

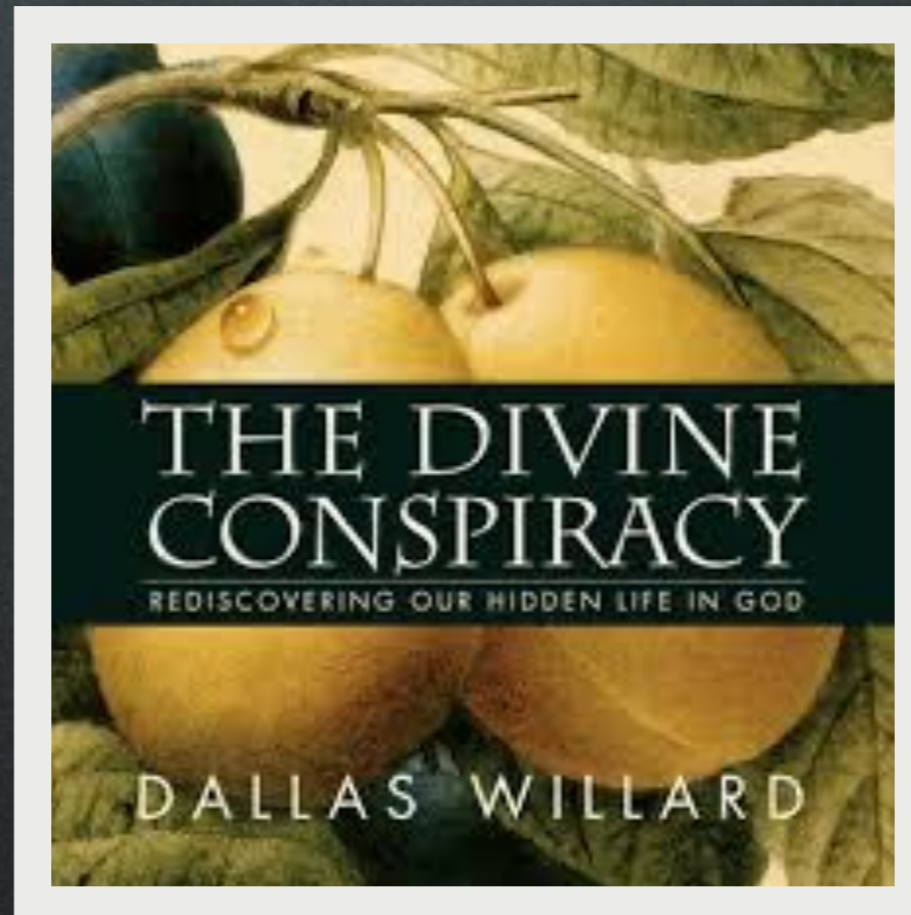
WELCOME to a 31 week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 3 - What Jesus Knew:
Our God Bathed World

Session 7 — “Heaven ~ A Human Environment”



“Don’t Worry, Be Happy” — Matthew 6:33

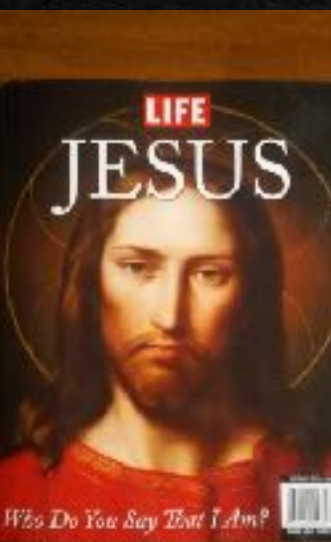
THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Session 6 Review


The disappearance of Jesus as teacher explains why today in Christian churches little effort is made to teach people to do what He did and taught.

We do not seriously consider Jesus as our teacher on how to live, hence we can not think of ourselves, in our moment-to-moment existence, as His students or disciples.

(57)



Jesus as “Teacher” in *The Divine Conspiracy*
(55-57, 107, 114, 134, 278, 300, 316)



Until our thoughts of God have found every visible thing and event glorious in His presence, the words of Jesus have not yet fully seized us.

(Session 6 Review — p. 62)

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YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
ETERNAL
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AMONG US

~ ~ ~

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The Heavens as the Human Environment

With this magnificent God (“joyous being” 62) positioned among us, Jesus brings the assurance that our universe is a perfectly safe place for us to be.

