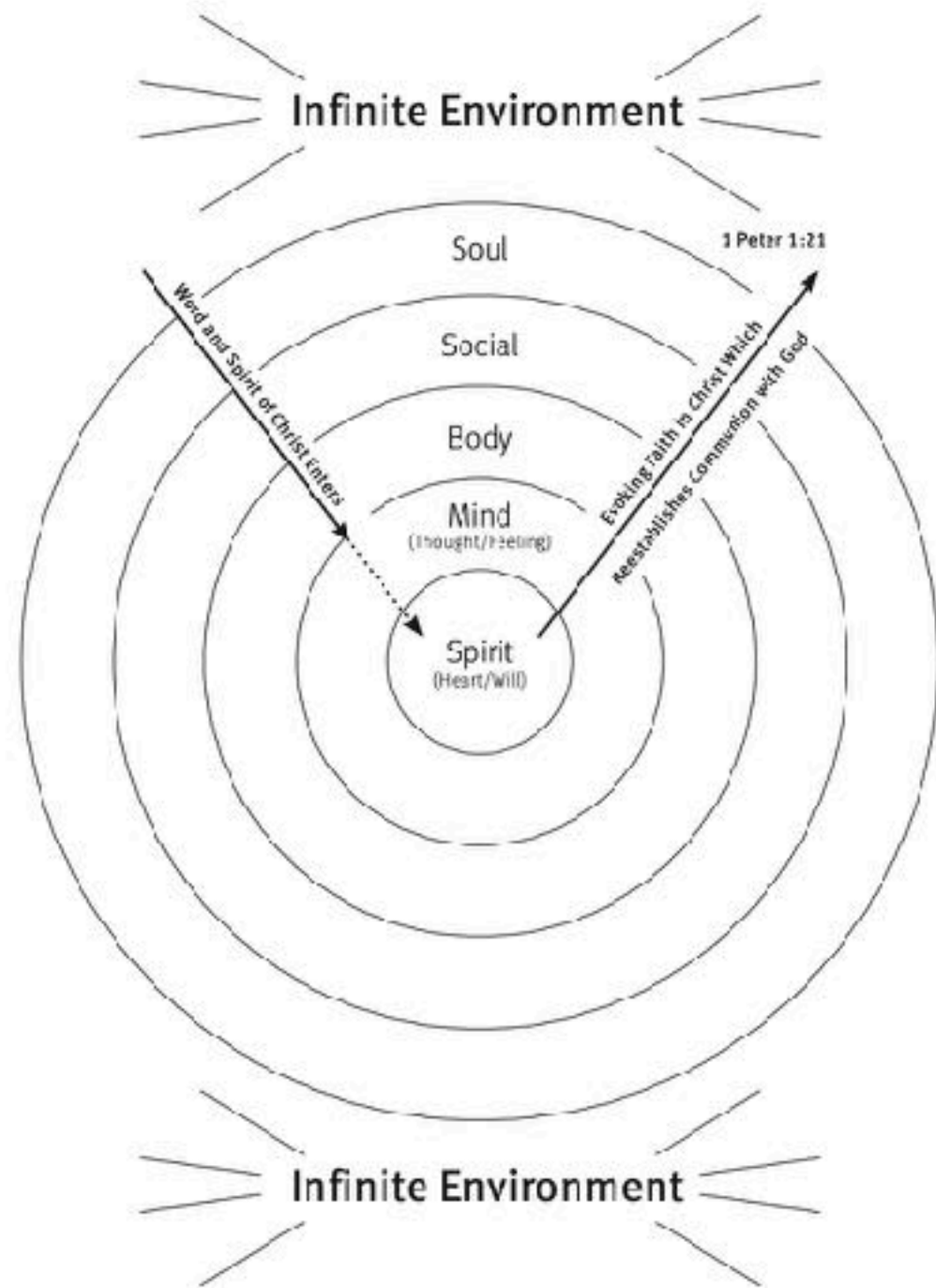
What remarkable changes this introduces into our day-to-day life!

• Psalm 23 • Lord's Prayer •

2021::67
2002::70

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 4 - Chapter 4 - “Radical Goodness Restored to the Soul”



Experience-based confidence in God's loving care allows all 6 dimensions of the human self progressively to come into harmony with each other and enables us to be generous in every respect to those around us.

2021::67
2002:70

Dead to Self

In the clear and forceful vision of Jesus and His Kingdom, as our personality becomes progressively more reorganized around God and His eternal life, self-denial becomes our settled disposition.

