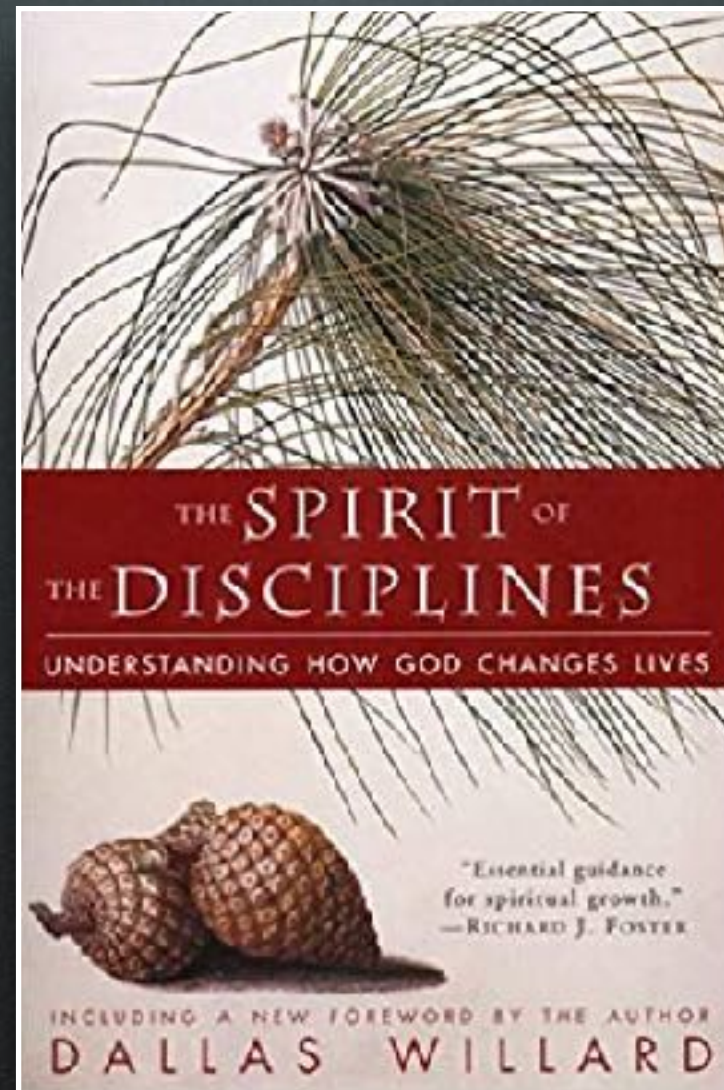


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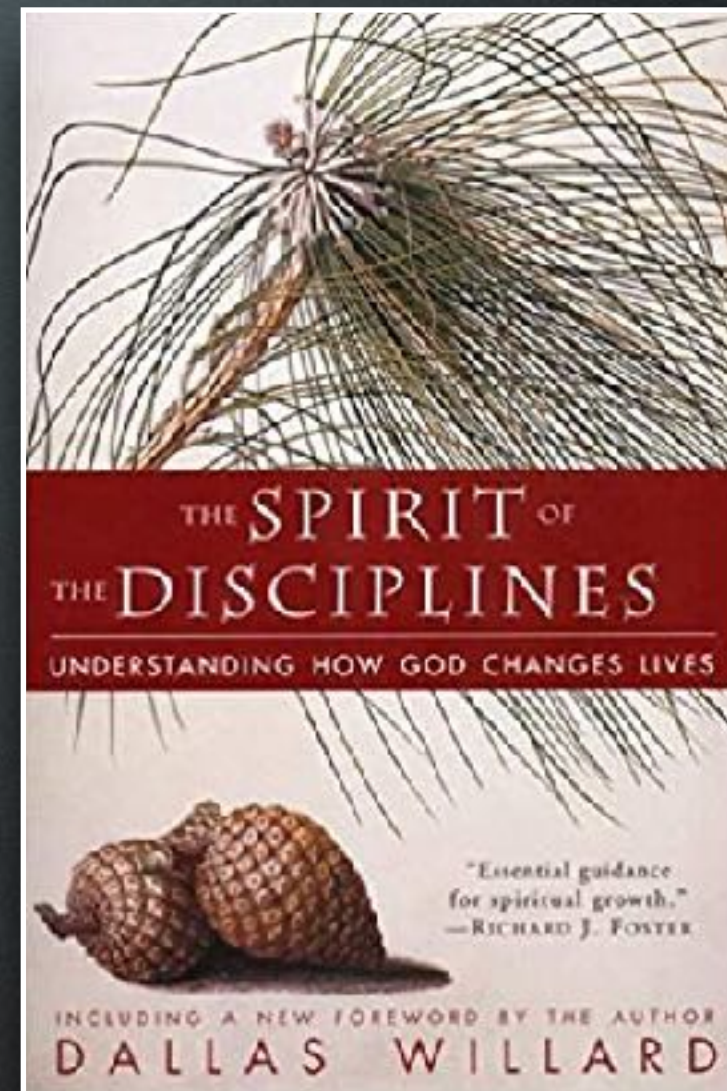
The Spirit of the Disciplines

