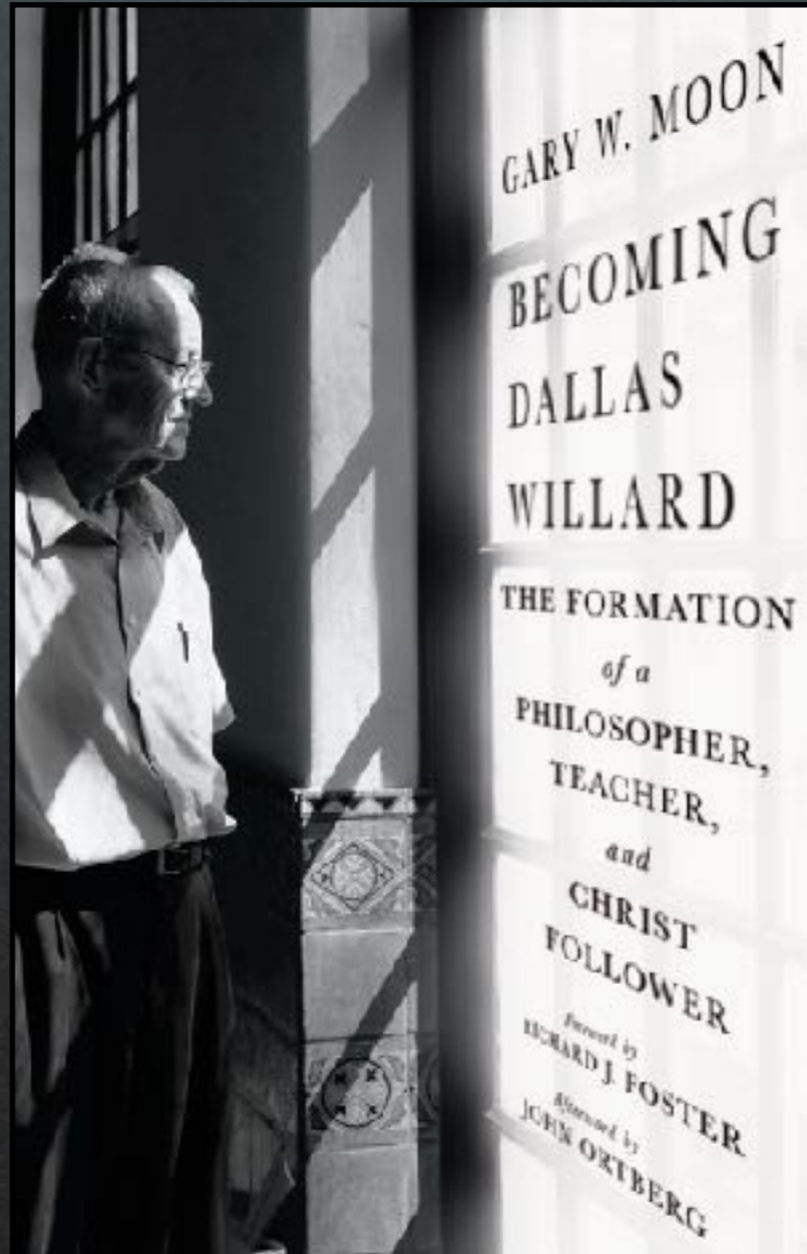


BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Chapter 4-5

Session 2 - “The Early Marriage & Life With God Years”



BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Reading Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Chapter(s)</u>	<u>Chapter Titles</u>
7/8/21	13-49	1-3	Eternity...No Unwanted Child...Rural America
7/15/21	50-73	4-5	Running into Jane...Running into God
7/22/21	74-105	6-7	Academic Awakening...Which Path to Take?
7/29/21	109-140	8-9	Early USC Years...King & Queen of Campus
8/5/21	141-158	10	Formation at Home
8/12/21	159-188	11-12	Birth of a Movement...Doing Work Ourselves
8/19/21	191-208	13	Ideas for Time & Eternity - part 1
8/26/21	209-227	14	Ideas for Time & Eternity - part 2
9/2/21	228-254	15-16	Thank You!...Healing Light

SESSION 1 - BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Dallas' young life is a story of loss and rejection, but also of sacrificial love and kinship. The loss of his mother and rejection from his step-mother left Dallas with a fear that he was not good enough, that he would not be wanted.

In the midst of all the childhood pain, however, Dallas met a God he came to believe was the most joyous being in the universe, and nothing bad should ever be spoken or thought of Him.

BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Chapter 4 - “Running into Jane”

The Tennessee Temple College Library

“There, behind the reference desk, was a beautiful young woman wearing a yellow angora sweater.”

“I checked her out from the library and never brought her back.”

(50-51)





BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Chapter 4 - "Running into Jane"

What have I done?

Jane Lakes of Sparta, Georgia.

Like Dallas, Jane's home life was disrupted by separation. Jane was born in a room of the boarding house owned by her maternal grandparents.

She thrived in the local youth group of her church.

In the summer of 1951, she went off to Tennessee Temple.

On her first night, "I remember going to sleep thinking, 'What have I done?' But after attending the first chapel service, 'I'm home.'"

18 months later, Dallas arrived.

From Migrant Worker to College Student

Dallas spent much of his first year after High School as a migrant agricultural worker by day and self-taught student at night—reading Plato and Kipling after the sun went down.

Then roofing...then William Jewel College...then roofing.

Then Dallas began to preach.

Memories of 18 year old Dallas standing on the back of a pickup truck with a stream of words pouring forth from his mouth in rapid-fire deliver.

“I was a real whiz-ban preacher.” (54-55)



A Big Brother's Push

In late Fall, 1953, J.I. again urged Dallas to deeper study. This time he suggested Tennessee Temple.

Winter semester, 1954, Dallas got sick and returned home to Missouri. As soon as Dallas began to recover, he was sent back to the Tennessee hills.

Can't Afford Socks but Rich in Voice

Jane, "His wonderful voice left an impression on me. Nothing really clicked for me until... I heard him sing that afternoon."



SETTING PEOPLE'S HAIR ON FIRE

Not only did Jane keep wearing angora sweaters, but she also had a flannel graph and knew how to use it. (58)

- They participated in student-led evangelistic activities.
- Local jails, street meetings, Good News Club
- In front of the bars of Chattanooga

“She would play the pump organ, and I would sing & preach.”

Dallas remembers being taught to preach in a judgmental or condemnatory spirit.

“I thought you preached by setting people's hair on fire.”

Jane said, “Dallas was different. He always sounded real. His heart was there and he was smart, a thinker.”



But he started writing poetry to me...

“Well, it could have been nice. I didn’t want to think that way all the time. Maybe I wasn’t equal to the task of marrying someone who thought like that.”

Then the influence of the pink ‘sweetheart flavor’ ice cream.

“Let’s go steady. I have never loved anyone like I love you.”





Mr. and Mrs. Dallas & Jane Willard, August 26, 1955

Dallas & Jane swimming on their honeymoon broke the mixed bathing rule...until it was shared they were married.

*“Teaching the Teachers of the Nations:
The Human Side of Holiness”*

Denver Seminary, 2010

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP1jbB9b640> [Time Mark 55:30 - 57:40]

“BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD” - CH. 4

“People go into marriage thinking it will give them what they want. [And] certainly if you are like I was, you didn’t have enough sense to know what you wanted. But you just have this vision of beauty. And you should have seen my wife. Oh mercy! She was Miss Temple...We were so devoted to Christ, that, through the years, when we were unhappy with one another, we were happy in Christ.”

(62)

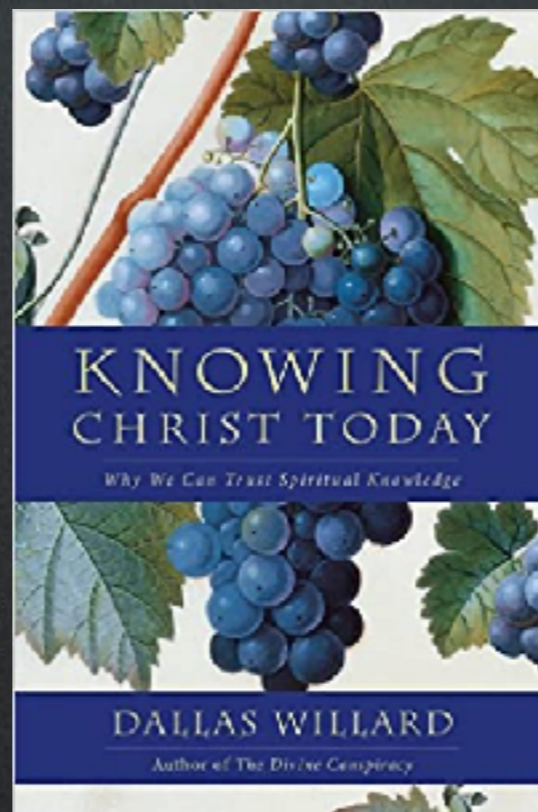


BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Chapter 5 - “Running into God”

“Know” does not mean “to know about Him.” Love is not God, but God is love. It is who he is, his very identity.

