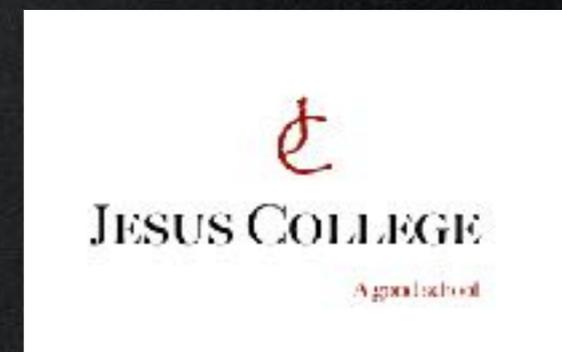
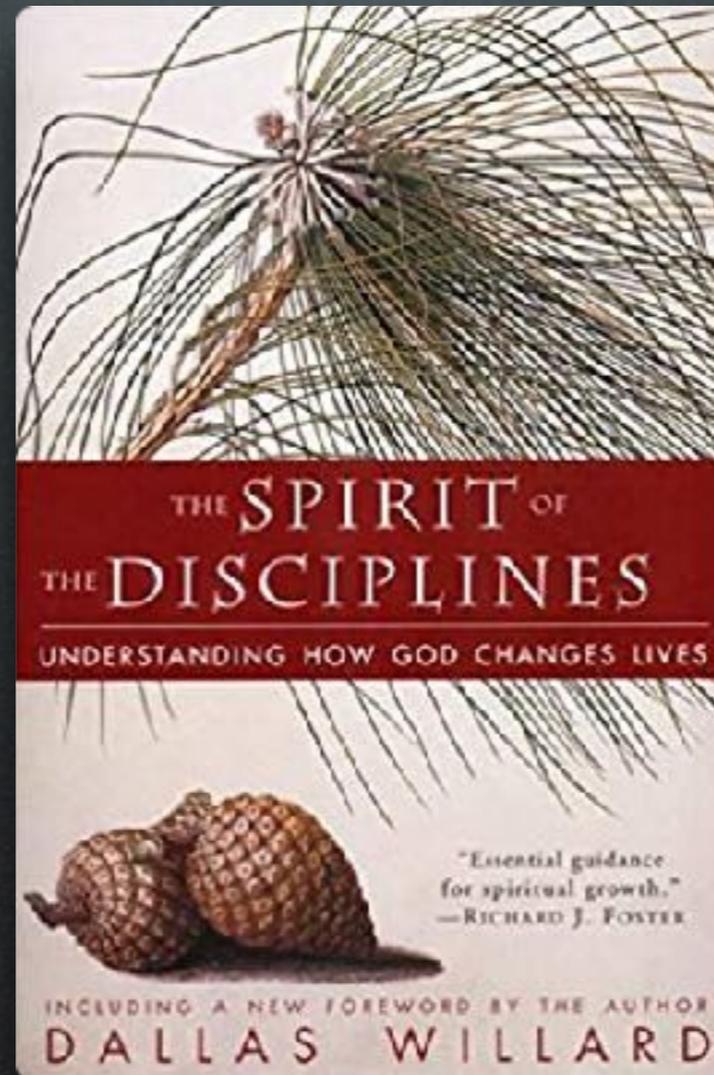


WELCOME to an eleven week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 5 - *"The Nature of Life"* - Chapter 5

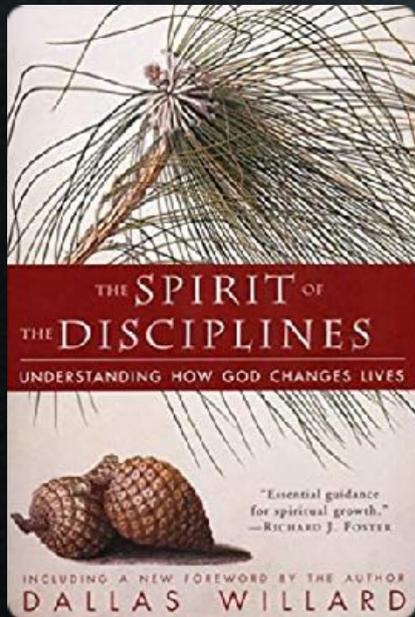


Session 4 Summary

We were created to reign with Christ over a new heaven and a new earth.

