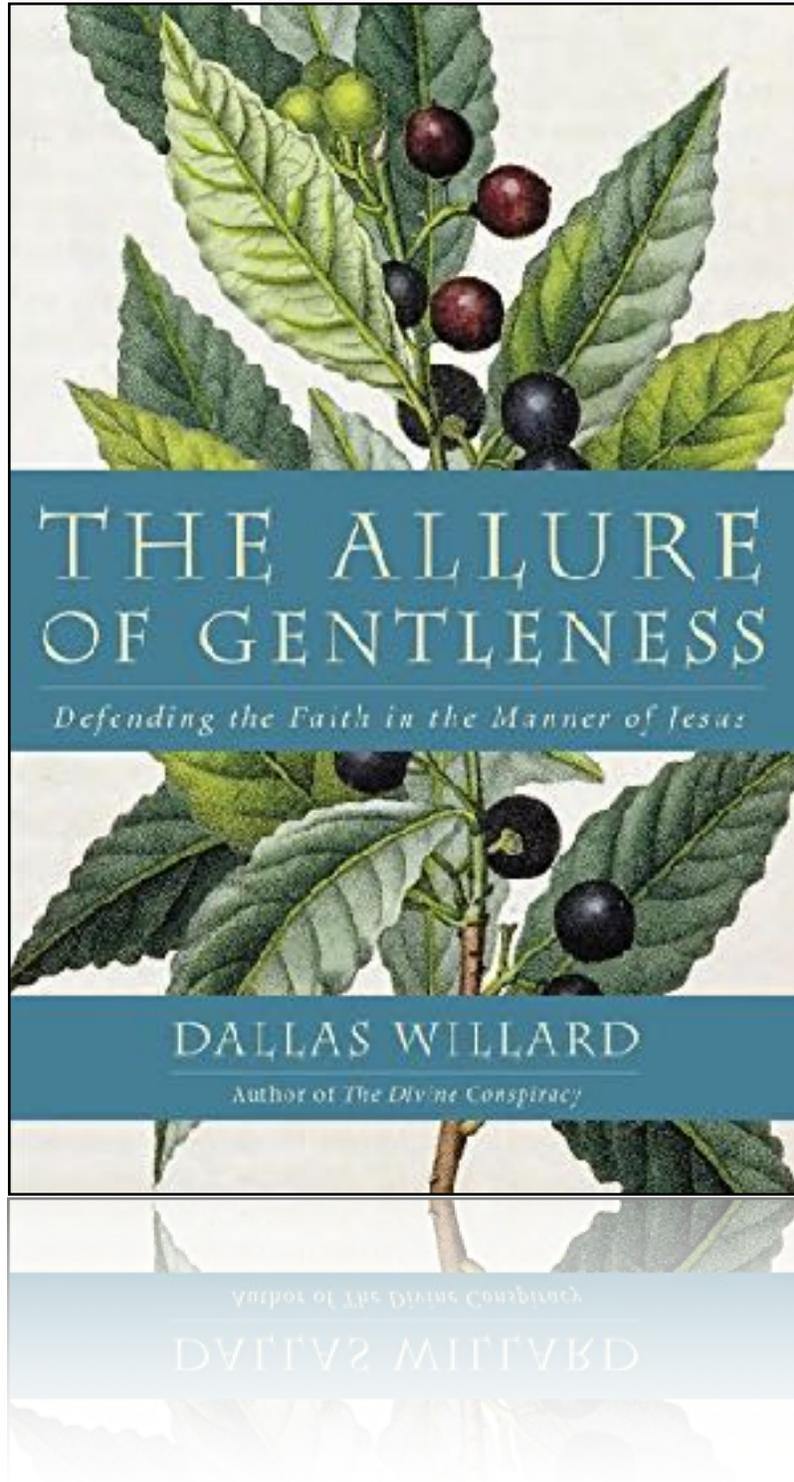


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Study Guide



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**Course Overview**

*Are you prepared to give a reason for the hope you have in Jesus Christ?*

*Can you do so with gentleness and respect?*

Becky Willard Heatley, daughter of Dallas Willard, and compiler of this book writes in the preface,

“Today apologetics has become something of a cage match revolving around proofs of God’s existence and involvement in the world. What’s lost in today’s “apologetics” is to gently and lovingly address—even welcome—the honest doubts and questions that burden believers’ faith. This book began as a four-part series of talks given by my father in 1990 at Grace Church in Los Alamitos, California. As I listened to the cassette tapes, I was impressed with the uniqueness of this teaching—particularly regarding the manner with which we should approach apologetics.”

The book was published after Dallas passed as a priceless gift to Jesus followers. Becky offers, “May this book help us do as he prayed: ‘To be simple, humble, and thoughtful as we listen to others and help them come to faith in the One who has given us life.’”

The 7-session course offers wise application, winsome affirmation and weekly accountability to envision and experience intentional, Christlike thought and action naturally developing from a biblical, accurate and true understanding of life that is really life in Jesus Christ.

Each session is based on one chapter from “The Allure of Gentleness” highlighting key themes through interactive teaching, open Q&A, and practical application engaging a community of friends of Jesus and Dallas from around the world. A study guide and additional resources are provided for further personal transformation and group study.