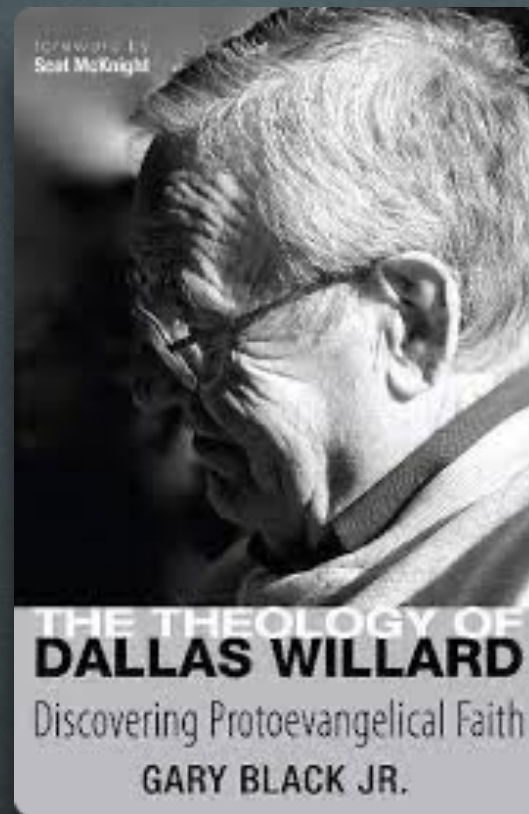
Session 3 - *"Salvation is a Life"* - Chapter 3



Session 2 Review

The practice of spiritual disciplines by grace in ordinary people brings the human personality into the Kingdom life fullness for which we were made.





“Willard reveals his clearest, most summative thinking, command of scripture, and logical consistency in Chapter 3.”

Gary Black, Jr.,
The Theology of Dallas Willard, p. 78-79

The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 3 - *“Salvation is a Life”* - Chapter 3

Religious Life vs. Daily Life

Why is it that we look upon our salvation as a moment that began our religious life instead of the daily life we receive from God?

We say, “take Christ with you to work.” The deadly assumption — Christians leave Christ at the church.

The failure — we do not recognize the part our BODY plays in our spiritual life—and this is of course, where the disciplines enter the discussion.

A close look at Jesus...

His humility, faith, and compassion are moments in life more pervasively and deeply characterized by solitude, fasting, prayer and service.

Surely then the lives of His followers must be just as deeply characterized by those same practices.

Isn't it reasonable to see in those disciplines the specific factors leading to the easy yoke, the light burden and the abundance of power?

