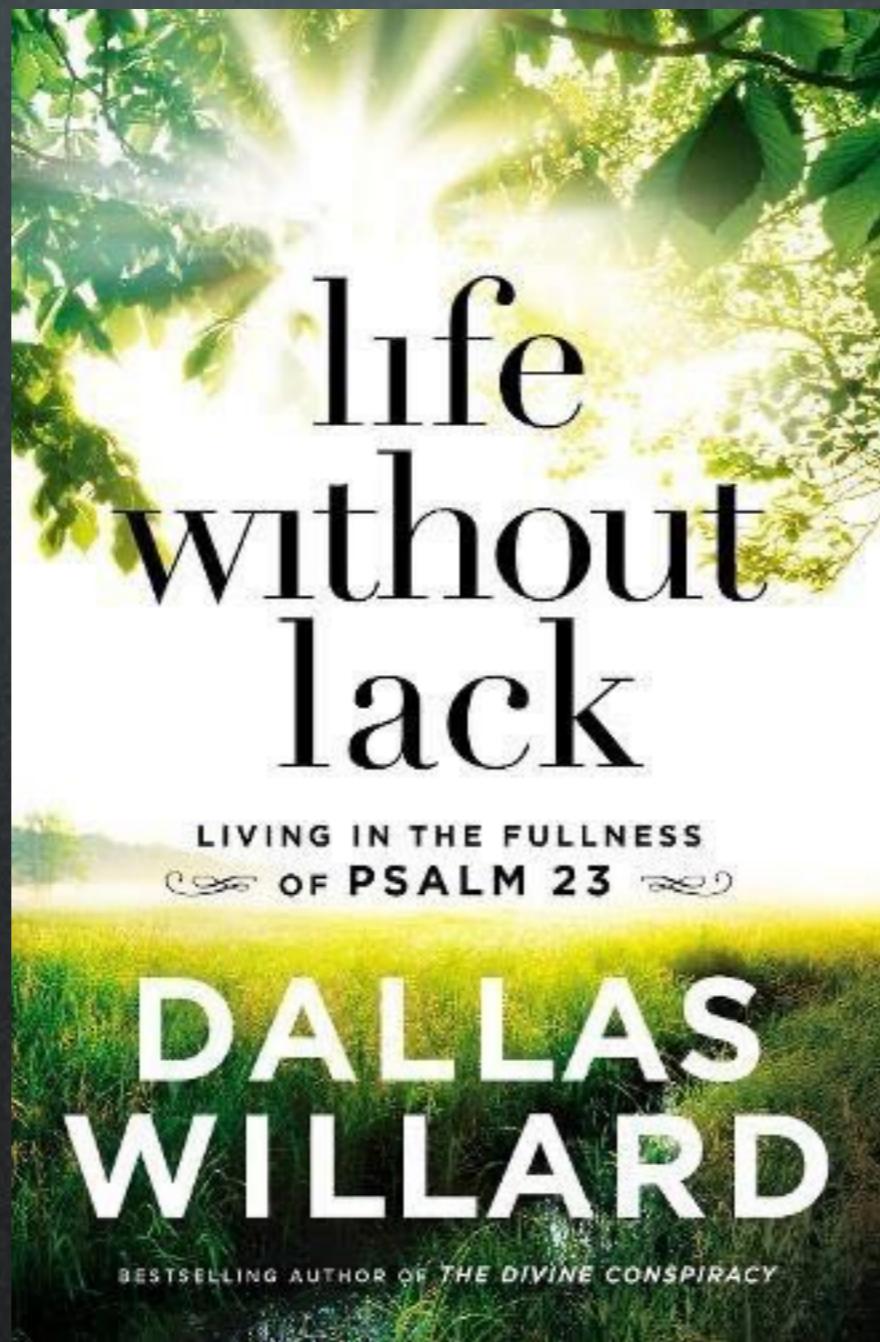


WELCOME to a nine week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



life without lack
Session 4 — “Why Such Lack & Evil?” - Chapter 4



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

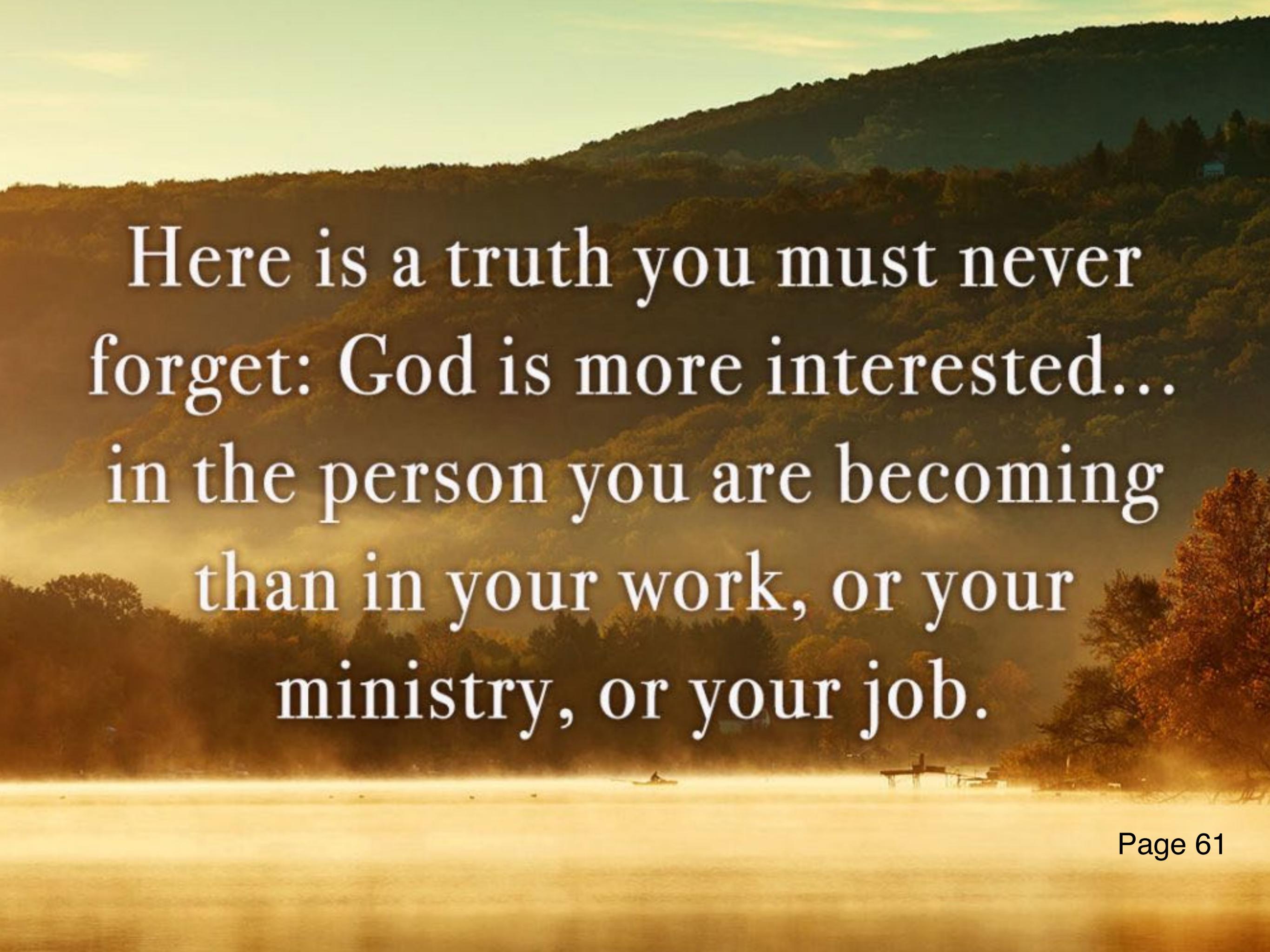
“A Society of Redeemed Persons”

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)

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16



A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills covered in dense green and yellow foliage. In the foreground, there's a body of water with a small, dark dock extending into it. The sky is a warm, golden-yellow color, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

Here is a truth you must never
forget: God is more interested...
in the person you are becoming
than in your work, or your
ministry, or your job.

