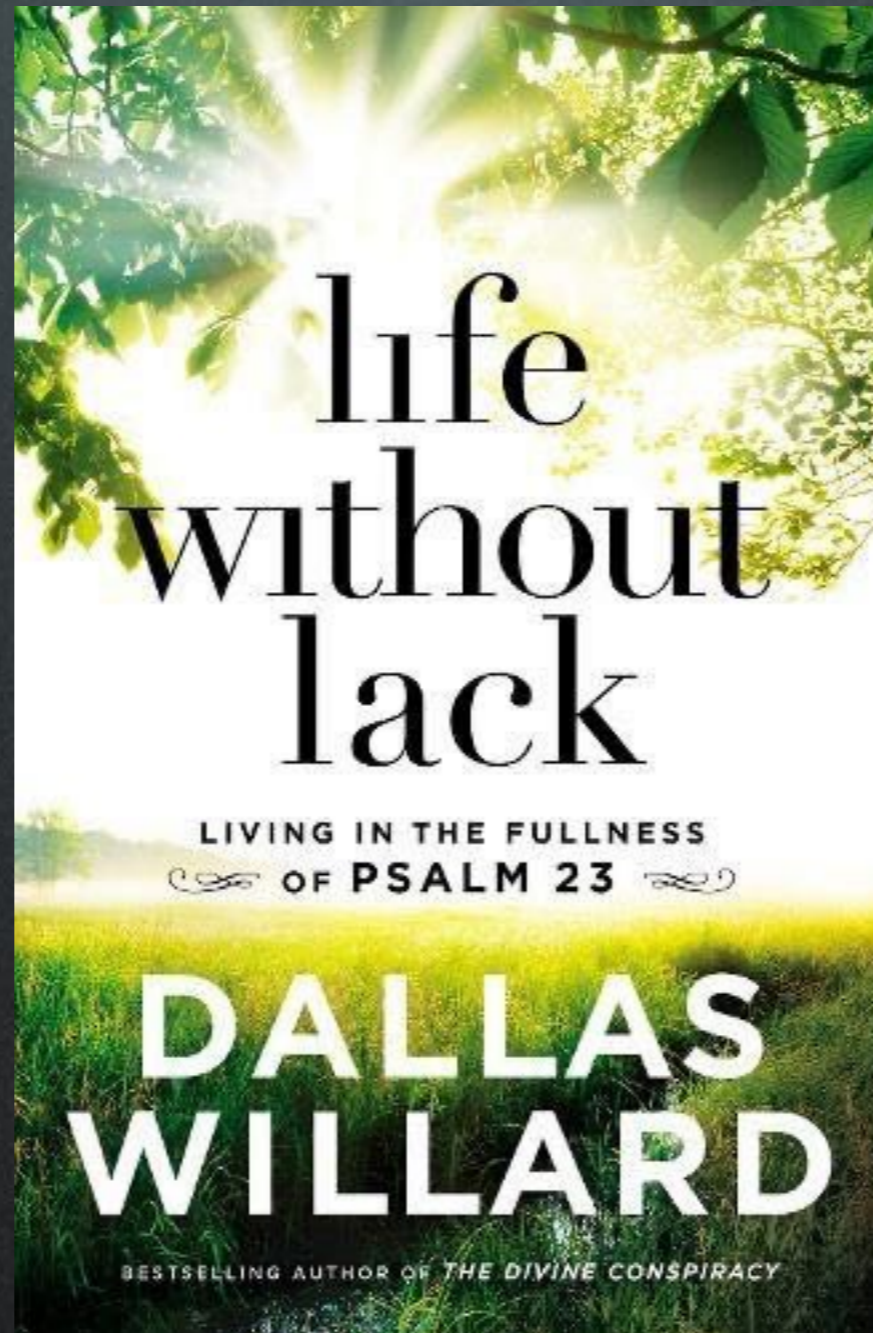


WELCOME to a nine week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



life without lack

Session 3 — Why There are People on Earth - Chapter 3



<https://dwillard.org/life-without-lack>

Dallas Willard's 8-part series on how to live in the reality of the 23rd Psalm was presented in 1991 as a mid-week evening Bible study at Valley Vista Christian Community, Dallas and Jane's home church. This content was published in *Life Without Lack* in 2018.

Here is a copy of his [original handout](#).

NOTE: The audio quality is old, but the teaching is timeless!

