



WELCOME to a 9 session course
BEYOND BELIEF

by Dallas Willard

with the Jesus College student body of Christ



JESUS COLLEGE

A good school

Review of Session 6

When we walk with Jesus as His disciple in the Kingdom of God, sharing His vision for who is well off and a really good person, God transforms our heart through awkward stages to mastery as the kind of person who loves our neighbor at home, in church, in business, in court, even our worst enemy, with the love as our Father in Heaven loves.



Who is a truly good person?



BEYOND BELIEF

Session 7 - Spiritual Disciplines

Dallas 4A, Video 8 [28:29] + Dallas 4B, Video 9 [20:51]

I - Our Contribution to Spiritual Formation

II - Becoming a Sermon on the Mount Kind of Person

III - Sanctification Processes

IV - Spiritual Disciplines



Session 7

Spiritual Disciplines - 4A

I - Our Contribution to Spiritual Formation

Enter into the teachings of Jesus, and make them a part of our lives in the way that God intended them to be, not as external legalisms, but rather as expressions of the kind of person that we have become. Dallas, 4A, Intro (video 8)

“Early in the morning while it was still dark, Jesus went off to a solitary place and there he prayed.” Mark 1:35

I am constantly arranging and rearranging my affairs to reach this goal. If I really do intend to be Jesus' disciple, to learn the things that he has taught about blessedness, about righteousness, then I devote myself to it.



It's one thing to wish for something,
it's another thing to want it,
it's the third thing to intend it.

Wish

Want

Will

[4A, video 8 @ 1:45]

Spiritual Formation of a Loving Person

“Make every effort to add to your faith, virtue, add to your virtue, knowledge...add to your kindness, love.” II Peter 1:4-7

One of the things you will notice is that agape love is presented as the capstone.

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love...” Colossians 3:14

That pulls it all together and gives it unity and completeness. Notice this is something for us to do!

[4:13]

Our Contribution to Spiritual Formation

The issue of passivity and activity is the deepest, unsolved mystery in the understanding of spiritual growth today.

The relationship of our redemption is one in which the gift of God comes to us through the Word of the gospel, and we are brought to life. And there is an element of passivity in that. But as soon as that Word takes root in us, and the Spirit begins to move, then we are active.

First — Want it!

Next — Intend it!

“I’m going to have this. I’m going to learn it from Jesus Christ, and I’m going to arrange my affairs so that will happen.”

[4:50]

Discipleship in My Job [8:44]

The place of discipleship is home, work, and play. I am learning to do all in the Kingdom of God. I can't stress too strongly how important our job is in discipleship.

If we're not able to bring our job into our discipleship, we are automatically excluding a major portion of our life, perhaps *thee* major portion of our life, from learning to live in the Kingdom of God.

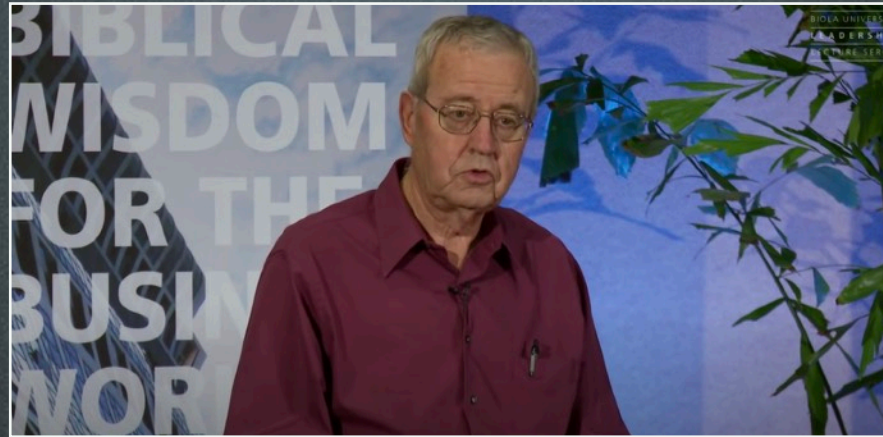
*Learning how to do my job as Jesus would do it.**



* *The Divine Conspiracy*
p. 285-287



Another Willard resource!



"Theology & Spiritual Disciplines in the Workplace"

Dallas @ Talbot Seminary — Intro-18:20

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

“God in Business” series - Session 2

14 pages of lecture notes in the Jesus College Library

The Kingdom at Work in the Magic Kingdom









Session 7

Spiritual Disciplines

II - Becoming a Sermon on the Mount Kind of Person [15:08]

The commands of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount are invitations to be a certain type of person or person who, through faith and discipleship in him, has become transformed, so that his behaviors flow naturally, supernaturally, of course, from who they now are, as his mature brothers and sisters under the present rule of God.