Dallas Willard, *Knowing Christ Today*



BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Chapter 5 - “Running into God”

A Laundromat and the Gospel of John

Broken only by interruptions to insert coins and fold clothes, he read through an entire Gospel for the first time in his life.

John, the Gospel writer, actually believed that his friend Jesus was inviting us into life with God in a present Kingdom. Dallas Willard's world would never look quite the same after that day. (63-64)



DEEPER EXPERIENCES of FAMOUS CHRISTIANS

“It opened to me inexhaustible riches of Christ and His people through the ages. This brought me, in turn, to a world of profound Christian literature of much greater significance for the understanding and practice of life in Christ.”

“To see actual invasions of human life by the presence and action of God greatly encouraged me to believe that the life and promises given in the person of Christ and in scripture were meant for us today. I saw that ordinary individuals who sought the Lord would find Him real — actually, that He would come to them and convey His reality.” (64)

His personal sanctuary...
A children's Sunday school room

Inspired by James Gilchrist Lawson's spiritual hall of fame, he began to experience for himself ancient practices....without knowing it, stepped further into the disciplines of science and solitude on a regular basis.

C.S. Lewis
Charles G. Finney
English Professor Ruby Wagner
Psychology Professor John Hermann

And a math professor who gave Dallas a "D". It fueled his determination to learn math and later tackle Edmund Husserl's Mathematics and Logic.

(65-67)

BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Chapter 5 - “Running into God”

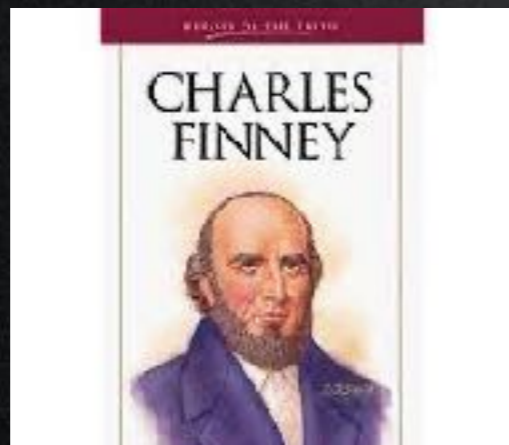
ABSORB YOURSELF IN STUFF

Charles G. Finney & Thomas à Kempis

Learning to preach extemporaneously really had to do with trusting God.

“If you absorb yourself deeply in stuff, you have more and more from which to speak. I’ll write a sermon out or a discourse out but, when I get up, I’ll jus speak to them. And do my best just to talk to them. And I think the satisfaction we have in Christ enables us to do that.”

(68)



I WENT INTO A FOG

Chapel Preachers John R. Rice & R.R. Brown
“Giants in the land.”

After failing his class on Romans, Dallas cheated on the exam when he took the class a 2nd time. He confessed it to his teacher then went to a revival

As R.R. Brown prayed over Dallas, he had a deep experience with the vivid presence of God.

“It never really left me. After that, I never had the feeling that God was distant or had a problem hearing me.”

“I was in a conversational relationship with Him.”

(70-71)

“BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD” - CH. 5

At Tennessee Temple, Dallas experienced God personally. He came to believe that ordinary Christians could have deeper experiences of God in their day-to-day lives.

When it comes to spiritual practices...

“one must not be agitated, hurried, or exhausted...one cannot tack effective, life-transforming practice of prayer and study onto ‘life as usual’.”

He maintained a deep love for and a high view of Scripture.



(72-73)

“BECOMING YOU”

Who did I check out that changed my life?

What teacher inspired me, or frustrated me, to learn?

What spiritual giants have had profound influence on my journey with Jesus?

Are my spiritual practices unhurried, un-agitated, and not tacked on to “life as usual”?



BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Next Session #3

Chapters 6 - “Academic Awakening”

Chapter 7 - “Which Path to Take”

Pages 74-105

The Mission of Jesus College - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

The Vision of Jesus College - To equip Trainers (Ministry, Business Leaders, Parents) to mentor Leaders (Senior Apprentices) to disciple Apprentices to Master love.

The Storehouse of Jesus College - Over [150 FREE downloadable resources & links](#) offering the good life in the person, work, teachings & life of Jesus through “Eyes to See” visual resources and “Ears to Hear” audio resources, plus gatherings live & online provided by JESUS COLLEGE, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.