[God in Himself, Part 1](#)

[God in Himself, Part 2](#)

[Why There Are People on Earth](#)

[Why Such Lack and Evil?](#)

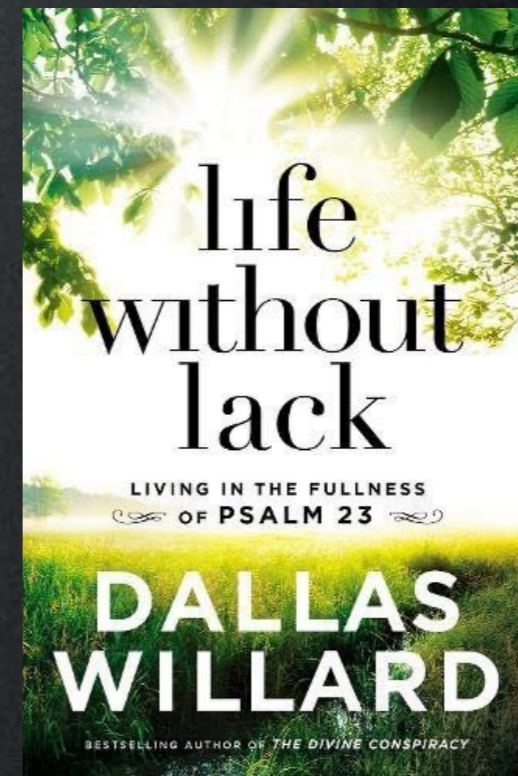
[Trust in God: The Key to Life](#)

[Trust and Death to Self](#)

[Sufficiency Completed in Agape](#)

[Through One Day With Jesus](#)

AUDIO Teaching



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REVIEW Session 2 - Chapter 2 - God in Himself (part 2)

“Living in Mindfulness of Our Magnificent God”

Those who take time to increasingly come to know and trust God as He truly is, are laying the sure foundation of a life without lack. (31)

The transformation of the self away from a life of fear and insufficiency takes place as we fix our minds upon God as He truly is. (33)

God...as He truly is!

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“Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands”
Psalm 8:1, 4-6

Have you ever wondered why there are people on Earth?

“Why am I in the world?” (49)

“What good is man?” (50)

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A World of Good — The Creation Story (Genesis 1-2)

Light - Sky - Dry Land - Herbs - Sun - Moon - Moving Creatures

All these creations are good.
Being is itself good.



If you weigh all the pain and the suffering against all the joy and the strength you find in human life, it is still good. (52)

“Be fruitful and multiply and have dominion...” (Gen 1:28)

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What are Human Beings?

1.) What did God create when He created human beings?

“It’s a pretty big job to have dominion over the earth.”

2.) What is especially good about them?

“God infused this special creation with spirit.”

(53-54)

Beyond Belief

It is hard for people to believe that they are spirit-infused beings with such power, privilege, and responsibility. You may feel like you are very far from being in the business of governing the earth. We have accepted an image of the world has imposed on us that is in direct opposition to Jesus' teaching and hinders us from stepping into the dignity of the sons and daughters of God. (54)

Here's my point: just as we have a tremendously difficult time conceiving of or imagining what God is like, so we have tremendously difficult time imagining what people are really like. (55)

What is your soul worth? Matthew 16:26

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Where Our Greatness Lies

What is it that makes human beings so precious?

They [You] are capable of being faithful to God and committed to the promotion of good in the world... even to the point of dying for them.

(56)

Faithfulness - Loyalty - Heroism

The potential of men and women to give up their lives for the glory of God and for the good that God has created is precisely what makes human life great.

(57)

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Let Your Good Works Shine

We are put here on earth and we are given bodies so we can work to bring more good into existence. (57)

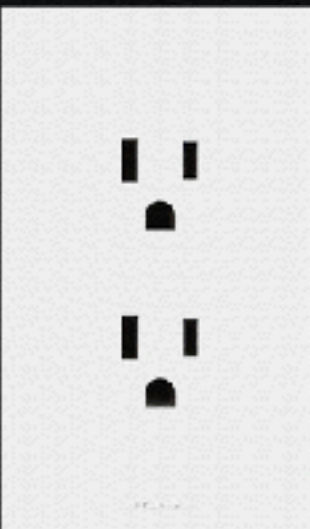
The obviously well-kept secret of the “ordinary” is that it is made to be a receptacle of the divine, a place where the life of God flows. (58)

[See *The Divine Conspiracy*, p. 14]

This statement of Jesus encapsulates this chapter:

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16



The Importance of Our Work

Work is... (59)

...a special type of causation to which goodness and blessing can be promoted.

... the expanding of energy to produce good in various forms in ways.

... the total amount of lasting good that you will accomplish in your lifetime.