“He who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock.” Matthew 7:24

I want to be living there. I want to know the reality of that.

I want to be that kind of person.

Sanctification [16:14]

Sanctification - “A consciously chosen and sustained relationship with God in Christ in which one is able to do and routinely does what they know to be right before God.”

It's not a status, attainment, or outward form.

It is a track record, a habituation, a sustained relationship.

“To be conformed to the image of His Son...” Romans 8:29



The Sanctification Process
for
Christlike Character Formation of the Inner Self

How do you form the inward person?

We try new age thought of enlightenment to rid desire.

We try legalism to force people to do things.

We try church services, programs, rituals, spiritual gifts.

Or, we abide in Jesus and find the freedom from doing what we don't want or not doing what we want. (John 8:31-32)

Character can only be formed by action!



The Jesus Way

“Stretch forth *your* hand.” “Well, don't *you* see it's withered?”

“Take up *your* bed and walk.”

“Why do *you* think they carried me in here?”

Ten lepers. “Go to the priest and tell them that *you're* healed.”

“But we're not healed.”

It was as they went that they were healed.



Session 7

Spiritual Disciplines - 4B

IV - Spiritual Disciplines

A discipline is an activity that enables us to accomplish what we cannot do by direct effort — the Principle of Indirection.

We know how to trust Him and walk with Him and not just try to boil this down to a set of rules. And don't try, try again.

We discover the meaning and means of grace.

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 3:18

Δ3 Disciplines of Disengagement (Retreat)

solitude, silence, fasting, frugality,
chastity, secrecy, sacrifice, watching

Δ3 Disciplines of Engagement (Advance)

prayer, study, meditation, memorization, worship,
celebration, service, fellowship, confession, submission,
simplicity, obedience, generosity, giving, guidance, pilgrimage

[4B
Video 9]

The Discipline of Solitude to Cure Hurry

If you are in a hurry, you are going to find it very difficult to walk in the Kingdom with Christ. You will find it very difficult to be loving to people, to be kind. You will, pretty certainly, carry some degree of anger with you.

I have more to do than I can get done.

And God is holding me responsible for more than I can do.

Solitude breaks the grip of hurry.

“They that believe shall not make haste.” Isaiah 28:16 KJV

Solitude — *the fundamental spiritual discipline* — is where we choose to step out of the entanglements of ordinary life and come to the place to where we can be driven by what is between us and God and what is in our heart.

[“A Divine Seven” — Video 8 @ 5:45-12:45]

If you believe it is important for
you to be able to calmly and
strongly live in the Kingdom that
Jesus has opened to you...



...then you will believe you have
time to do what is necessary to
enable you to do that.

[12:09]

Spiritual Disciplines - Wisdom not Laws

When you are ready to follow Christ into these things, when you want it, and when you intend it, and you signed up as His apprentice, then your next step is to do whatever is necessary to bring it to pass. And I'm suggesting to you that the disciplines for the spiritual life are precisely the things that will do that.

There's no formula.

There's no mechanism.

This is a personal walk with the Lord.

But, never be a hero!

The Golden Triangle of Spiritual Growth

The Action of the Holy Spirit

John 3:5 • Rom. 8:10-13 • Gal. 5:22-26

**Centered in
the Mind of
Christ**

Phil 2:12-15
Rom. 13:14

**Ordinary Events of
Life: "Temptations"**

James 1:2-4
Rom. 5:1-5

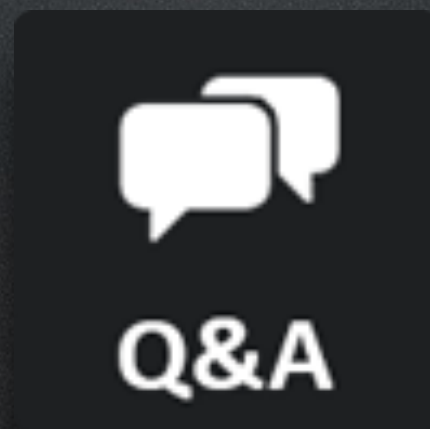
**Planned Discipline to
Put on a New Heart**

Col. 3:12-17
2: Pet. 1:5-10

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



80:00 + 10K

Meditation: *“Clothe yourselves” Colossians 3:12-17*

Application

VISION - Am I making every effort to become like Jesus?

INTENTION - I wish...I want to...I intend to! Me with Jesus?

MEANS - What 2-3 disciplines are bringing me closer to Jesus right now?