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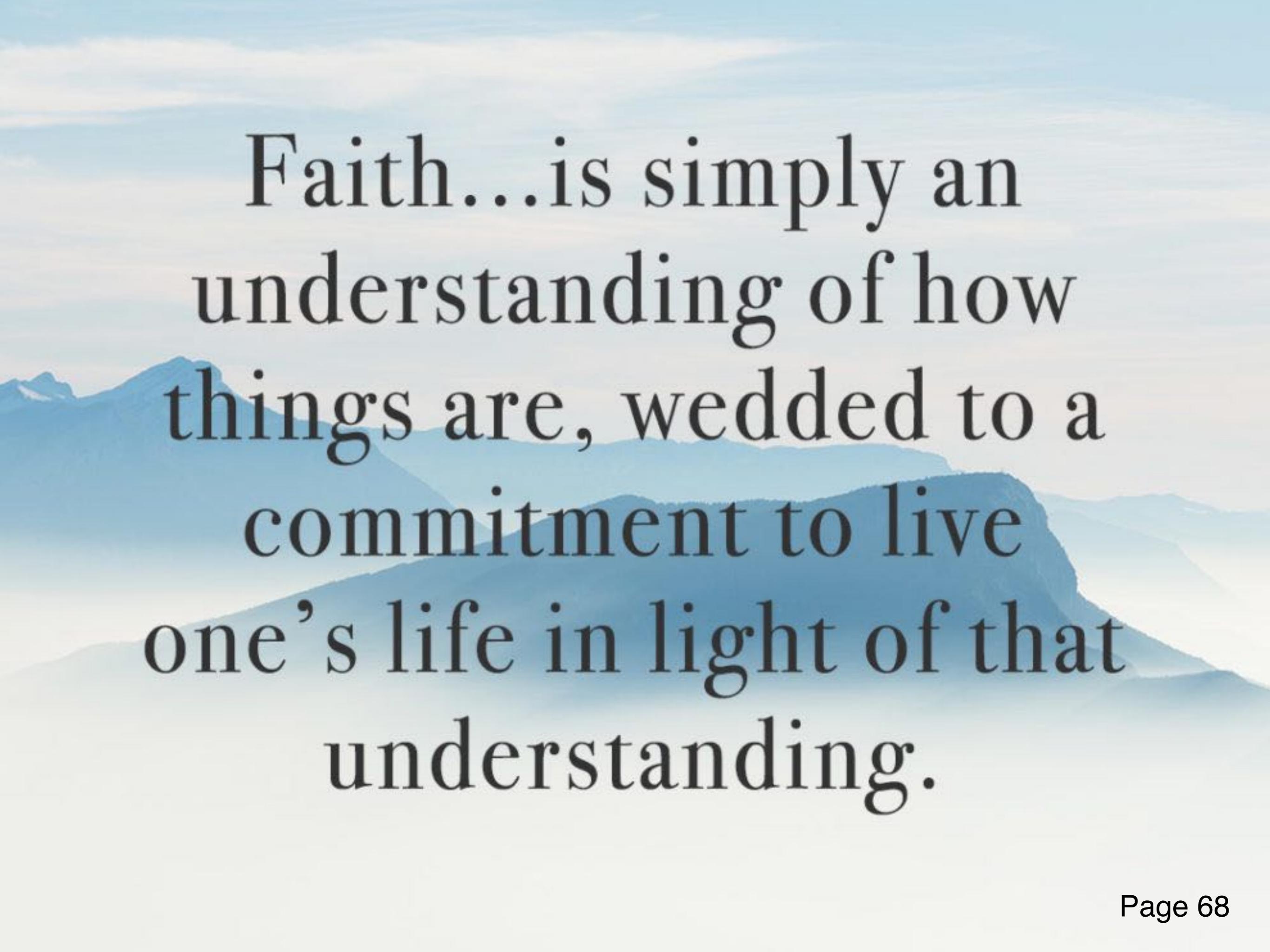
Session 4 — Why Such Lack & Evil? - Chapter 4

For most of us, the thought of a LIFE WITHOUT LACK is unimaginable because we live in a world so obviously full of lack – lack of kindness, fairness, and compassion, all of which are more precious because they seem so rare.

(67)

The secret to a LIFE WITHOUT LACK is faith in God and God's full capacity and willingness to meet all our needs – and more.

(68)

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, a large body of water in the middle ground, and a clear blue sky above. The mountains are partially obscured by mist or low clouds, creating a sense of depth and tranquility.

Faith...is simply an understanding of how things are, wedded to a commitment to live one's life in light of that understanding.