“DEAD TO THE WORLD”



2021::68

2002::71

Apprentices of Jesus... [God is in charge of our life]

...not getting what they want does not surprise or offend them and has no control over them.

...will be deeply disturbed about many things and will passionately desire many things, but they will be largely indifferent to the fulfillment of their own desires as such.

Merely getting their way has no significance for them, does not disturb them.

...will certainly not even notice some things that others would - social slights, verbal put-downs and insults, or physical discomforts.

...do not worry about outcomes.

...are not controlled by self-exaltation or the will to have their way.

...are easily controlled by love of God and neighbor.



2021::68-71
2002::71-73



"Wear the world like a loose garment, which touches us in few places, and there lightly."
St. Francis of Assisi (69/72)

"Choose ever more rather to have less than more. Seek ever the lower place and to be under all. Desire ever to pray that the will of God be all and wholly done. So, such a one enters the land of peace and quiet."

Thomas a Kempis (70/73)



Standing for the Right Without Egotism

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies**, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies**, it bears much fruit.” John 12:24-24

* * This is fully demonstrated in the life of Jesus.

* * It is the controlling principle of the renovated heart and the restored soul. Its radical goodness progressively subverts and replaces the radical evil in the fallen human heart, mind, body, soul, and social and other environment.



2021::71

2002::74

Beyond Anger, Retaliation & Unforgiveness

Jesus — “But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.”

Paul — “Don’t repay evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good.”

Peter — “Do not return evil for evil, insult for insult, but give a blessing instead.”

These remarkable teachings presuppose that one has laid down the burden of having our own way. We cannot begin to even understand it, except for a posture of self denial based on the confidence and experience of God's all-sufficient* presence in our lives.

**Life Without Lack*
by Dallas Willard



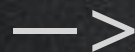
2021::72
2002::74-75

To step with Jesus into the path of self-denial immediately breaks the ironclad grip of sin over human personality and opens the way to a fuller restoration of radical goodness to the soul. It accesses incredible, supernatural strength for life.

Because we must be active agents in this progression "from strength to strength" (Psalm 84:7), it is crucial that we now seek to understand the three main components of any process of spiritual transformation:
VISION — INTENTION — MEANS

2021::72

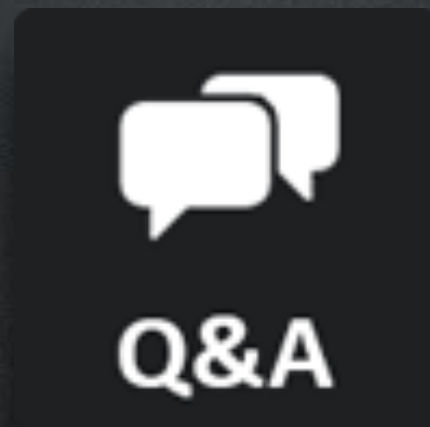
2002::75



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)





p. 53

I found that death to self occurs in small steps. Every day I volunteer for small deaths to self, and I experience a little more of that fruit-filled eternal kind of life from above – right here and now on this planet.

