

"The With-God Life"

Dallas Willard — Renovare International 2005

Scribe's Comments - The session was transcribed from the recording in good-faith effort but it is not verbatim. The **bold** and underline offer the scribe's emphasis.



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[Length = 10:00]

You are perfectly safe as you stand in the Kingdom of God with me.

God in the inter-testamental period and what it meant for the coming of Jesus to that time & place. God was developing some of the sweetest things we have in the Bible. The synagogue was really local. All the family traditions and rituals and the ways God was living with the people of Israel without a government to support them. They were an oppressed people when Jesus came. On the other hand they were a marvelously rich people.

It was to the simple people of the the outlying part of the land of Israel where Jesus came and where He raised and spiritually formed. [3:00]

It is important to know how God works in history and uses history. Where individuals can find God wherever they are.

Psalms - the immediate availability of God.

Jews pushed into exile discovered they discovered they could call the God of Heaven. This language emerges in the exile. When John the Baptist came preaching, "*The Kingdom of God is at hand*" wherever people were, they could turn into it.

"*Our Father who are in heaven*" - God is always near us.

That's where the Jewish people experienced Him. What was there all along comes to be present in a manifest way. The presence of God is in one sense metaphysical - the "Omini's" as we talk theologically. God is present everywhere but He is not always manifest.

*Jesus Baptism - "*The Heavens opened*".

They never say that the heavens closed. It was the presence of heaven to him. People with no qualifications coming into the Kingdom of Heaven through their confidence in Him. Jesus is the great boundary breaker but he could not do that until the time was right.

God in his great love and His joy over his people leads them along and brings them to the place where Jesus can now come.

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How can God be happy and also sorrowful? [6:40]

Joy is a pervasive sense of well being.

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief but he was also a man of joy. In his last days He gave them his joy. They knew He was joyful.

Paul - **II Corinthians 6:10**, "*Sorrowful yet always rejoicing.*"

God is so great we learn the secret of constant joy!

Jesus brings that to us with the message of the kingdom, His life, His death and resurrection. The resurrection proves everything He said was true about the Kingdom of God. You can do the absolute worst and the kingdom of God would triumph.

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus."

God is so great we can rest in that.

How to relate to humans to bring out history of the community of people who will reign with Him forever & ever. That's where God is leading us - you individually. That's what we learn here - how to do that.

"You've been faithful. Take charge of 10 cities."



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[Length = 10:00]

Your kingdom is with His kingdom and you are ready for Him to provide his power.

* Girl in Sunday School - What is a lie? "*Abomination...help in trouble*"

God is so great and so vast, if we want to hide from Him we can only do that if He hides from us. He cooperates with us.

"Where art thou?" God asked Adam. He extended the privilege to hide.

Allow them to see God. When we seek Him with all our hearts, He finds us.

Prayer

Why is there an arrangement of prayer?

Prayer is one of the first steps of growth in the Kingdom of God.

Prayer is talking with God about we are doing together.

* Persistent Widow

God wants to know if we have some alternatives in mind. That's how he'll let us stay with a request until we work that out of system.

* Daniel - "*Angel came quickly and found Daniel on his knees.*"

God wants to know where our heart is.

Prayer is learning how to live in the Kingdom of God.

When we learn to pray, you can see it buzzing over people.

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I. The Blessing & the Barrier in Israel

The blessing of the old covenant was the identifiable people of God upon the earth, where he could be found by those, within and without who would seek Him. The barrier was that the Jewish culture had hardened into a form that prevented people from living the "with-God" life.

Matthew 24:13 - They made people be like the Pharisees not God.

The conformity of the Jewish people bully a system of domination and they left out most people - the poor, the imprisoned.

Jesus comes and He is the great barrier breaker.

He announces the availability of God...



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[Length = 9:55]

II. (?) Trust Jesus!

* The hymn - "*The old story of Jesus and His love*"

Jesus comes in the fullness of time. He went out among the simple people and gathered them in. His disciples were thought to be beyond the Jewish blessing. They very people He said, "Blessed" to!

He does this by opening he Kingdom of the Heavens to everyone without any regard to human characteristics. "*To the Jew first,*" of course, for they were prepared.

The message to all: "*Repent for the Kingdom of the heavens is now become available to you.*" (**Matthew 4:17**) They entered the kingdom by placing their hope in Jesus and receiving the birth "from above." (**John 3:3,5**)

He did this on a basis of who is capable of receiving this and taking it to the world. it wasn't that Jews were better but God had been working on these people for centuries.

Jesus did not bring the Kingdom of God into existence, He made it available to everyone who would believe in Him.

III. (?) The Kingdom of God is working with Jesus.

That's why we call Him Immanuel - God with us. He is the God-with life.

Luke 4:18-19

The poor could live in the Kingdom of God.

The only people who are rally well off are those who live in the Kingdom of God.

"Repent" (def.) - Think about your thinking.

Most human thinking is, "*How can I run my kingdom?*"

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I can now live in the Kingdom of God. All of Jesus teaching is predicated on that.

In the with-God life, we have to make sure we are carrying this beyond flowery language. We are referring to something that really happens. It is the interactive presence of God in our life. Grace is God acting in my life. Of course it is unmerited favor but that doesn't tell you what it is.

IV. (?) Eternal life - to be living interactively with God.

Biblical knowledge - interactive relationship never head knowledge.

John 17:3 - *"This is eternal life - they would know you and Jesus"* - interactive relationship - I bring my life into God's life.