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Satan: The Early Years

“the prince of the power of the air”

To Persuade - Tempt - Deceive (71)

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”

Ephesians 2:1-2

In God's Crosshairs

John 3:8 Matthew 1:20-21

To destroy sin is to destroy the works of the devil. Satan is God's primary target for he is the one who bears the primary responsibility for all that is wrong with the world. (72)

Jesus came to destroy death - Hebrews 2:14

“Wiles of the Devil” Ephesians 6:10-11

Not the wiles of your neighbor (73)

To succeed in walking in the way of Jesus and know the LIFE WITHOUT LACK, it is essential that we understand and believe the devil is real and at work. (74)

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Satan's Three Weapons of Temptation (74-77)

- 1.) Lust of the Flesh
- 2.) Lust of the Eyes
- 3.) Pride of Life

The word lust is probably better “desire”. (76)

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

I John 2:15-16

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Jesus – Tempted in All Ways Like Us

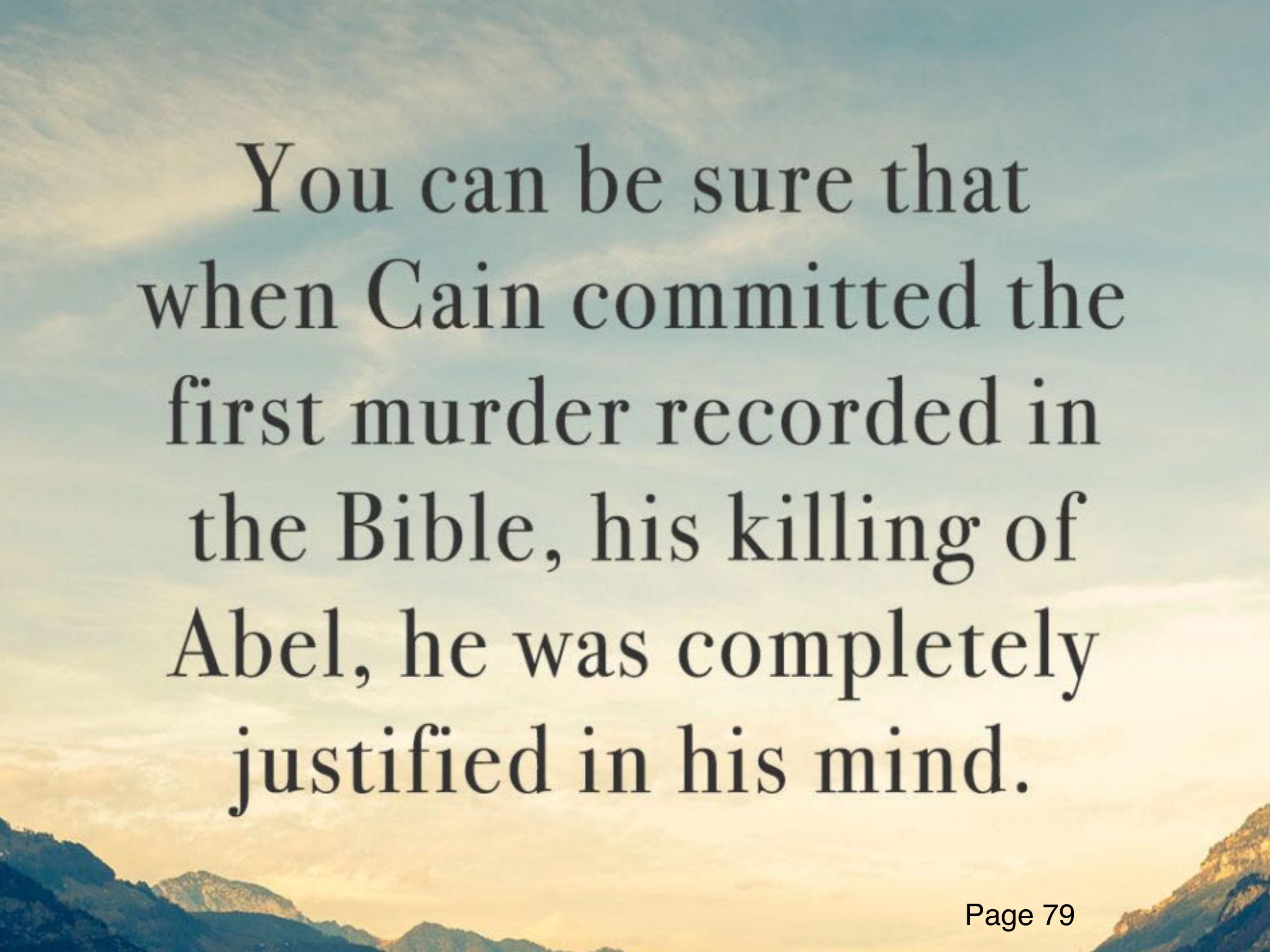
<u>Jesus</u>	<u>Eve</u>	<u>The World</u>
Stones to Bread	Good for food	Desire of the Flesh
Off the Temple	Pleasant look	Desire of the Eyes
Power & Glory	To be Wise	Pride of Life

Satan's way of dealing with people is to catch them up in these three patterns and then make them think they are doing what they want to do. (78)

Masters of Justification

Genesis 4:9 ~ Cain

The foolishness is all obvious if we stop to think.
Satan counts on our not stopping to think. (79)



You can be sure that when Cain committed the first murder recorded in the Bible, his killing of Abel, he was completely justified in his mind.