(66) (“safe” - 12, 30, 84, 90, 208)

“The Kingdom Among Us”

Abraham, Hagar, Jacob, Moses, the Transfiguration

To be “born from above” (John 3) means to be interactively joined with a dynamic, unseen system of divine reality in the midst of which all of humanity moves about—whether it knows it or not. And that, of course, is “The Kingdom Among Us”.
(68)

Immanuel — the strongest possible impression of the reality and immediate presence of the Kingdom of Christ. (70)

But do we actually believe this?

“Blessed are those who believe without seeing.”

The Resurrected Jesus to Thomas

Heaven is strictly out of sight for us.

The damage done to our practical faith in Christ and in His government-at-hand by confusing Heaven with a place in distant outer space, or even beyond space, is incalculable. Of course, God is there too. But instead of Heaven and God also being always present with us, as Jesus shows them to be, we invariably take them to be locked far away and, most likely, at a much later time - not here and not now.

And we should then be surprised to feel ourselves alone?

The Experience Continues Today

The most important things in our human lives are nearly always invisible. (72)

The nearness of God is so largely lost to the contemporary mind. (73)



OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

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“Living Space” not “Outer Space”

At no place, does our contemporary mindset more strongly conflict with the life and good news of Jesus than over the understanding of space.

If we are to make sense of Jesus' teaching and practice of the Kingdom of the Heavens, we must understand what spirit and the spiritual are and how they are in space.

“The Heavens as the Human Environment”

“Kingdom of the Heavens” and “God”

“Heavens” — how God relates to us, exactly where God is in relation to the human world.

Omission of these meanings of “heaven” by speaking only of the Kingdom of God creates a vacuum that makes it easy to misunderstand Jesus and His teachings.

The problem is made much worse by how we are taught to think of space. (74)

Is Jesus “in my heart” or far away in heaven? (75)

Understanding what “spirit” is

Me: a Spiritual Being with a Physical Body

You cannot find in my body my thoughts, feelings, intellect, creativity, character.

My Eyes, Face & Hands - my Body - is where my spiritual reality become present to others.

God: a Spiritual Being Present in Space

Physical Objects and Natural Law are a manifestation of God’s willing.

(75-76)





God Wants to Be Seen

Love always wants to be known.

Seeing is no simple thing. The practice of seeing God and God's world through a process of seeking and growing in intimacy with Him.

The Heavens progressively open to us as our character and understanding are increasingly attuned to the realities of God's rule from the heavens.

(76-77)



The Myth of Empty Space

So we should assume space is anything but empty. This is central to the understanding of Jesus because it is central to the understanding of the rule of God from the heavens, which is His Kingdom Among Us. (77)

~ ~ ~

“Space” seemed a blasphemous libel for this empyrean ocean of radiance in which they swam...He had thought it barren: he saw now that it was the womb of the worlds...



CS Lewis, *Out of the Silent Planet*, p. 32
(quoted in *The Divine Conspiracy*, p. 78)

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

Meditation — *Matthew 5:6 & 6:33*

Application

Q - “But do we believe this?” (p. 67)

What 7-10 qualities define the nature of God?

Q - How does my view of the proximity of God in space impact my prayer life? (p. 74)