This 2022 webinar, the 14th offered by Jesus College (JesusCollege.com) and Dallas Willard Ministries (dwillard.org), is a free gift thanks to our generous supporters who make these two ministries possible.

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**Your "V-I-M" \*\* Participation**

Make your experience more than just a free webinar added to your routine. Place it as an intentional discipline for spiritual growth. Ideally, invite a group or a partner, a spiritual growth "spotter", to journey with you to better learn, apply, and grow in Christlikeness as a launch pad from the sessions. Here are a few suggestions on how to make the most of this course.

- 1) READ the recommended chapters 1-7 corresponding with sessions 1-7.
- 2) LISTEN to the original teaching by Dallas from which the book was formed as a primary source, plus an additional teaching by Dallas on apologetics.  
    ["Apologetics", Grace Church, 1990](#) (The Allure of Gentleness primary source)  
    ["Jesus as Logician & Apologist"](#)  
    ["Spiritual Formation: Knowledge & Apologetics"](#)
- 3) REVIEW the handout notes and scriptures adding your own notes to bring to each session.
- 4) SHARE - Offer questions and comments to each session that stood out in your preparation. Enter them in the Q&A tool on the bottom of the Zoom screen during the session. Linger longer for the post "Q&C" time.
- 5) PRACTICE - Answer the questions and put into action the spiritual application questions in each week's guide.
- 6) RETREAT - As part of your practice, invest one hour solo time weekly with Jesus discussing your key discovery from the week.
- 7) REFLECT - At the end of the course, type or write a 300 word summary or journal entry recognizing the impact of the study and the vision of how it can, by God's grace, form your spiritual growth in Christlikeness.

\*\* V-I-M = *Vision-Intention-Means* — Dallas calls this the reliable pattern for spiritual change, really any change. As you envision a life of hearing God and truly intend to want to hear God, you will seek and find the means to practice a life of hearing God. For more on V-I-M, see *Renovation of the Heart*, chapter 5 ([Webinar on the book](#).) Another rich resource on V-I-M is in the [Life With God Bible](#) Introduction, xxv-xxxvi

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You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

Isaiah 40:9

~ ~ ~

How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
“Your God reigns!”

Isaiah 52:7

~ ~ ~

And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written:  
“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Romans 10:15

~ ~ ~

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

I Peter 3:15-16

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**PREFACE** by Rebecca Willard Heatley

He [Dallas] wanted this book to help people wrestle with common doubts and answer some of the hard questions, allowing more room for the Spirit to advance their faith. (XI)



*Gentle* was a word frequently used to describe my father, he had a gentleness that seemed to come from his many years in the light and easy yoke of Christ. Is gentleness an absence of power or a power born through the Spirit and found in wisdom? Matthew 12:20 says Jesus would not even break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick, and yet his gentleness launched a worldwide revolution. (XI)

Today's apologetics have become somewhat of a cage match revolving around proofs of God's existence and involvement in the world. (XII)



“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.”  
James 3:17

May this book help us do as he prayed:

*“To be simple, humble, and thoughtful as we listen to others and help them come to faith in the One who has given us life.”*  
(XIII)

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**INTRODUCTION** by Dallas Willard

pages 1-5

When most people who are familiar with it hear the word apologetics, they likely associate it with words like argument, evidence, reason, or defense. But few would think to add gentle or gentleness to the list.

Apologetics has become increasingly preoccupied with intellectual debates and arguments.

Now, in principle, there is nothing wrong with this. (1)

The best way to make the intellectual aspects of apologetics more effective is to combine them with a gentle spirit and kind presentation.

When we do the work of apologetics, we do it as disciples of Jesus — and therefore we are to do it in the manner in which He would do it. This means, above all, we do it to help people, and especially those who want to be helped. That is how all of Jesus' work is characterized in scripture.

Apologetics is a helping ministry. (2)

**READ** I Peter 3:15-16

Jesus, "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

(Matthew 5:12)



Be Shrewd as Serpents & Innocent as Doves



**Question #1** — What is "characterized by gentleness"?

**"Humbleness of mind"** Colossians 3:12, Acts 20:19, I Peter 5:5

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**Question #2** — What does “give an account” mean? (I Peter 3:15)

**1. Servants of Those in Need**

Not to beat unwilling people into intellectual submission

**2. Servants of Truth**

Jesus came to testify to the truth (John 18:37)

A faithful & true witness (Revelation 3:14)

Truth in Reverence & Love

Truth reveals “reality” - what humans run into when we are wrong

We speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)

Counting on the Spirit of truth (John 16:13)

~ *Finding Truth* — “Finding real truth is the point of reference we share with all human beings. No one can live without truth. ‘Allegiance to Truth’ permits us to stand alongside every person as honest fellow inquirers.” (4)

“Our attitude is not of ‘Us and Them’.”

“Generous in Love — Not overbearing, contemptuous, hostile, defensive”

~ *Finding Truth in Love* — “Like Jesus, we reach out in love in a humble spirit with no coercion. The only way to accomplish this is to present our defense gently, as help offered in love in the manner of Jesus.