Redemption is the grace-filled process of restoring Christlike character to handle divine power in our bodies to train us to carry out our vast, impossible assignment of dominion.

The secret of the easy yoke is to choose to live your life the way Jesus lived His life.



The sayings of Jesus are most often taken as expressions of some ethereal truth especially for religious people. Instead, they are mere observations about how life actually works. They say nothing about what we ought to do. They simply state how things are.

FLOURISH - to abandon ourselves to what lies beyond us. Life: Inner power to live “beyond”. (56)

Who shall govern and so shall say what is to be done is hardly manageable on a national scale. To maintain a stable government is at a great cost of blood and money without acceptable solution apart from a global return to the government of God - living under God among others in cooperation to fulfill our nature.

(56-57)

“The amazing nature of life itself”

The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 5 - "The Nature of Life" - Chapter 5

Life — The Power to Relate & Assimilate

Life: The ability to contact and selectively take in to support its own survival. (57)

Plant — Nourishment to reproducing itself

Animal — The power to move about

Human — Thought

(Perception & Conceptualization - p. 49)

Valuation, and

Choice *(Action p. 49)*





Assimilating True Life

“How do we avoid decay? By eating, drinking, breathing, & assimilating true life.” Erwin Schrodinger

“METABOLISM” (def.) Exchange

True life vs. false life — How often do we feel like this is our day-to-day life, doing and saying things we don't mean just to get along with the world around us. (59)



The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 5 - *"The Nature of Life"* - Chapter 5

Individuality and Life

What makes life precious?

Our inner source of activity!

Not dehumanizing one person as replaceable, rather completely unrestrained like children, puppies, pandas...utterly gratuitous. (60)



The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 5 - *"The Nature of Life"* - Chapter 5

An Internal Complexity Growth

A Law of Life — The expansion of our internal parts and powers in the orderly helpful way.

"To Him who has shall be given" Jesus Mt. 25:29



(60-61)

What does this say about human life?

The Range of Human Life

Our astonishing power to use what is beyond ourselves...
the more power we get, the more power we can get.

We extend our powers through Tools and Relationships - artistic, commercial, scientific, and military. (61)



“My dear people, we are already the children of God, but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed, we shall be like Him*, because we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:2 * - Christlikeness

Life Deformed

Evil from Spiritual Starvation

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing.”

Human Sin - truly terrifying phenomenon,
a sad and depleted condition

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.” Ephesians 2:1

(62-63)



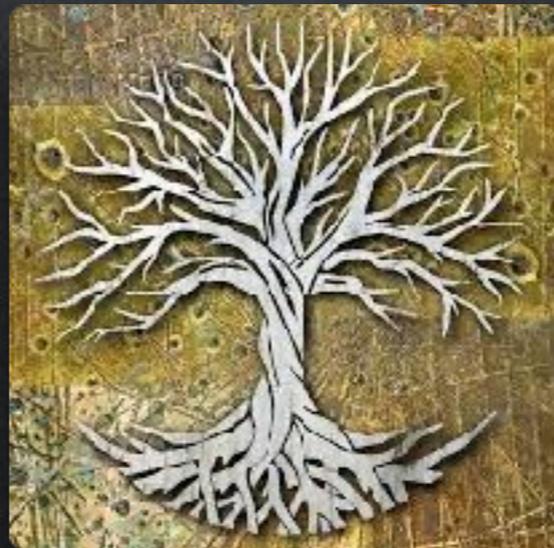
What is Spirit?

Un-embodied personal power - like gravity (Sir Isaac Newton) - ordered realm of personal power in God

What is the missing nutriment in the human system?

The relation to the spiritual Kingdom of God.

“The Tree of Life”



A Spiritual Life

Understanding the Gospel of the Kingdom of God!

A spiritual life is a range of activities cooperatively interacting with God's personality and action.

The Divine stream of order — corresponding new powers

A matter of another reality - not a commitment or lifestyle. The regeneration of the self under God.
A power beyond our manipulation or control.



Spiritual Disciplines

(def.) “Activities of mind and body to bring our personality and total being into effective cooperation with the divine order.”