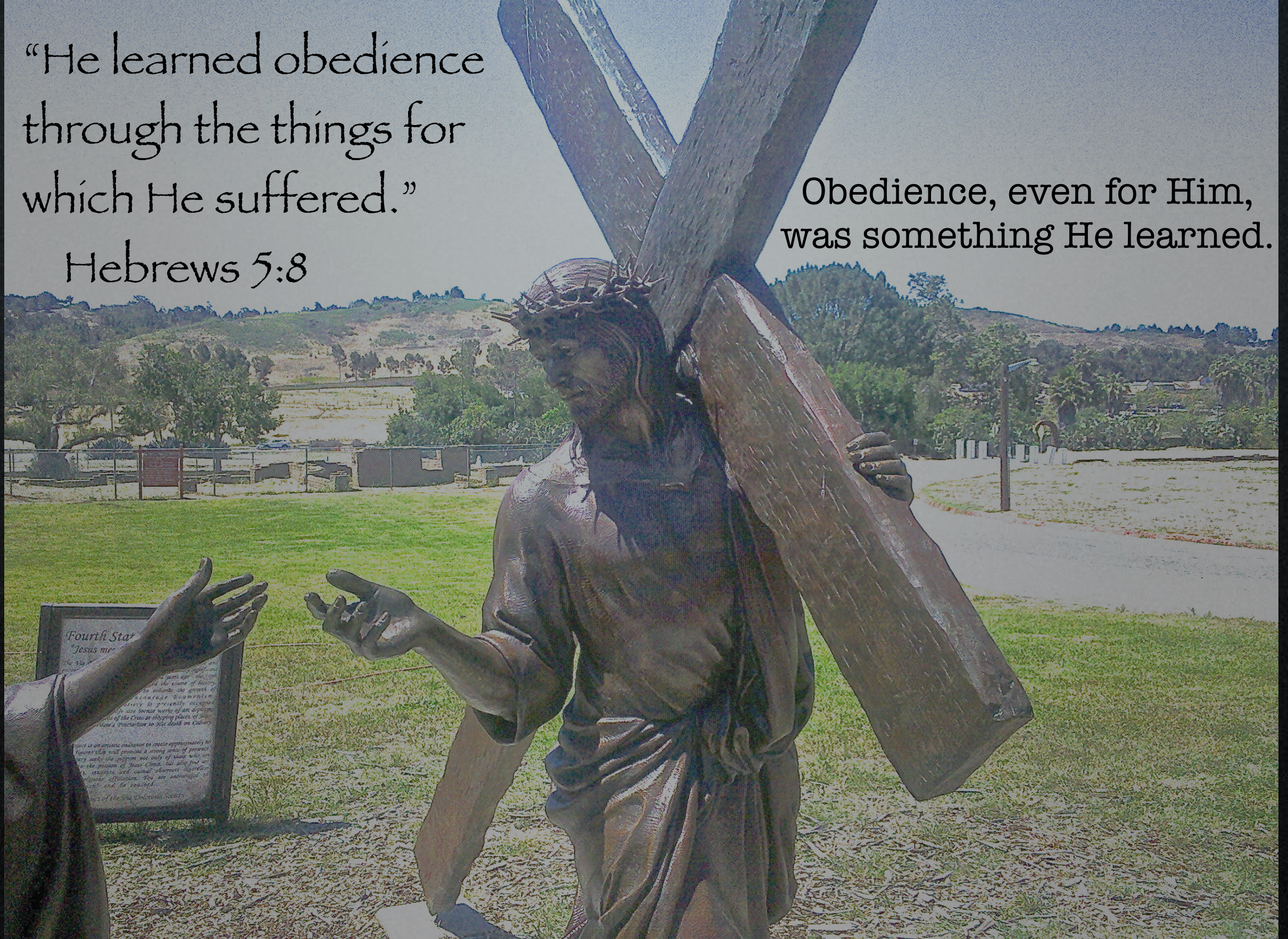


(28-29)

“He learned obedience
through the things for
which He suffered.”

Hebrews 5:8

Obedience, even for Him,
was something He learned.



*We can not reasonably hope to do His deeds without
adopting His form of life...by engaging in His disciplines. (29)*

The Focal Point of the Human Body



This connection between the disciplines and the easy yoke with its abundant life, rests upon the nature of human personality. We share His disciplines — not because He was not sinful, but because He had a body just as we do.

Jesus shared the human frame, and as for all human beings, His body was the focal point of His life.

It is precisely this appropriate recognition of the body and of its implications for theology that is missing in currently dominant views of Christian salvation or deliverance. (29)

The human body is the focal point for human existence.

Without the body in its proper place, new life in Christ does not fit together, and, the idea of really following Him and becoming like Him remains a practical impossibility.

Christlikeness — a practical impossibility.

This springs from the inability of the believer to think of Christ Himself as really having a body. We are left with:

The easy yoke — a lovely dream, and
discipleship — a part-time diversion.

One of our most important tasks — make clear how and why the use of the body for positive spiritual ends is a large part of our share in the process of redemption. (29-30)

The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 3 - *"Salvation is a Life"* - Chapter 3

Faith Removed from the Realm of Real Life

The vitality and power of Christianity is lost when we fail to integrate our bodies into its practice by intelligent, conscious choice and steadfast intent. It is with our bodies we receive the new life that comes as we enter His Kingdom.

God making our EMBODIED selves alive in the Kingdom of God!

John 14:23; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Ephesians 2:22

The result of Faith removed from life?

Alienated Christianity & a Powerless Church

The church, powerless over life, stands to one side, and God is left without a dwelling place through which he could effectively occupy the world in the manner He intends. This is why we rarely find,

“In whom was life and that life was the light of men.”

John 1:4



(32)

**Salvation is not just Forgiveness,
but as a New Order of Life**
(32-34) (35, 37, 41)

We must do nothing less than engage in a radical re-thinking of the Christian concept of salvation.

What does it mean to be saved? (32)

We've lost "grace & human personality" together in discipleship.

Inestimable harm: Salvation = mere forgiveness

- Theories of Atonement leave salvation and life unintelligible.