That means our communication needs to be gentle, because our gentleness also characterizes the subject of our communication. What we are seeking to defend or explain is Jesus Himself, who is a gentle loving Shepherd.” (4)

**3. Embody Gentleness & Reverence**

“Embody the message and person we want to communicate. Only with ‘gentleness and reverence’ will people be able to see, verify, and be persuaded to respond to what we have to say.”

“In the rest of the book I will convey many important topics...but all will be wasted unless the allure of gentleness pervades all that we do.” (5)

~ ~ ~



**For Further Study** — Dallas Willard, [“Jesus as Logician & Apologist”](#)

(For a free [13 page transcript of this teaching, go to Jesus College](#))

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**CHAPTER 1 - BEGINNING TO THINK FOR CHRIST** pages 7-22

[This chapter title was the working book title. Ref: "Apologetics" Intro, Grace Church, 1990]

**Apologetics** (def.) "A New Testament ministry that uses thinking and reasoning, in reliance on the Holy Spirit, to assist earnest inquirers in relinquishing disbelief and mistrust in God and God's good purposes for humankind." (9)

**"Hide n Seek" with God** (11-12)

By Reason & Idea Systems - Separating Faith from Knowledge

**What is Knowledge?** (13-15)

["Spiritual Formation: Knowledge & Apologetics"](#)

[02:22 - 25:00]



KNOWLEDGE (def.) — "*Being able to deal with things as they are on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.*" (13)

KNOWLEDGE grants authority to do 4 things: (15)  
To Act, Supervise Action, Formulate & Supervise Policy & Teach

**Reason is a Gift from God** (16)

Reason, like seeing or walking,...is not opposed to faith. (16)

**The Spirit of Apologetics** (16-17)

Loving service in the spirit of Christ. (17)

**At the Mercy of Our Ideas** (17-18)



[Willard Teaching — "Apologetics"](#)

Grace, 1990 [#1 at 7:45 - 13:00]



**What is Truth?** (18-19)

Chapter 4 - FAITH AND REASON (continued)  
"Truth allows us to come to terms with reality." (19)

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**Chapter 1 - BEGINNING TO THINK FOR CHRIST** (continued)

**A Disciples Ideas** (20)

"Discipleship is how we get our ideas corrected." (20)

**The Meaning & Method of Life in the Spirit** (21)

"The highest aim of a student of Jesus Christ is to learn to live like Him in His Kingdom. This involves planning to be like Jesus...to do what Jesus did in his overall style of life. Follow him." (21)

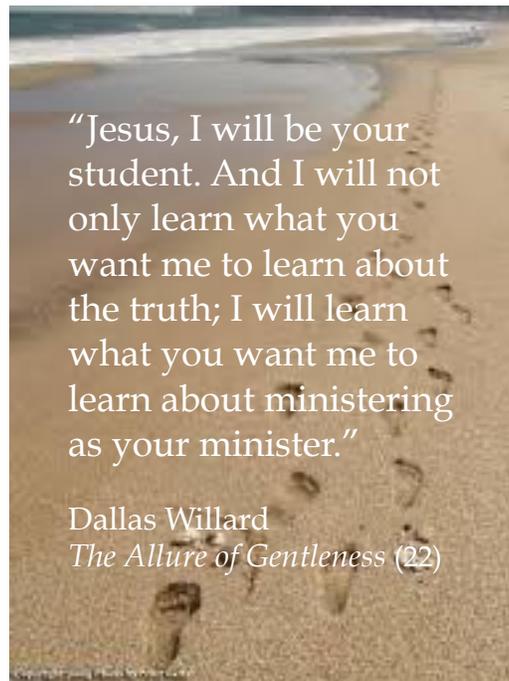
MEDITATION — Matthew 28:16-17 *"...but they doubted."*

APPLICATION — V-I-M: *Vision - Intention - Means* for spiritual growth

V — How and where do I see I have answered the call to "think for God?" (21)

I — Am I interested in a "specific plan for growth in Christlikeness"? (22)

M — When will I have this prayer conversation with Jesus?



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## Chapter 2 - THE NEW TESTAMENT CHARTER ON APOLOGETICS

pages 23-35

Apologetics Set-Up — I Peter 3:8-15 - "The Charter of Apologetics"  
["Jesus as Logician & Apologist"](#) [00:43-07:00]



CONTEXT & SCOPE of DOUBT & FAITH

"The great problem facing the gospel of Jesus Christ is not the doubt that is outside the church; it is the doubt that is inside the church." (25 & 29)

The Nature of Knowledge & Faith (28)

["Spiritual Formation: Knowledge & Apologetics"](#) [34:20 - 45:25]



\* Doubting Thomas & Teaching Jesus — John 20:24-29

A Model of Parenting & Youth Ministry

Problem #1 - Not dealing with doubt honestly.