Here's a truth you must never forget: He is more interested in the person you are becoming than in your work, or your ministry, or your job. And the surest way to realize the full potential of your God-designed self is to live in eternity while you're in time, conscious of the loving gaze of your all-sufficient Shepherd, in whose care nothing of the good you do is lost. It is stored up in your own self and in the lives of others you have touched.

(61)

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The Challenge of Personal Relationships (61-62)

Our most intimate personal relationships...
...the primary area of human failure.

- * Adam & Eve and their Children - Blame placing
- Mistrust and anger lead to murder



What Sin Begins

Marriage - mistrust, anger and disappointment became the standard quality of human life. (62)

Even among those of us who have experienced the grace of God it is rare to find any man and woman who are bound together in marriage who are truly trustful in every respect, and confident, pleased, and satisfied with each other. Rather, there is a constant testing that goes on, and it is a very serious problem.

It is rare to find a marriage relationship that truly has the grace of God in it to such an extent that both people are completely at home and confident, never in doubt, and full of love, and concern for each other.

(63)



A Letter from Dallas to Jane Willard...

Dearest Jane,

I know grace has kept me from hurting you even worse than I have, but also it has “permitted me” to be rather inhuman...I want to go on loving you for you are good as well as pretty and smart and decent and reliable and willing to “go along” with the rather unusual and (certainly) overextended character of my life. How blessed I am that you are mine. I never lose consciousness of this fully, even in our worst moments.



Becoming Dallas Willard
p. 242

Portrait of a Healed Relationship (64-65)

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:22-27

Paul is saying here that we are to give ourselves up.

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The Glorious Potential of the Human Race

The aim of God in human history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons with Himself at the center of that community — as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.

(65)

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The Glorious Potential of the Human Race

“Society of Redeemed Persons”

There is nothing that makes God happier than human beings, redeemed by the grace of God, devoting their lives — the moments and hours of their days — to the good of others and of creation, to the glory of God.

(66)



“Lord Jesus, let your Spirit move in our minds to help us begin to believe it, to the honor and glory of your name, we ask it. Amen.”

Dallas Willard, “Life Without Lack”
Session 3 Closing Prayer

Q & C

Your Questions & Comments are Welcome!

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

1.) Where does my marriage or relationship(s) need more of God's grace?

What doubt, anger, mistrust or competition fuels my marriage "lack"?

Where am I "busy protecting myself"? (63)

2.) Do I think I am destined to govern the Earth? (54, 57)

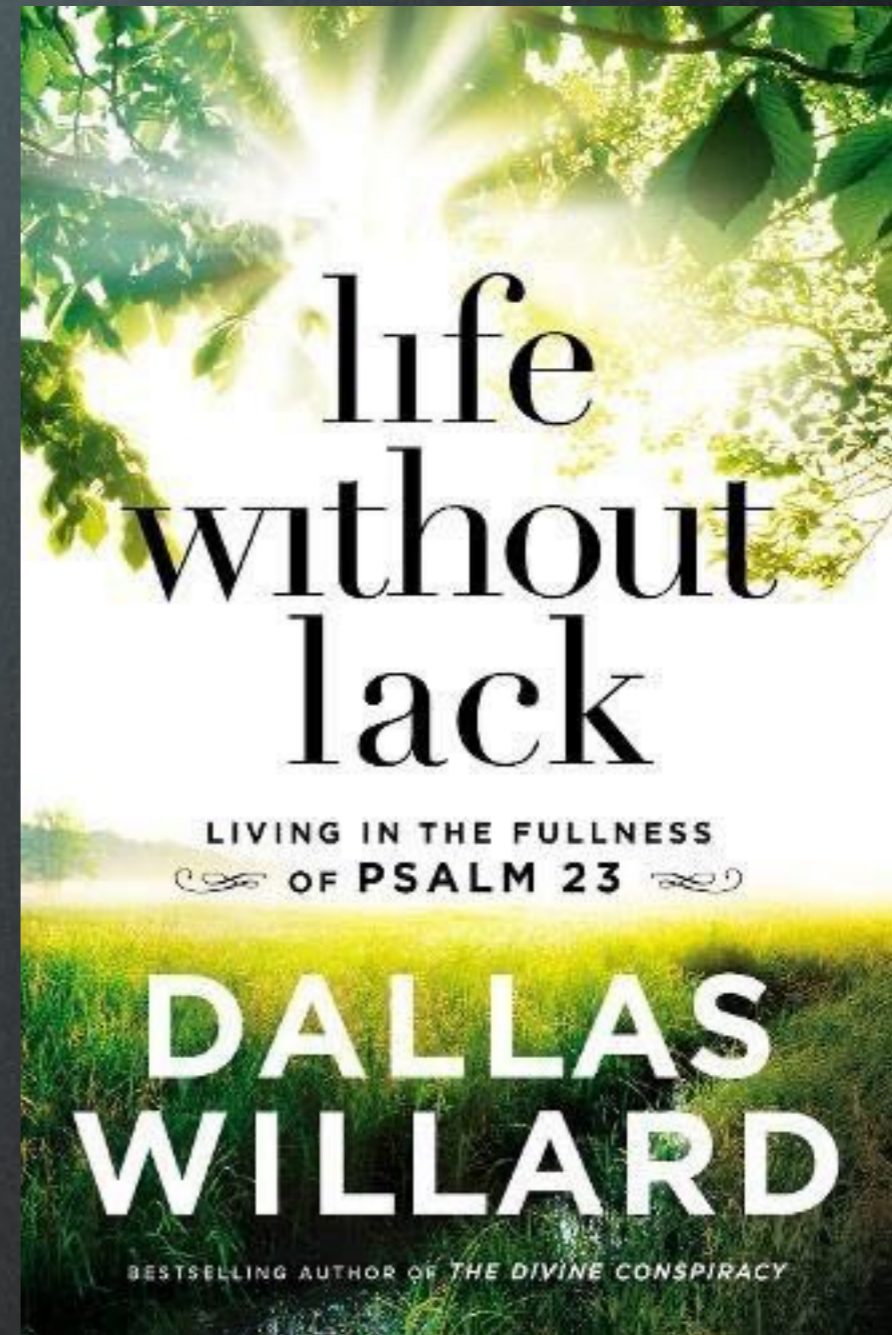
3.) What is my "work" [body of work]?