God's grace in salvation embodied in human personalities walking with Jesus in His easy yoke.

(33)

Romans 5:10, "Saved by His Life"

The Cross and the Indestructible Life it Reveals

Christ's transcendent life in the present Kingdom of heaven is what drew the disciples together around Jesus prior to His death. The resurrection proved that life to be indestructible. (35)

The no longer first hand church's understanding was narrowed down to a...

MERE FORGIVENESS of SINS,
leading to heaven beyond this life. And Christ's death became the merit-supplying means to that forgiveness.

The Cross act was first narrowly interpreted as a mere vicarious suffering and then mistaken for the whole of the redemptive action of God.

The effect of this shift is incalculably vast and profound for the history of the church and for the realities of the Christian walk. (36)



The Resurrection & the Friends of Jesus (36-38)

Colossians 1:13 ~ “Rescued from darkness to the Kingdom of the Son He loves.”

Substituting SALVATION - redemption/regeneration - with atonement - mere forgiveness of sins.

The resurrection, not the death of Christ, was the central fact of the gospel of the early believers.

“Life” — John 10:10; 1 John 5:12; Ephesians 2:5

(37)



The resurrection was a cosmic event, only because it validated the reality and the indestructibility of what Jesus had preached and exemplified before His death—the enduring reality and openness of God's Kingdom. It meant that the Kingdom, with a communal form His disciples had come to know and hope in, would go on. The “gates of the grave” will not prevail against it, as Matthew 16:18 states. That, and the fact that Jesus was not dead after all—and that when we die, we won't stay dead—is what made the resurrection earthshaking, transforming good news.”

Dallas Willard

The Spirit of the Disciplines, p. 37



*Move the Gospel from the Courtroom
to the Intensive Care Unit...
from Legal Ruling to Life Giving*



Faith & Works *Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:13*

Once we have come to understand that faith is a powerful life force, we recognize these three dimensions in the New Testament:

- 1.) The presence of new power within us.
- 2.) Transformation of our character and personality.
- 3.) Extra-human powers over evil of this present age.



(38-40)

Looking back on our discussion so far...

The easy yoke is connected to spiritual disciplines,

and

The body's has a vital role in redemption.

Therefore, spiritual disciplines can not be carried out except as our body is surrendered to God precisely and definitively. (40)

*Salvation as a life is something we live
in the actions and dispositions of our body.
(40-41)*



The Vile * Human Body

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.” Romans 10:17

Faith is not an interior act of the mind.

Salvation is not mere forgiveness.

Our actual experience with the human body...the most we can get is a standoff...but by the grace of God to keep it from sinning until we get rid of it. (41)

* Is not the body vile? — Philippians 3:21,
1 Corinthians 15:48-50; Even Jesus in Mark 7:20-23?

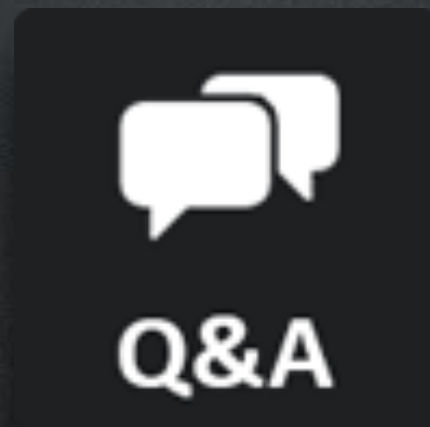
The human body was made
to be the vehicle of human
personality ruling the earth
for God and through
His power. (42)



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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