Problem #2 - We are afraid there isn't an answer. (29)

The New Testament Charter - I Peter 3:15-16

["Apologetics as a Fundamental New Testament Ministry"](#)

[Session #1 13:00-30:30] [Ch. 2 of *The Allure...*]



THE CONTEXT of APOLOGETICS — Psalm 34:12-16 inside I Peter 3:8-16

*"Oh, why is this happening to me?"* VERSUS *"Why are you hopeful?"*

*What's going on in you? Because something is obviously different!"*

LOVE GOD WITH YOUR MIND (33)

- 1.) Focus your mind on Him.
- 2.) Submit all of your powers of mind to Him so that He might use them.
- 3.) Think seriously about His message in scripture and creation.
- 4.) Teach others to do the same.

*What have you done? What have you got? What makes you different? (32)*

*You really seem to be happy. Why? (34)*

MEDITATION — I Peter 3:8-16

APPLICATION — V-I-M: *Vision - Intention - Means* for spiritual growth

V — How well do I believe my beliefs and doubt my doubts, as well as doubt my beliefs and believe my doubts? (28)

I — How am I loving God with my mind? (33)

M — Am I happy? If so, why? How can I practice the Discipline of Celebration? (35)

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**Chapter 3 - BIBLICAL APOLOGETICS**

pages 37-52

"A biblical apologetic is the best use of our natural faculties of thought in submission to the Holy Spirit to remove doubts and problems that hinder a trustful, energetic participation in a life of personal relationship with God." (39)

Philosophy in the Manner of Jesus — Asking us to think Matthew 6:25-34

"Apologetics", Grace, 1990 [#1 at 30:30 - 37:00]  
[Source for *The Allure of Gentleness*, Chapter 3 (39-43)]



THE ROLE of REASON

"Reason is the human ability to see a relationship between real or possible facts and other real or possible facts, such that if you have the one, you have the other, or you don't have the other. (44) The human activity of reasoning is an indispensable part of the foundation of our faith. Reason then is key to our part in the ministry of the gospel." (46)

"Apologetics", Grace, 1990 [#1 at 43:40-46:40] See for *The Allure...* Ch. 3 44-46



APOLOGETICS IS NOT...

- ...An attempt to prove I am right (46)
- ...Intellectual bullying (50)
  - Doubt is a terrible thing.
- ...Christian evidences (51)
  - Doubting Prayer (52) [see Chapter 7]



"Apologetics", Grace, 1990 [#1 at 46:40-57:40]  
[Source for *The Allure of Gentleness*, Chapter 3 (46- 52)]



THE CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE in APOLOGETIC WORK

*II Timothy 2:24-26*

- Confident, Humble, Generous, Open Servants
  - We're not nervous and God's not nervous either. (52)
  - We are here to learn and for that we need humility. (53)
  - We all want to serve. Christianity...the only religion based on love. (53)

MEDITATION — Matthew 6:25-34

APPLICATION — V-I-M: *Vision - Intention - Means* for spiritual growth

V — How much do reason and facts play in my view of the Kingdom of God?

I — How important is it for me to be right?

M — What discipline will I practice to foster humility, generosity or service?

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**Chapter 4 - FAITH AND REASON**

pages 55-82

\* Falling Dominoes — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo6x4eulY9g>

INTRODUCTION — Jesus used perception & reason in His teaching (57)

Seeing the unseen Kingdom of the Heavens through the Eyes of Truth

\* Nicodemus-ites in Today's Church - "Guilty if I think too much" (59)

HUMAN REASON UNDER GRACE

"Many believe the only game in town is physical reality." (61)

Believe: Jesus? YES God? NO

"If you want to know whether you truly believe in God, you have to ask yourself what you really trust." (62)

2nd Commandment = No Idols = No coveting (greed) of gods



WHY GOD IS NOT MORE OBVIOUS OMNISCIENCE & HELL

"If you're going to do apologetics in a way that is helpful for yourself and others, you're going to have to explain why God is not more obvious than He is."

"He is not obvious to those who do not want to see Him."

\* Parenting & Children - "Children must choose." (65)

OMNI's Integrated — "God's omniscience does not overwhelm His omnipotence."

In simple terms - "God gives us space to seek Him and find Him." (67)

Why the Hell is it here? "God permits people to be away from Him." (69)

"Hell is the best God can do for some people." (70)



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**Chapter 4 - FAITH AND REASON** (continued)

THE PHYSICAL WORLD                      Romans 1:19-20 "*They are without excuse.*"

Is what you see all that you get?      "God gives us space so we can hide." (70)

A Cause = 1st domino pushed by a self-subsistent force.      Exodus 3:14

The Myth of a Big Bang - Can't explain something out of nothing. (75-76)

The Myth of Cosmic Evolution

Order never comes from disorder without a "Mind".

"Apologetics", Grace, 1990 [Session #2 at 40:00 - 45:00]

[[Source for \*The Allure of Gentleness\*, Chapter 4 \(75-76\)](#)]



US - Turning stuff into energy

GOD = Infinite energy creating stuff (77-79)



God is Google

"I praise God for science." (80)

"*God has shown it to them.*"

FAITH TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON

Hebrews 11:3

"Real faith is based on knowledge and a commitment to God & His Kingdom."  
(81)

MEDITATION — Romans 1:18-32, "He gave them over.."