† Cross Fit

Summary of Session 7

When I am ready to follow Jesus Christ into His way of life, not just wishing it, or even wanting it, but really intending to live as his apprentice, my next step is to change and arrange anything and everything necessary by engaging spiritual disciplines.



More Dallas teaching to complement Session 7

† *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, "Main Spiritual Life Disciplines", chapter 9

† Videos

1.) The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #8 - [The Process of Transformation - Grace](#) - "Spiritual Disciplines"

[26:00 - 35:38]

2.) The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #11 [Kingdom Living](#) - "Spiritual Disciplines and Change" [1:00:50 - 1:07:50]

"The Divine Conspiracy Lectures" [transcript](#) (271 pages)

3.) ["Spiritual Disciplines"](#) at Gordon Conwell, #3 of 3
(Video link + 8 pages of transcript)

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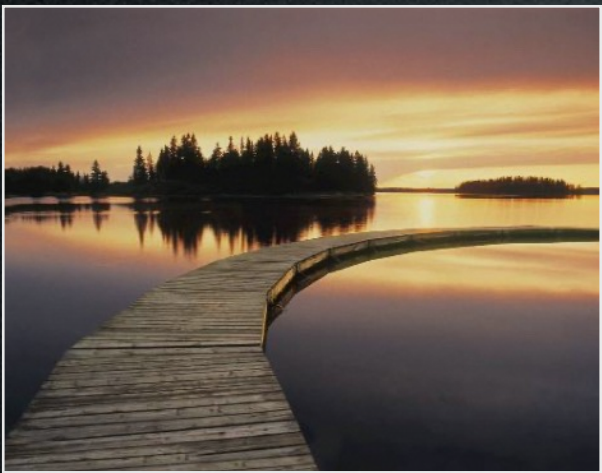


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See the 2nd to
last page
of the
study guide



Our 2nd to last session!

Next Week — Session 8

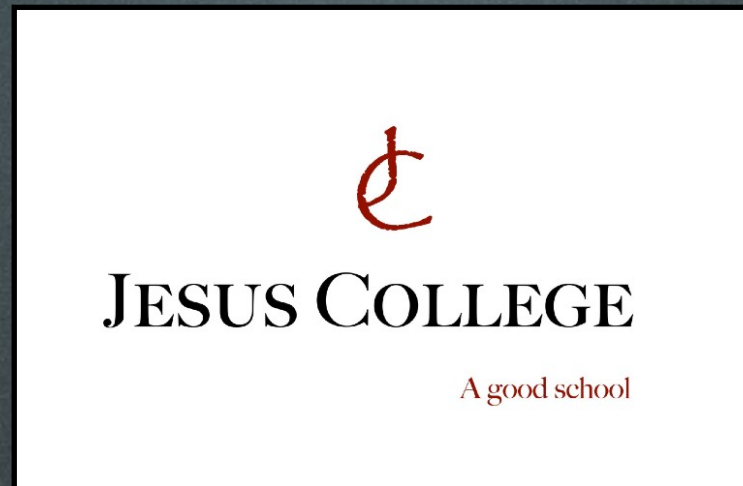
Spending One Day with Jesus

Video 10 [25:44]

May your wish and
want become your way
as you arrange the
next 10,000 minutes of
your life around the
way Jesus and His
closest followers
practiced daily life.

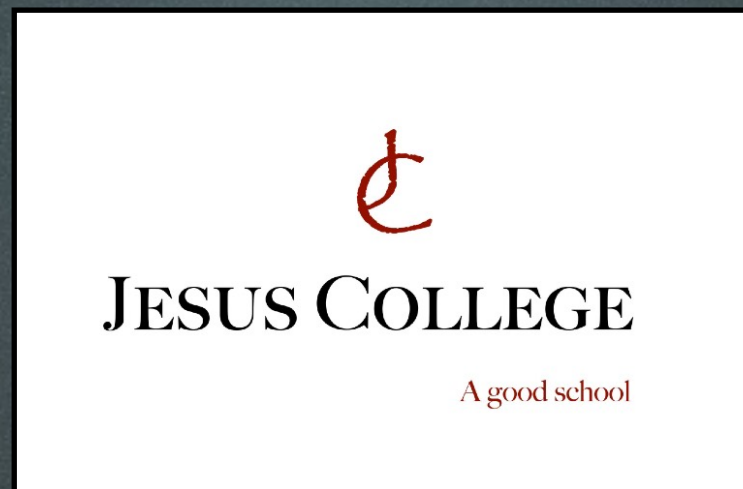
Doug





Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

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



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