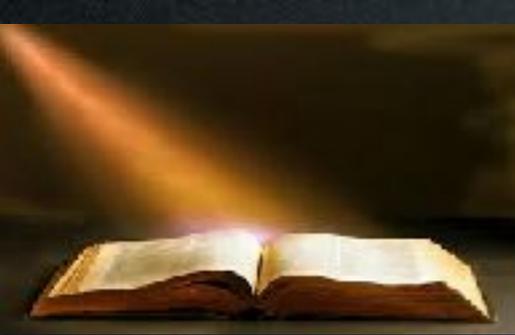
“Yield ourselves to God, alive from the dead, instruments of righteousness unto God.” Romans 6:13

From — The Imago Dei (“A Little Less Than a God” - ch. 4)

Through — Regenerated by divine initiative alive to God and His Kingdom (“Salvation is a Life” - ch. 3)

Upon — Integration to the extent of our initiative (“The Secret of the Easy Yoke” - ch. 1)





The Problem of Method with No Quick Fix

But what are we to do?

Church attendance? Religious duties? Experiences?
Decisions? Commitments?

A track record into CHRISTLIKENESS is unimpressive.

The Bible and certain practices in cooperation with grace
to raise our lives toward godliness, [i.e., Christlikeness]
the writings of the saints or moralists,
in a spiritually enlivened church...

...little by little...with no quick fix.

(68-70)

The approach to wholeness is for humankind a process of great length and difficulty that engages all our own powers to their fullest extent over a long course of experience.

But we don't like to hear this.

(70)



Imago Dei = “Christlikeness”

The grand restoration of human life to its proper center in the spiritual life could mean for humankind's divine calling to have dominion over the glorious earth for its good and for the pleasure and glory of God. (84)

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27



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Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