APPLICATION — V-I-M: *Vision - Intention - Means* for spiritual growth

V — Where do I place my trust especially in times of pandemics, civil unrest, loss?

I — How much brain energy do I spend in "knowing" God?

M — Who is living "Hell on Earth" that I am compelled to allure gently to Jesus?

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## Chapter 5 - COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOD AND HUMANITY

pages 85-109

Apologetic word beyond the issue of God's existence...

Less a matter of "proof" and more "making sense" (85)

"Confidence in the God of the Bible with faith in the reality of the Kingdom." (86)

### THE COVENANT PEOPLE OF GOD (88-104)

Relationship between Creator & Created

A self-subsistent, personal Creator creating human history for good and guarding against evil. (91)

The Crown Jewel of Creation - People Choosing & Seeking Him (96)



### THE FRIEND OF GOD - ABRAHAM

Luke 24:27, 47; Isaiah 42:5-7; Acts 17:24-28

The Jewish People: Friend - Family - People - Culture — Psalm 23

\* Aching Achan - Joshua 7 - God working within culture

"God is working through the whole of human history to develop a people who freely choose Him, live for what is good, and trust in Him alone." (104)

### THE BIBLE (104-109)

Scripture — originally perfect and authenticated by history

"Everyone who approaches the Bible for the purpose of finding God will indeed find Him and will be spoken to by God through the scriptures." (109)



MEDITATION — Isaiah 42:5-7, Acts 17:24-28

APPLICATION — V-I-M: *Vision - Intention - Means* for spiritual growth

V — How much more do I now see and value in history from studying this book?

I — Why is "friendship" so important to God and how much will I cultivate my quietly transforming conversational friendship with Jesus this week?

M — How can I study the Covenant of Abraham to better understand God's purposes?

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**Chapter 6 - THE PROBLEM OF PAIN & EVIL** pages 111-139

THE ARGUMENT of PAIN and a GOOD GOD (111-124)

*"A deadly blow to the Christian faith?"*

PREMISE #1 — If Christianity is true, then God is both benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful.

Part A - God's benevolence is not sentimental. Love is...

- 1) Devoted to the good of others.
- 2) Not to be confused with desire.

Part B - God can take care of His own business including caring for human beings.

PREMISE #2 — If God is benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful, then He will see to it that we do not suffer.

Q - Why would God not allow humans to suffer?

A - Pain is the worst possible thing!

A friend would stop the pain if possible.



PAIN Separated from EVIL — The Important Distinction

(116-119)

—> The Heart of the Argument — The Value of Pain

Pain is the ultimate of evils!

We just don't like it, which doesn't make it bad.

Pain is never preferable!

Unless dying, betraying conviction, losing a friend.

Pain serves no good end!

Pain and pleasure make human life and character possible.

PREMISE #3 — God does not see to it that we do not suffer.

CONCLUSION — Christianity is false, since God is either not benevolent or not powerful, to which the presence of suffering testifies.

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**Chapter 6 - THE PROBLEM OF PAIN AND EVIL** (continued)

REJECTION of the ARGUMENT (120-121)

People suffer because God is Benevolent. It is for our best.

"Paradise Found" — I want what I want and I'm insulted if I don't get it.

EVIL - Is God responsible for all evil?

"The single most practical urgent problem for Christians."

God made us capable of doing wrong knowing we would,  
therefore it's His fault. (120)

\* Mom & Dad, it's your fault!

Classical Argument — If God could and is good, He would! (121-122)

Humans act too! Freedom and Natural Law

God's purpose in human history - "Crown Jewels in a free, loving community."  
A world that contains the greatest possibility of evil is the one that also contains  
greatest possibility of good.



IN A PERFECT WORLD

"Why didn't God make us wholly good in a wholly good world?" (123)

...Create my perfect world with my needs in mind?! (124)

- 1.) "My good world" is not necessarily a better world - "Grass is greener"?
- 2.) Why do objectors get their way not the the many who find it good?
- 3.) God is obligated to suit personal taste: What I want or He's a bad boy.

CONCLUSION = There is no Good without Evil. (125)

REVIEW of the ARGUMENT OF PAIN and a GOOD GOD

God is Benevolent & Powerful...PAIN is Separate from EVIL.

PAIN & Pleasure make Human Life & Character possible. We suffer because God  
*IS* benevolent. A world with EVIL possible can be a world with the greatest  
possibility of GOOD.

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**Chapter 6 - THE PROBLEM OF PAIN AND EVIL** (continued pages 125-139)

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT (125-127)

Parenting: "Make good choices!" (Habits)

where doing EVIL is a readily available option

Set EVIL in the good that God achieves by Permitting not Producing EVIL (128)

"Parenting is pain management" Doug Webster



THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE to PAIN & EVIL (129-133)

1st — Accept the full reality of suffering knowing God is there  
and good will triumph.

2nd — God does not do evil. He knows better. Job 13:15 "*Though...yet!*"

3rd — A World with Pain & Evil develop creatures of the highest value.

4th — God is going to win. Joel 2:25-27; Psalm 23:1; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Everything is Redeemable = Permissible in a "God-Bathed World"

HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY & THE OTHER PROBLEM of EVIL (134-136)

[Evil — Problem #1 - Why is it here? Problem #2 - How to get rid of it?]