How much is "job", "family" or "position"?



Session 3 Summary

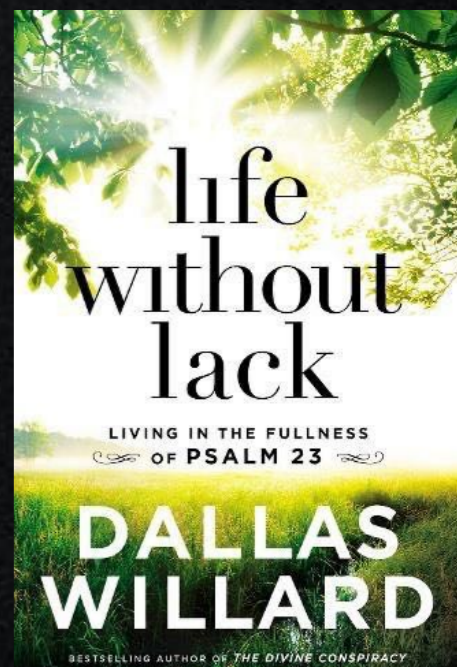
[We] are spirit-infused beings with such power, privilege, and responsibility. You may feel like you are very far from being in the business of governing the earth. We have accepted an image of the world has imposed on us that is in direct opposition to Jesus' teaching and hinders us from stepping into the dignity of the sons and daughters of God. (54)



Next Week — Session 4

“Why Such Lack and Evil?”
Chapter 4 (p. 67-93)

Audio — “Life Without Lack” by Dallas Willard
Session 4 - <https://dwillard.org/life-without-lack>



Invest your next
10,000 minutes in
the glorious body of
work for which you
were created!



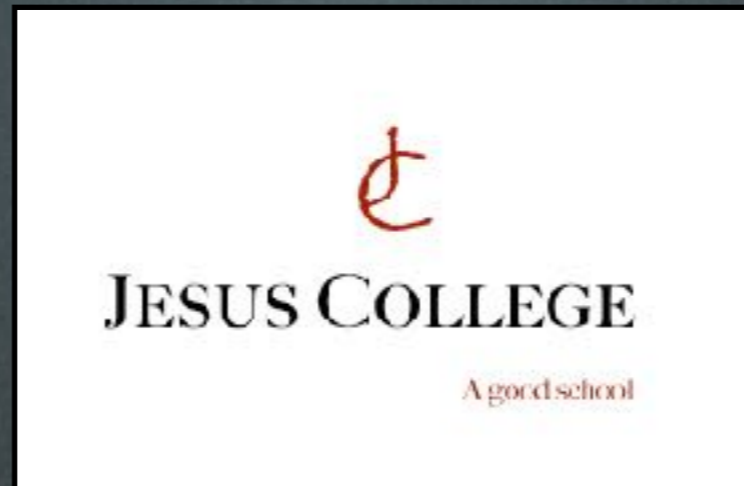
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Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



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“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

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

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