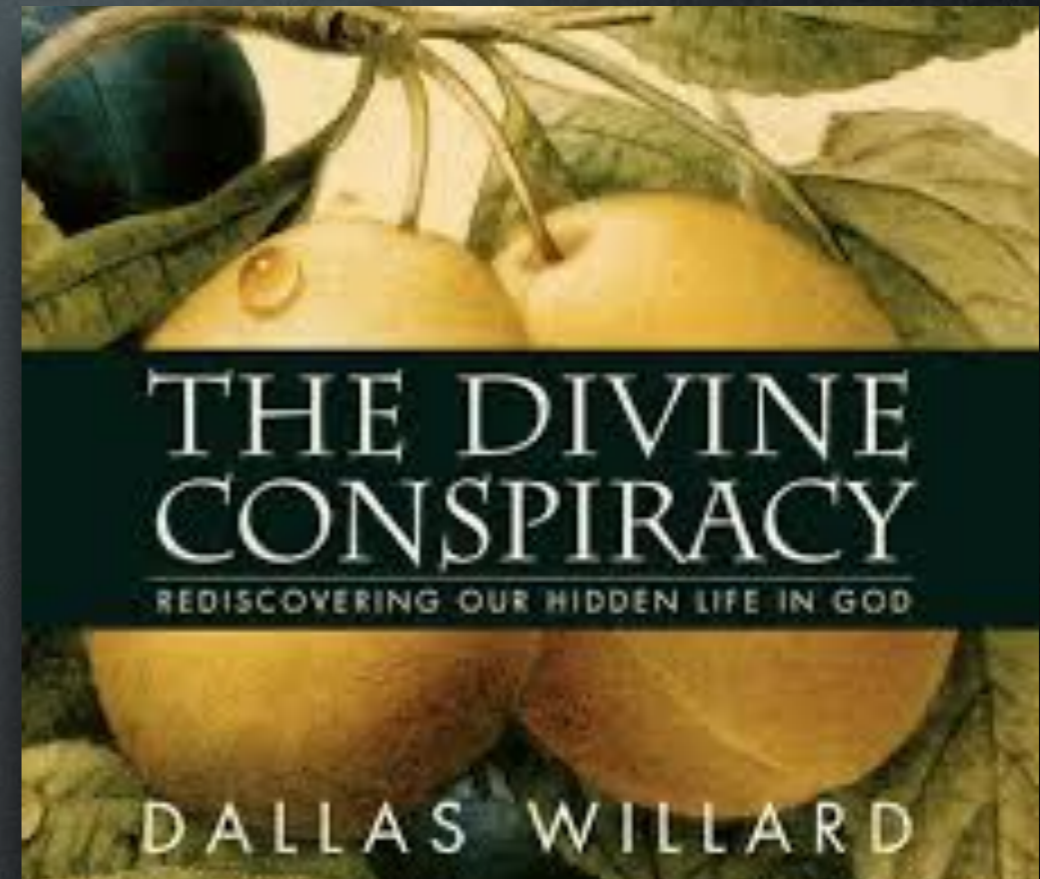
Q - On a scale of 1-10, 10 being highest, how much do I want to know Jesus?

Q - Is there a difference between a believer who knows and a follower who sees? If so, why?



Session 7 Summary

God is present in space and time and the very air we breathe and we were created to inhabit the heavens right where we are.



Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more than
all we can ask or imagine.

Ephesians 3:20



Untethered

(def.) “to be free from”

verb un·teth·er \ ən-'te-thər \



80:00 + 10K



“The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”
Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel

The Harvey Fellows 2004 Summer Institute
12-part video series

Course Session 7* — DC #3 - 1:07:30 - End

(119) pages of lecture notes in the Jesus College Library

<https://www.jesuscollege.com/dallaswillard-thedivineconspiracy>

* See the Reading Schedule for related teachings

Next Week — Session 8

Ch. 3 - What Jesus Knew: Our God Bathed World

“All Things Visible & Death Dismissed”

Hardback - pp. 79-91

Paperback - pp. 90-104

For Recorded Sessions + Slides, go to:

JesusCollege.com/DallasWillard-thedivineconspiracy

May you rocket into the
Immanuel Space in your
next 10,000 minutes,

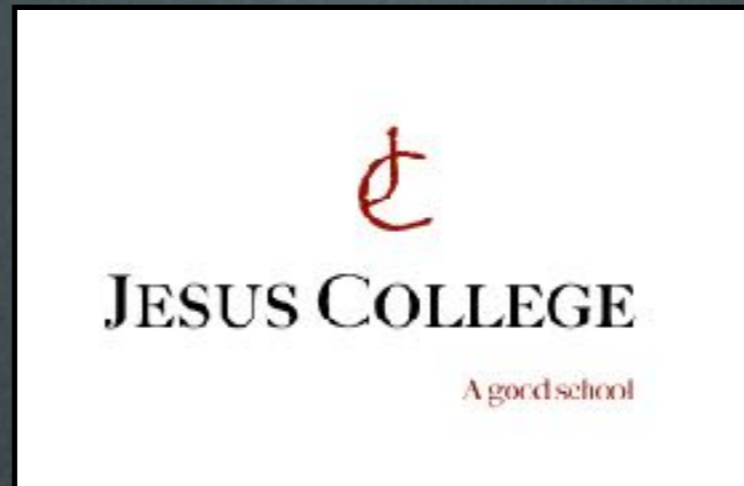
Doug



THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



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“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

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