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."



ENROLL in THE SCHOOL OF JESUS Jesus as Our Model (136-137)

The best way to stand against evil — Simply rely on Jesus Christ to guide and help me. Jesus IS what I OUGHT to be!

MEDITATION — Ephesians 1:7, 18; 2:7, 3:8; 4:7

APPLICATION — V-I-M: *Vision - Intention - Means* for spiritual growth

V — What "incomparable riches of glorious grace" do I see in Jesus?

I — How much of my world do I expect, request, demand or complain about?

M — Which "Five Actions against Evil" will Jesus & I work on this week?

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**Chapter 7 - LIVING AND ACTING WITH GOD** pages 141-170



**THE BIG IDEA — “Kingdom Living”**

“The ultimate apologetic is the life of the individual who is living out of the resources of the kingdom of God.” (143)

**THREE PARTS of a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with GOD**

1.) A Personal Reality

“God is a person and approaches people redemptively as a person.” (144)

2.) “Why are you hopeful? What’s going on in your life?”

Living Proof = Less proof...more sense (145 & 85)

3.) A Personal Walk with God

I will show you how it works...in the daily moments of my existence.

**GOD SPEAKING to US** (147-155)

The “still small voice” causing thoughts in our mind.  
The spirit, tone & content of God’s voice.



**OBJECTIONS to HEARING from GOD**

Is it Biblical?

Is God making our decisions?

“He needs to say a lot of things to you that aren't in scripture.” (152)

Testing “God told me”.....“What did he tell you?”

**THE THREE LIGHTS — Circumstances, Impressions of the Spirit, Bible + Counsel**



“W.A.T.C.H.” - Word, Ask, Think Biblically, Counsel, Happenings  
(Doug Webster)

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**Chapter 7 - THE ULTIMATE APOLOGETIC** (continued pages 143-170)

THE REALITY of a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with GOD — John 17:3

Review: "Personal...Living Proof...Speaking with God" (143-146)  
Apologetics — From "Argument" to "Real Life Experience"



INTERACTION with GOD

1 > God speaking to us      2 < Us to God      3 > < Us speaking with God  
"Conversations of prayerful love" [*The Divine Conspiracy*, Ch. 7 on Matthew 7]  
= Interacting with God to redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16) as Salt & Light

LIVING in the 23rd PSALM — "Casual Confidence" (158-161)

God's presence is the whole story!  
The Resurrection — Jesus is now living with us.



PRAYING & SAYING      "The Kingdom of God works with words." (160)

—> The Centurion (Mathew 8:5-13)      —> A Fig Tree (Mark 11:12-14, 20-24)

"We are willing God's will on Earth and we are speaking to God about it." (165)  
"In Jesus Name!" Behaving within the structure of the Kingdom (166)  
—> Peter & John (Acts 3:1-10)

THE ULTIMATE APOLOGETIC      (168-170)

Interacting in faith with God and leading Others to be "Inspired to Experiment"  
An act of entry is necessary.  
A deep humbling is a prerequisite.  
To enter life - to be loved and filled with love.



MEDITATION — Psalm 23

APPLICATION — V-I-M: *Vision - Intention - Means* for spiritual growth

V — What is the tone, spirit and/or content of God's voice in my head?

I — How much and with whom do I desire to experiment living a Psalm 23 life?

M — What is the ultimate apologetic to me? Where will my "act of entry" be next?

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The Centurion - Mt. 8:5-13

Woman at the Well - Jn 4:1-42

What did Jesus exhibit  
in these four areas  
interacting with these  
two individuals?

**Reason**



**Truth**



**Knowledge**



**A Spirit of Gentleness**





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***The Allure of Gentleness – General Outline*** (by Chapter)

**Apologetics is...** (9, 39, 51, 143, 146, 168)

...a helping ministry to serve those in need and be servants of truth. (2)

...living in the Kingdom of the Heavens with Jesus Christ

“The life of the apologete.” (22, 143, 168)

**I.) Think for Christ** - Knowledge & Reason, Ideas & Truth (18)

**II.) Apologetics is...**Dealing with Doubt (28, 146, 155)

“From doubt to knowledge” (27) Doubt in the church (25, 29)

“Why are you hopeful, happy?” (29, 35, 144) “Puts us on the line” (155)

A reality that gives peace & strength (32, 99, 132) - “a life”

Submitting our faculties (mind) to God (33, 39)

**III.) Biblical Apologetics** (9, 39, 51)

Remove doubts that hinder life (39) - Matt. 6:25-34 (43, 32, 99, 132)

“Role of reason” (44)

Apologetics is NOT...

1) Proving we're right 2) Intellectual bullying

3) Christian evidences

“Questions & Quandaries” (56) [Q & Q] like

Why pray? (52, 157) Why Pain & Evil?