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Fearing for Our Desires

Satan uses our fear that we will not get what we desire. (80)

If we are to experience a LIFE WITHOUT LACK...we must by the grace of God, deal with these fears – or we will be in bondage to Satan...both in terms of fear and the temptation to meet our needs in a way that is not right before God, which reveals our lack of faith in Him and lack of trust in His all sufficient care and strength. (80-81)

“He guides me in paths of righteousness...” Psalm 23:3

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How Satan & Our Heart Works

Our heart is the source of action in our lives.

More importantly, our thoughts are where Satan applies his trade...images, through ideas, through feelings and fears.

The heart is our point of contact with God's unlimited capacity to protect and provide.

(81-82)



*If you are not entertaining God's truth,
you will be entertaining Satan's lies.*

Dallas Willard
Life Without Lack, p. 83

Taught by the Victorious Master Jesus

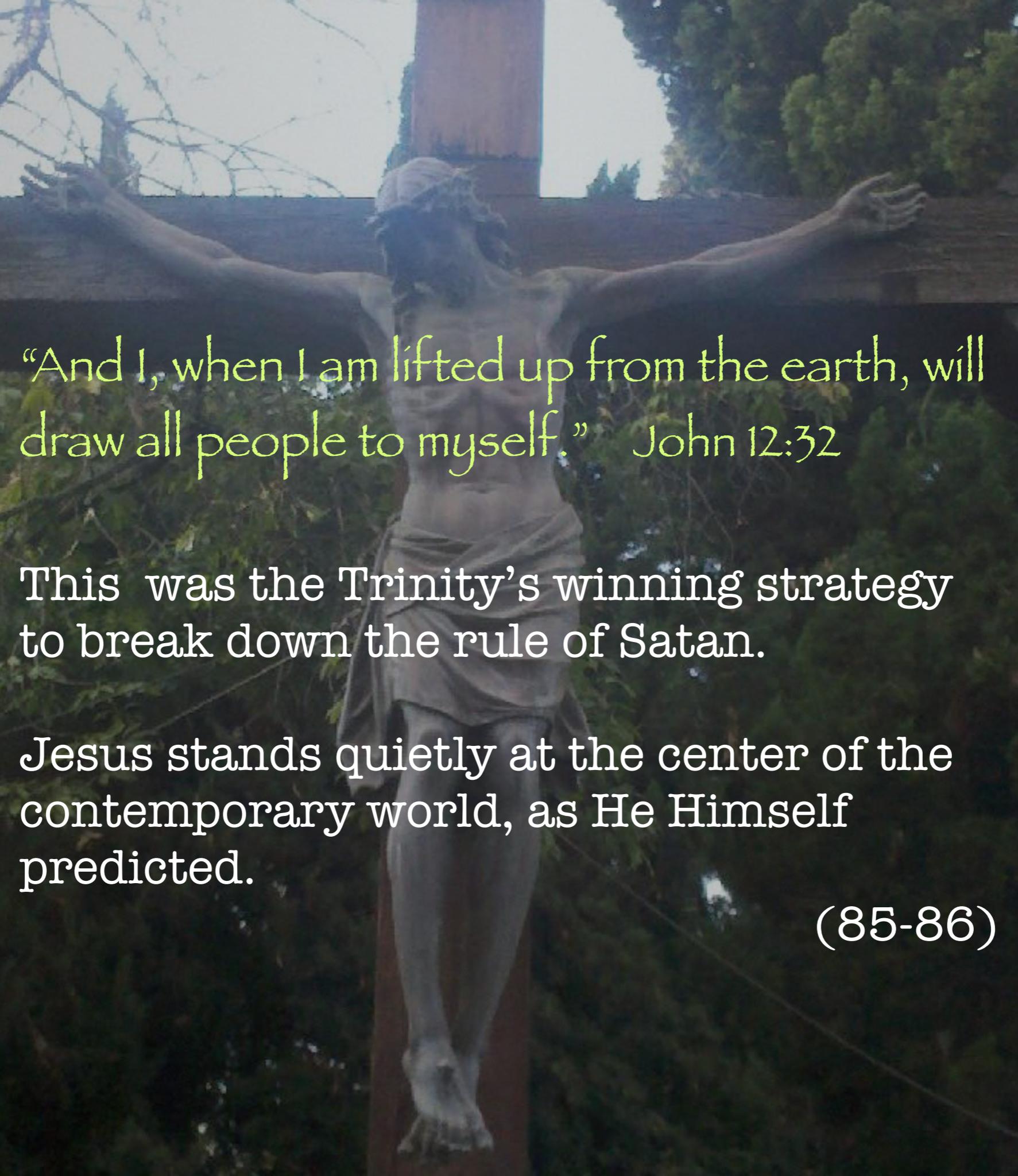
Satan was aware only Jesus could break his grip on the human world