Meditation — *The Life of Peter - Matt. 26, John 21, Acts 1-2*

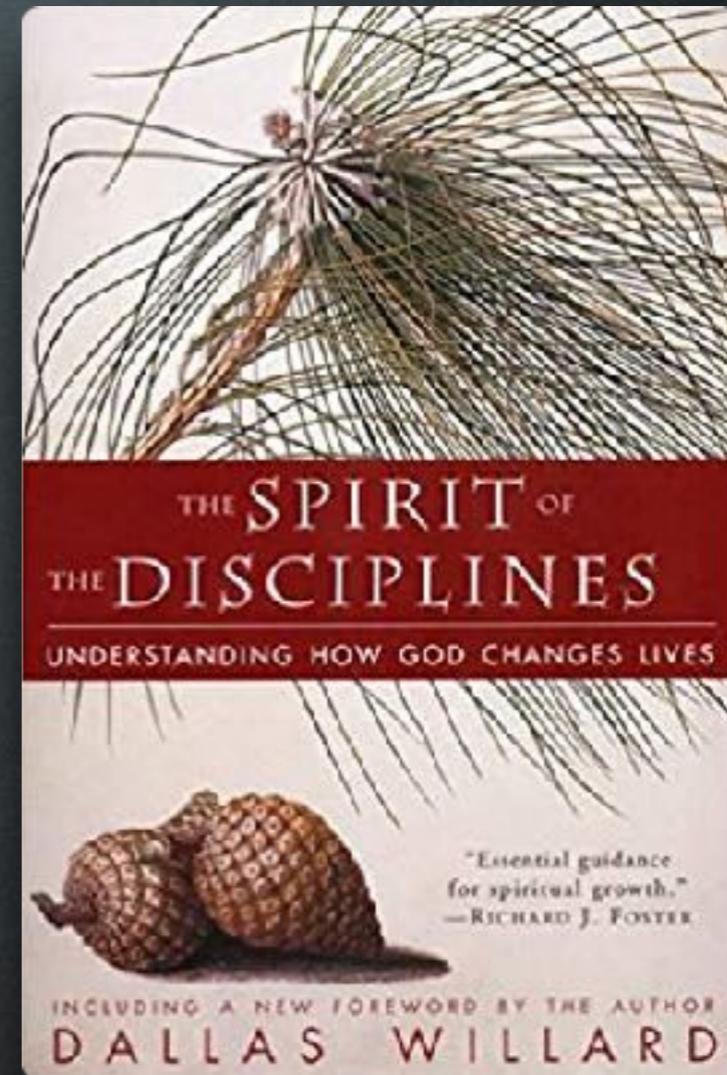
Application

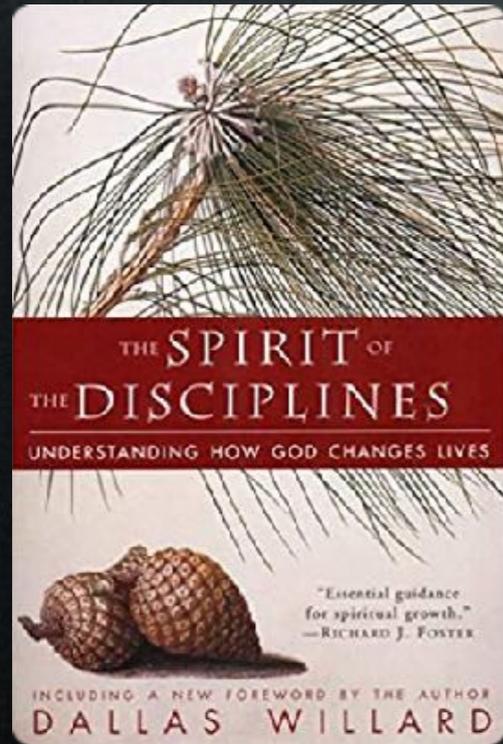
- 1.) Take a few minutes to consider what, and better yet, who gives me life?
- 2.) What is/are the missing nutriment(s) in my spiritual life?
- 3.) What about the life of Peter do I find most inspiring? Relatable? Insightful for my life?



Session 5 Summary

The nature is life is lived in proper order aligned with the spiritual power of the Kingdom of God fleshed out in spiritual practices of and with the King.

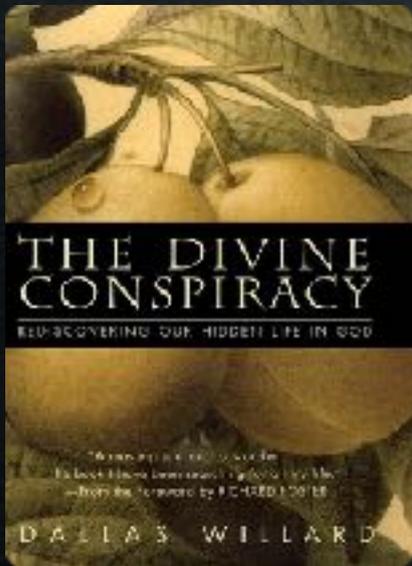




Next — Session 6

“Spiritual Life The Body’s Fulfillment” Chapter 6

Is our spiritual life opposed to the body, or at its best, totally disembodied mode of existence?



“The Divine Conspiracy”

(31) Thursdays, March 24 - October 10, 2022

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“The Problem of Evil”

(3) Wednesdays, March 30, April 6 & 13, 2022

#1 - “Radical Evil in the Ruined Soul”

Renovation of the Heart, Ch. 3

2 - “Why Such Lack & Evil?”

Life Without Lack, Ch. 4

#3 - “The Problem of Pain & Evil”

The Allure of Gentleness Ch. 6



Starts
This
Week

8 AM - *or* - 4 PM (US Pacific = GMT-7 hours)

Information or Registration — info@JesusCollege.com

Co-sponsored by



Full alignment with the divine order of the Kingdom of God is beyond your reach but with the grasp of grace...should you want to truly live in the next 10,000 minutes.

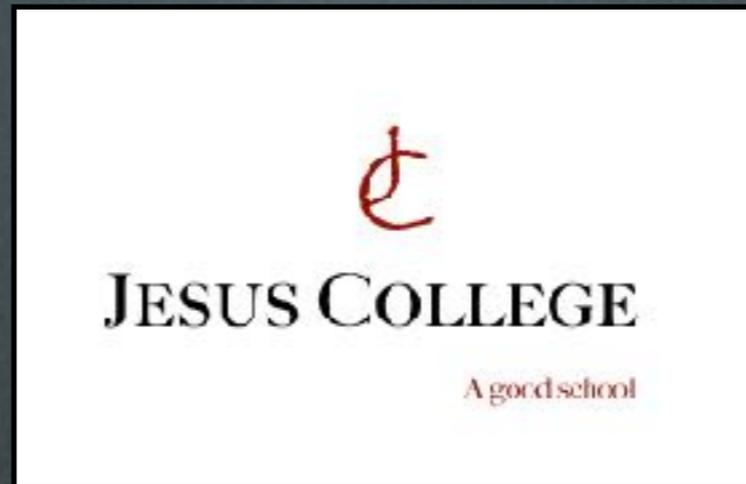
Doug





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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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