Apologetics IS... Confident, humble, generous, open, serving

**IV.) Faith & Reason**

Lost in America - “You take reason, I'll just believe” (59)

Enter the kingdom of the heavens by feelings

Trust in God or just profess belief in God? “No idols”

No belief in God? Left with only option to dominate humanity

Why isn't God more obvious (65)

Omniscience & Hell (66-70)

Not just physical world - “self-subsistent being” (72-74)

Big Bang & Cosmic Evolution vs. God transforming energy

God, Science & Tech - Faith & Knowledge & Commitment (81)

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**V.) Communication between God & Humanity** - God in History & Bible

Proof in people in history - Creation & Culture

Why Evil & Suffering in history? (91)

God's Purpose in History - "Crown Jewels" (92, 96, 122, 127)

God uses culture (103)

Scripture as Truth

**VI.) Pain & Evil** - "Deadly blow to the Christian faith" (113)

Q - If God is good, He would do this for my personal paradise.

Q - Why not make just good people?

A - No good without evil. Choice builds Character.

A - Jesus (136, 26, 166)

Christian response: (129, 134-135)

**VII.) Living & Acting with God**

Communication between God & humanity ["Hand of God to Man"]

1) Is reality personal?

2) Why are you hopeful? — "Living proof" (144, 29, 35)

3) Is God still speaking? "A reality that is continuing" (145)  
"tremendously important" (146-147)

How is God still speaking?

Still, small voice as thoughts in the mind (147-148)

Reality? Personal relationship with God (155)

"Conversations of prayerful love" (156) "With God"

"Living in the 23rd Psalm: Casual Confidence" (158-161, 99, 132)

The Model in Jesus

Behaving within the Kingdom's structure (166, 136, 26)

In the name of Jesus

The ultimate apologetic - "People living in daily interaction (143)

with Jesus in the Kingdom of the Heavens (168)

"Inspired to experiment" (168) to "enter a life of love" (169)

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***The Allure of Gentleness – “Kingdom” Quotes***

What we're really talking about is aiding others and removing doubts that hinder their enthusiastic and full participation in the KINGDOM of the heavens and their discipleship to Christ. 9

So we'll use our natural reason, under the guidance and power of the holy spirit, in the work of apologetics to bring information and logic to bear on doubts that prevent a steady, clear perception of the realities of God's KINGDOM. 10

The Beatitudes said you are really fortunate when you get to suffer for righteousness sake. Why do you suppose that is? It is because in suffering for righteousness sake, you know the reality of the KINGDOM of the heavens in your life. That reality comes into you, and you find that you are leading a supernatural, deathless life. 30

When we read scripture, we have to think about whether the people who wrote it might actually have meant something by it. They did! They're talking about the reality of the KINGDOM of the heavens - the stone that was cut out without hands and is going to wipe out all the nations of the earth (Daniel 2:45) is already here! It is the stone that is the rock of offense and stumbling. It's Jesus Christ himself, the Chief Cornerstone, and He is here. 32

We are using our reason to help people come to a clear place of faith, where their confidence in the God of the Bible will be just as real as the floor on which they stand. That's Faith. That's the kind of faith that results in peace, hope, and obedience, because it is a faith that puts us in touch with the reality of the KINGDOM of God. 86

The ultimate apologetic is the life of the individual who is living out of the resources of the KINGDOM of God. To have a nice set of abstract ideas and arguments can be very important for us, but we need to be people who are actually accomplishing things in the KINGDOM of the Heavens through our prayers and our words. 143

You really can know what it is like to deal with God and for God to deal with you in the daily moments of your existence. God creates and sustains personal relationships with individuals by his individual word to them, within the confines of biblical teachings. His KINGDOM works by words! 146

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You are given a new life when you are born into the KINGDOM of the heavens. That life is an interactive life with God. You turn your mind and your feelings toward God. 157

Learning to live in the KINGDOM of the heavens is something that is often tense and embarrassing. One of the things you will notice in the passages is that the disciples were often embarrassed because they tried to do things and couldn't. Or they were shocked by what Jesus did in such a casual manner. Faith is often expressed by the Casual manner in which people act. The expression of their faith has an everyday feel about it.

Casualness shows the confidence of our interaction with the rule of God from the heavens here and now. 158-159

God's presence is the whole story. This interaction between us and the God who is present with us always is what the resurrection is really about. The meaning of the resurrection isn't just Jesus won; it's that he is now living with us. So how does that work? It works with words. The KINGDOM of God works with words. 160

There's nothing magic in words, but there is power in them when they fit into the KINGDOM. Watch what Jesus says... 162

*"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."* (John 15:7)

Jesus was introducing a way of behaving within the structure of the KINGDOM. 166

Abraham, the man of Faith, went out not knowing where he was going. That was not a blind leap of faith, because Abraham knew God. He didn't know where he was going, But he knew he was going with God. That is what our knowledge of the KINGDOM does. When we share these thoughts with other believers, it may open their minds into a new dimension of Faith and Hope, vision and work, as they read now with new eyes such words as these from the above scriptures and see the manner of life in the KINGDOM of God. It enables us to step out in faith and then to invite others to join us. 169



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**More Courses & Resources from Jesus College**

Jesus College has offered 16 courses engaging 1700 participants from 47 countries! You can find these courses in the expanding [Jesus College Library](#) with over 350 free resources to enhance your Christlikeness including (14) Dallas Willard courses in 5 pages in the [Jesus College website!](#)