Jesus would refuse to use evil to defeat evil. (84)

...from a Battle Strategy Formed in a Garden

Christ's death and resurrection demonstrated to His followers and other observers that what Jesus said about the Kingdom and its availability was and is true. Knowledge of the presence and the unfailing availability of God to those who trust Him.

Jesus' basic idea – This world is a perfectly good and safe place...if they [we] have placed their lives in hands of Jesus and His Father. (86)



“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” John 12:32

This was the Trinity’s winning strategy to break down the rule of Satan.

Jesus stands quietly at the center of the contemporary world, as He Himself predicted.

(85-86)

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Satan's Target – Satan knew he had been defeated and his attention now was to be focused on those who believed in Jesus...
his effort to defeat Jesus' followers. (86)

Satan's Weapon – Ideas that govern society's individuals...about what is good and what is right and how things should be done.

Satan governs ideas by the way people understand themselves. (88)



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The Vision Dims

Why the decay?

The desire to look good and be wise.



Truth does exist, but it does not come easily, if at all, to those trapped by Satan's deceptions about what is desirable. (90)

When looking good takes precedence over knowing the good, Satan wins the battle, if not the war. John 5:44 (91)

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Destroying the Citadel of Satan

Satan's constant assault is aimed at our belief in God's goodness & power, that God will supply all our needs, and that we can trust God to be sufficient in all ways. When our minds are on God, and our thoughts are formed by our knowledge of God, such sufficiency will flow to us. Satan's main task is to keep our minds elsewhere, anywhere but on God. (91)



“Take every thought captive in obedience to Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:6



Destroying the Citadel of Satan (continued)

A world in “the snare of the devil” is also a world that God loves, into which He sent Jesus. Only the gospel of Christ can take back what Satan controls and reclaim the mind and heart of every human being held captive. This involves coming to think about God as Jesus thought about Him, and to trust God as Jesus trusted Him – moving from having faith IN Jesus to having the faith OF Jesus.

To do so is to know the LIFE WITHOUT LACK.

What is God's purpose in human history?

"Crown Jewels in a free, loving community." (Ch. 5, p. 96)

"The world that contains the possibility of evil is the one that also contains the greatest possibility of good."



The Allure of Gentleness
p. 122

FIVE ACTIONS to RID THE WORLD of EVIL

- 1.) Cease to do evil — Start where I am and do something
- 2.) Trust the goodness & greatness of God
- 3.) Turn loose the chain of Self-Deification
- 4.) Deal with the root cause — ANGER — by surrendering my will to God
- 5.) Stand against evil unconcerned about what happens to me
“Not perfect, just a lot better.”



The Allure of Gentleness
p. 135-136

A Prayer for the Battle of the Mind

by Dallas Willard

Lord minister to me by your Spirit.
Come into my heart and mind,
and release me from all inward
tension and anxiety.

Hold before my mind the truth that
I have nothing to fear from Satan
for you have defeated him;
all I must do is fill my life and
my mind with you.

Remind me often, especially in the
midst of difficulty,
that you, who are in me,
are greater than he who is in the world.

Help me to carry this truth with me
as I contemplate the awesome reality
of the spiritual battle taking place,
a battle that, perhaps in our time, is
moving perceptively closer
to its climax.

Give me the vision of who you are:
Our Father who art in heaven,
The Shepherd in whose presence there
is no lack, so I may have the
confidence and power to love and to
live as Jesus lived.

In His name, amen.

Q & C

Your Questions & Comments are Welcome!