I do that by trusting Jesus. I know the Kingdom of God by stepping into the teachings of Jesus, by doing what he said. Knowledge is interactive relationship.

"Bless those who curse you."

I want to know the Kingdom of God so I do that. God is with me so he helps me learn how to do that. I am transformed into the likeness of Christ.

* **II Peter 3:18** - *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ."*

Grow in your kingdom interactions with Jesus. We can't take a lot of that so normally we see it when we look back.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because I have been anointed to preach the gospel, release to the captive, sight to the blind, set free those who are captive in the year of the Lord."



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[Length = 9:55]

"Who is this? He is just a carpenter."

"Who do others say that I am?"

Prophets - John the Baptist.

Peter, *"You are the Messiah, the one that was promised to take charge of humanity."* Peter did not know what he was saying.

How many of us knew what we were saying about Jesus?

How many of us knew what we were saying when we got married?

Jesus opened the door and let them find Him.

Luke 15:1, *"He receives sinners and eats with them."*

That's Jesus. Think about how Jesus must have looked when He spoke to those people. What made them come to Him. Then there were those grumbling. The barriers! Jesus was the great barrier breaker. They loved to hear him because of all the things they had been told about God and Jesus was saying, "That's not what He's like."

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V. A New Kind of Community emerges around Jesus.

The new place of God upon the earth. People "with-God" are now with each other as never before seen upon earth.

A.) People defined by the fact that they are in the Kingdom. No external arrangement is necessary.

Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst."

"Binding on earth and in heaven." (v. 18) What does that mean?

B.) New commandment to love one another - John 13:34-35

Love - Jesus lived a Cross life. By this all will know you are my students. Why? You can't learn it anywhere else. You have to have Jesus' vision of God and who God is. You have to keep company with him. You can't imagine what it is like

C.) John 17:21 - One in us...that you did send me."

When people see Jesus and see the people around Him and have His character they say, "this is it." They recognize the God who has come to life in Jesus and willing to live with them.

VI. The Great Commission - Matthew 28:18-20

We induct people into the same life that lives in us. We don't have to work hard in that. We let the life dwell in us. It will speak for itself. Where it is hard to get people to be Christians is where you have Christians who are not Christians.

A.) This not church planting thought it will result in churches emerging within the communities where it is done. It is establishing kingdom beachheads.

B.) Groups learning to do all that He commanded will bring the light to the Gentiles and fulfill the Abrahamic promise for "all the families of the earth."

The resource - I who have say over all...I am with you always.

Being with him we see the effects of the Kingdom of

VII. "Mission" is not something to be added on

We don't make it happen, we live the with-God life wherever we are. Mission naturally comes out of that.

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[Length = 9:55]

VIII. Ways God is with Us

A.) In blind faith - See "Hearing God" ch. 3

He is with us - blind faith - often the faith of another.

"I could have never not have believed in God having know my grandmother."

B.) In sensible presence. You have a sense God is with you.

C.) He is with us when He speaks to us.

D.) He is with us by acting with us.

Trying to life a load and it's is much lighter because someone is helping

* Easy Yoke - a way of combining the effort of two

We make effort but we don't try to control things and make them happen. Apart from Him you can do nothing. But if you do nothing, it will be without Him.

Blind Faith & God acting with us are the two main ways God is acting in our lives. We know it is because we are living the with-God life.

IX. Live the with-God Life

[4:50]

A.) Decide to do what you know God says to do. Stop thinking about it.

* Mark 3:1-5 - Heal the man with the withered hand?

Stop "reserving" the possibility of not doing it. Learn how.

Learn how to stay out of temptation. If you want to avoid wrong doing, stay out of temptation. If you're still thinking, "That' so much fun!" you need to look closer at the Kingdom. Get off the conveyer belt before it starts toward the buzz saw.

B.) Undertake everything you do on God's behalf. Colossians 3:17

We'll coconut on him to bring it to pass.

C.) Set the Lord always before you. Psalm 16:9

Your mind should be awash in scripture. Psalm 23

* TV looks so silly when you put it up against scripture.

* Listen to audio version of scripture. Memorize passages.

Work through the 23rd Psalm & Lord's Prayer several times daily.

Your first freedom is where you will place your mind. [7:25]

Do you actually think you will be well off in your mind is filled with sitcoms, commercials, news and what you want?

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There are so many hard events that will come to us in life. We may have a loved one descending into the valley of Alzheimers, Cancer, Death. So many people around us need us to walk the with-God life with them. We need to have the confidence in Jesus who comes and breaks all barriers and lives right where we are and gives us the love, character and power to glorify God and bless human beings all around us simply because we are living a life with God.

End of Teaching Session - Video #5 @ 8:49

Marriage — *"If I had known what I was doing when I married Jane, I would have died of joy."*

Q & A



[Video # 6](#)

[Length 09:56]

Q - "Barriers" - What about our own barriers today?

A - Partly it is defensiveness. We don't allow us to get near others.

"God is with us. I can be with them."

Jesus was so with-God He could be anywhere. He was constantly being judged. We internalize that and judge ourselves. We think in terms of being accepted by people. One of the things of being with-God, you have to accept not being acceptable to people.

Q - Bringing the organizational elements to the church?

A - Primary purpose of the church is to love God and love our neighbor.

Standing in the Kingdom allows us to be anywhere comfortably.

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[Jaunita Rasmus](#) (panelist) (& Ray), St. John's Church, Downtown Houston

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[2:05]

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