[Courses on Dallas' Books](#) - (5) courses

*The Spirit of the Disciplines* - Understanding How God Changes Lives (11 sessions)

*Hearing God* - Developing a Conversational Relationship with God (10 sessions)

*The Allure of Gentleness* - Apologetics in the Manner of Jesus (7 sessions)

*Life Without Lack* - Living the 23rd Psalm (9 sessions)

*Becoming Dallas Willard* - biography (9 sessions)

[Courses on Dallas Speaking](#) - (6) courses

"For Such a Time as This" - 3 teachings on Ministry Leadership (6 sessions)

"The Genius of Jesus" - 2 teachings at Ohio State University (4 sessions)

"The Problem of Evil" - 3 sessions focused on 3 chapters from Dallas' books

"Spiritual Formation & Salvation" - 1 teaching at Wheaton College (3 sessions)

"Jesus, Dallas & NT - The Gospel" - 3 sessions including NT Wright teachings

"Jesus, Dallas & NT - The Book of Acts" - 4 sessions including NT Wright teachings

[Renovation of the Heart](#) - (1) course on the book (13 sessions)

*Renovation of the Heart* - Whole Life Spiritual Transformation

[The Divine Conspiracy](#) - (2) courses

*The Divine Conspiracy* - In-depth 31 session course on the book

"The Divine Conspiracy - An Overview" - 6 session highlighting key principles

[Speaking Sessions](#) - 48 Dallas Willard resources featuring 81 teaching sessions with 760+ pages of notes. (General Dallas speaking *not* Jesus College courses)

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**“Master’s in the Master” Spiritual Training**

The Jesus College "Master's in the Master" is a clear, realistic, practical method to foster "Christlikeness" in ordinary people who take transformation seriously. *This is not an accredited degree.* The Master's offers you a Jesus centered, wisdom guided, community\* engaged, mentor\*\* supported, daily life integrated, spiritual growth plan.

**CURRICULUM** — The Master's is built around (15) webinars varying in length from 3 to 31 sessions per course based on the books and teachings of Dallas Willard. (13) courses (listed on the previous page) are completed and available in the [JesusCollege.com](http://JesusCollege.com) library to start today. Courses will be offered again "live" throughout the year.

**CALENDAR & TIME** - The Master's is an individually paced time frame based on when you start and how often you participate in "live" courses or watch recordings of the sessions. We use the word "cohort" but there is not a set group - "no freshman class" - nor pre-set time to commence or complete your Master's. This is an independent study and growth training effort. We estimate for serious participation 3+ hours per week over a timespan equal to the 3+ years Jesus walked with His disciples. *3+ hours weekly for 3+ years.* Again, this is your preferred pace NOT according to a Jesus College calendar or semester syllabus.

**COMMUNITY\*** — We are seeking the platforms to facilitate connection with other students to engage and enjoy rich diversity of Jesus' friends from 44 countries involved in Jesus College.

**COST** — The "Master's" training is offered for FREE by Jesus College. Additional personal coaching, church consulting and training, teaching or preaching at your location or virtual are available from Jesus College at pre-determined costs between the two parties. Financial donations are also welcomed for those who want to help further the impact of Jesus College.

**COMMENTS** from Jesus College Students:

- Cath from Australia, "I had another look at the website link - WOW! Amazing syllabus and I'm excited about the 3 years walk with Jesus."
- Tony from England, "In brief, these courses have changed my view on discipleship. I feel myself a new creation."
- Pastor Oladipo from Lagos, Nigeria, "I've participated in all the courses except one. It has impacted my ministry strongly because we are fine tuning our church to become a church who really does what Jesus said. The whole experience has been personally transforming for me personally and in my ministry. In time we can become the example of the kind of church Dallas has said he has never seen."
- Judy from Virginia, "I'm definitely interested and I've loved everything you have offered. Everything! The idea of experiencing this with other people face-to-face is very appealing to me."
- Don from Canada, "This Jesus College vision is on the leading edge for the future of the Christ community."

For information on the courses, a plan worksheet for  
your custom Master's V-I-M, or a personal consult\*\* with Doug Webster to discuss your  
desired spiritual training and growth, email us — [info@JesusCollege.com](mailto:info@JesusCollege.com).

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**Jesus College Postscript**

Thank you and God bless you for venturing into a life that is really life with Jesus as your Master and Maestro. We trust you have had a fresh hearing of Jesus through the minds and soul of two humble followers of Jesus in Dallas alongside a cadre of the crucifixion of friends from around the world. May your quietly transforming, conversational friendship with Jesus immersed in the Trinitarian community be pervaded with joy and relaxed with shalom, as you willfully seek the good of God, others & yourself.

For more resources to enhance your apprenticeship with Jesus...

[Dallas Willard Ministries](#)

[Jesus College](#)

[Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube channel](#)

*The Study Guide was prepared with love, diligence and enthusiasm by Doug Webster of Jesus College. We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas on how we might better help you actually do the things Jesus commanded in your pursuit of Christlikeness.*

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