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

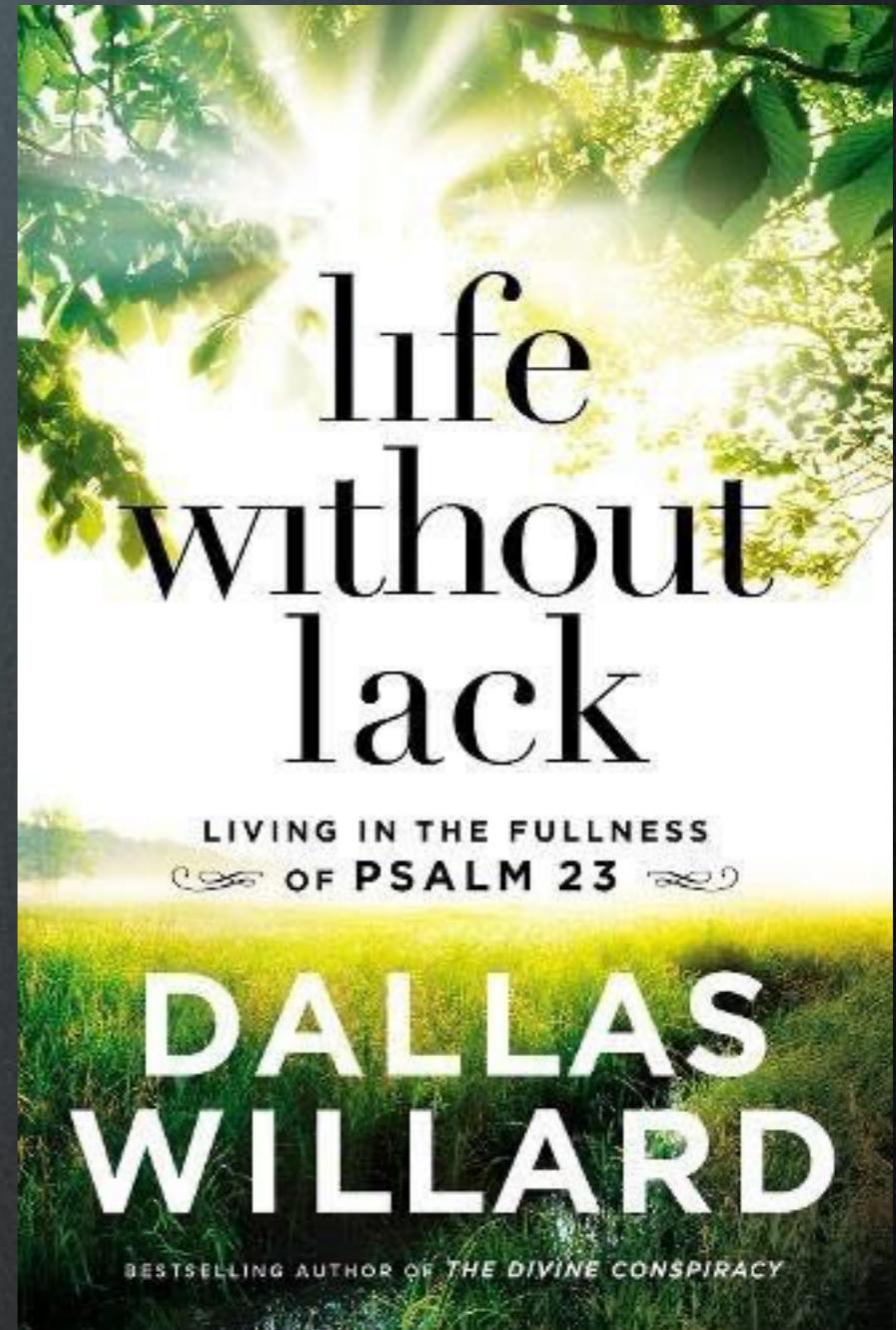
- 1.) How well do I know and recognized the “wiles of the devil”, his “snare”?
- 2.) Why do I want to look good?
What is my motivation?
What am I willing to do to accomplish it?
- 3.) How will I take every thought captive in obedience to Jesus and think about God like Jesus thinks about God?