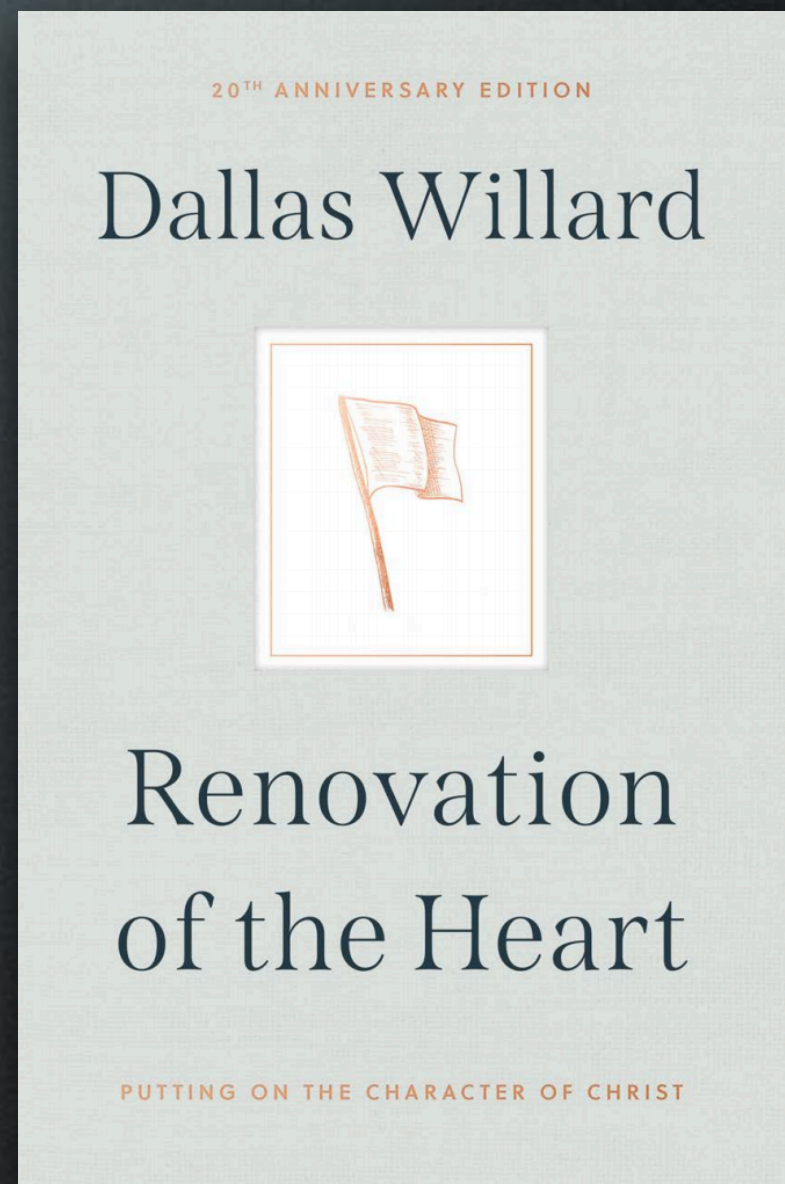


Reflect on situations that bring out the worst sort of self-promotion in you.



Session 4 Summary

Laying down the burden of having my way truly resurrects with Jesus a life full of Love, Joy, Giving, and Forgiving that pulls together every dimension of my life.

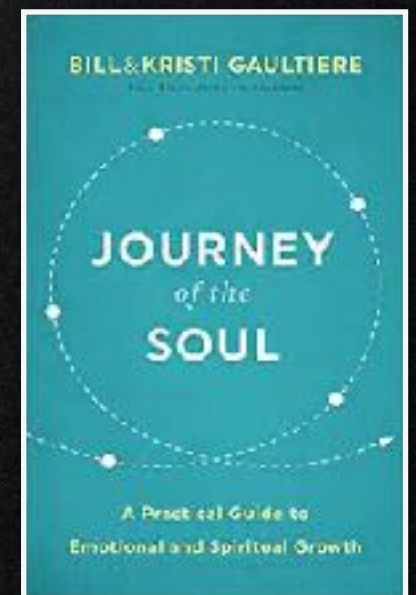



Next Week — Session 5

“Spiritual Change: The Reliable Pattern” Chapter 5

Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice Chapters 17-20

with Special Guest — Bill Gaultiere, Ph.D
Founder & President
SoulShepherding.org



A photograph of a paved walkway with a long shadow cast across it. The shadow is cast by a person standing on the right side of the frame, extending towards the left. The walkway is made of large, light-colored rectangular tiles. To the right of the walkway is a grassy lawn and a building with large windows and columns. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Now, give up,
and be dead to the
world in your next
10,000 minutes to find
new life with Jesus from
the inside-out.

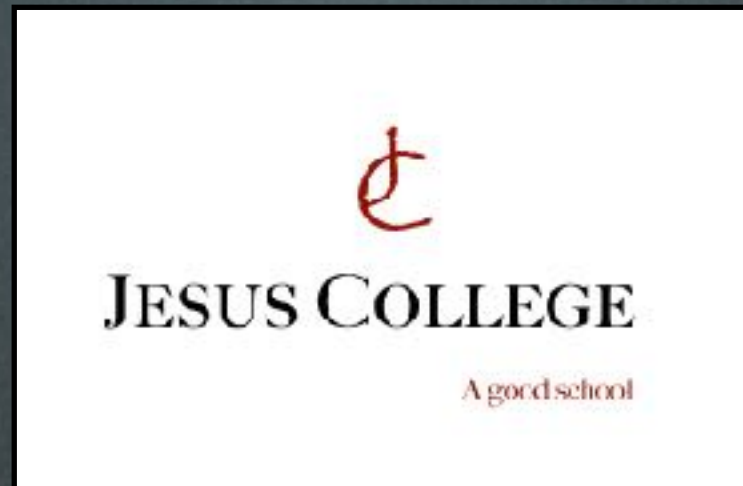
Doug

@OneAfterJesus



THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING

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Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

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