Meditation — Mark 1:35

Application

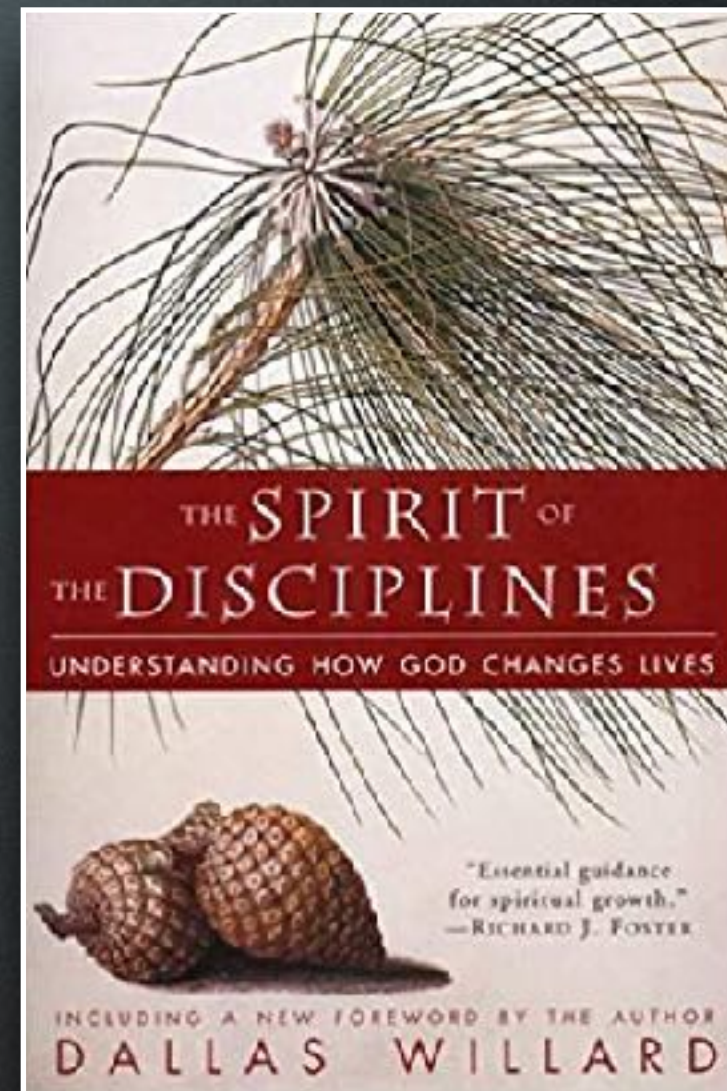
- 1.) What do I think my body is good for? And bad for?
- 2.) What is my gospel? Is my view of “salvation” more than mere forgiveness to go Heaven? Why or why not?
- 3.) What spiritual habit will I practice this week to grace my body into Christlikeness?

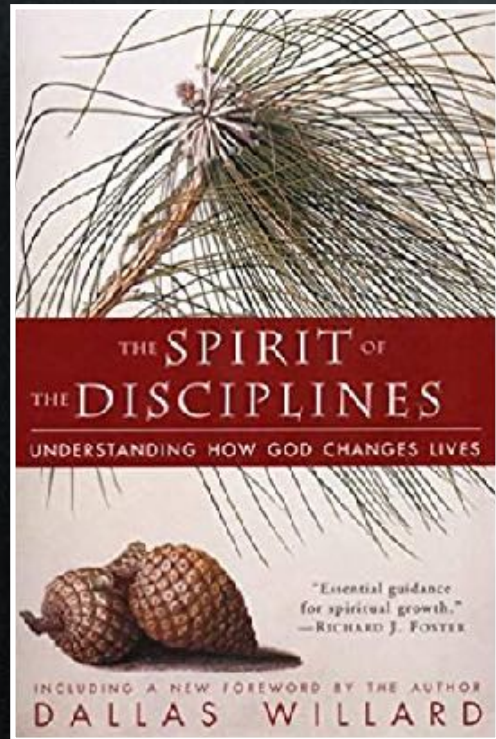


† Cross Fit

Session 3 Summary

Salvation is participating in the indestructible life of Jesus found in the enduring reality and openness of the Kingdom of God that will never end... nor will we.





Next — Session 4

“Little Less than a God” Chapter 4

*Chapters 4-6 — Who we are and what spiritual life is.
The theological basis for spiritual disciplines.*

The power of a
resurrected Jesus
inhabits your body to
guide and transform your
next 10,000 minutes.

Doug

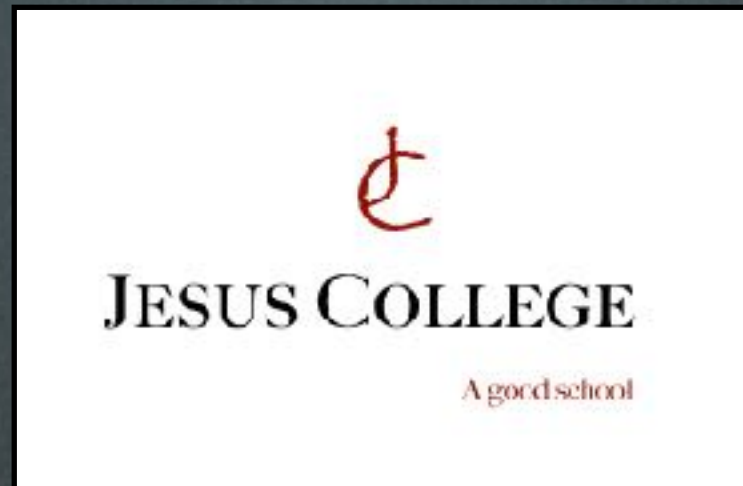


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