Session 4 Summary

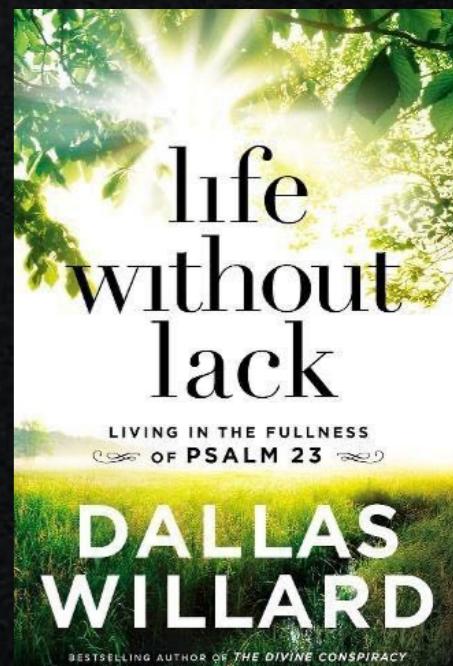
We occupy a world in “the snare of the devil”. It is, indeed, a battle of hearts and minds – false beliefs and images and feelings – the very things that rob us of knowing the LIFE WITHOUT LACK – except by the power of God. This power comes to those who have been trained to fix our minds on God.

(92)



Session 4 Scriptures

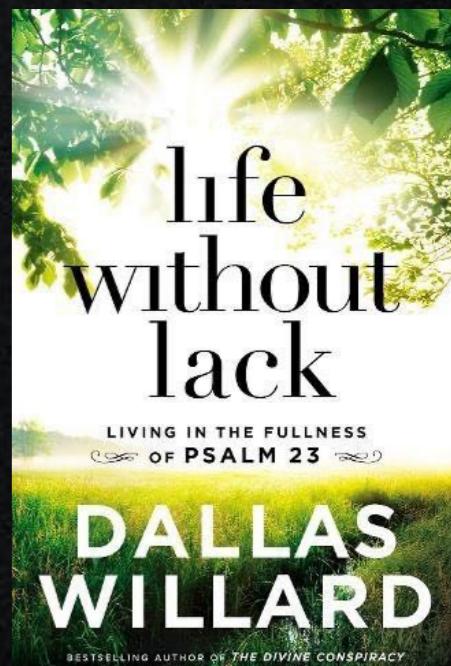
Ephesians 2:2; Isaiah 14:12-14;
Genesis 3:5; Ezekiel 28:14-17;
I John 3:8; Matthew 1:20-21;
Hebrews 2:14; Ephesians 6:10-11;
I John 2:15-16; Genesis 4:9;
Psalm 23:3; Genesis 6:5-7;
I Samuel 3:9; Proverbs 4:23;
Romans 1:28; Psalm 119:11;
John 14:30; John 12:32;
Ephesians 4:14, 17-18;
II Corinthians 10:4-5;
II Timothy 2:24-25



Next Week – Session 5

“Trust in God: The Key to Life”
Chapter 5 (p. 94-123)

Audio – “Life Without Lack” by Dallas Willard
Session 5 - <https://dwillard.org/life-without-lack>



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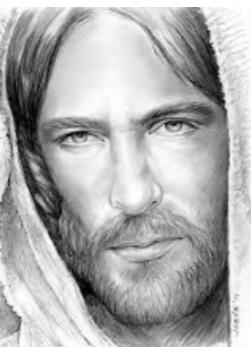
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the knowledge of God
bringing every thought
into captivity to the
obedience of Christ.

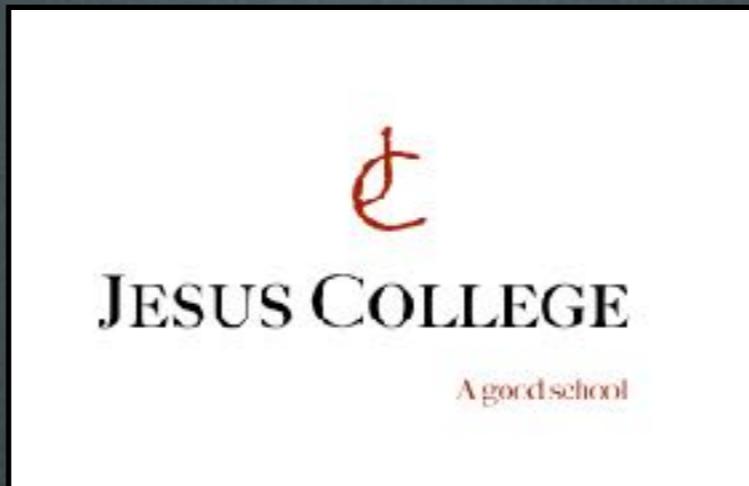
Doug





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