

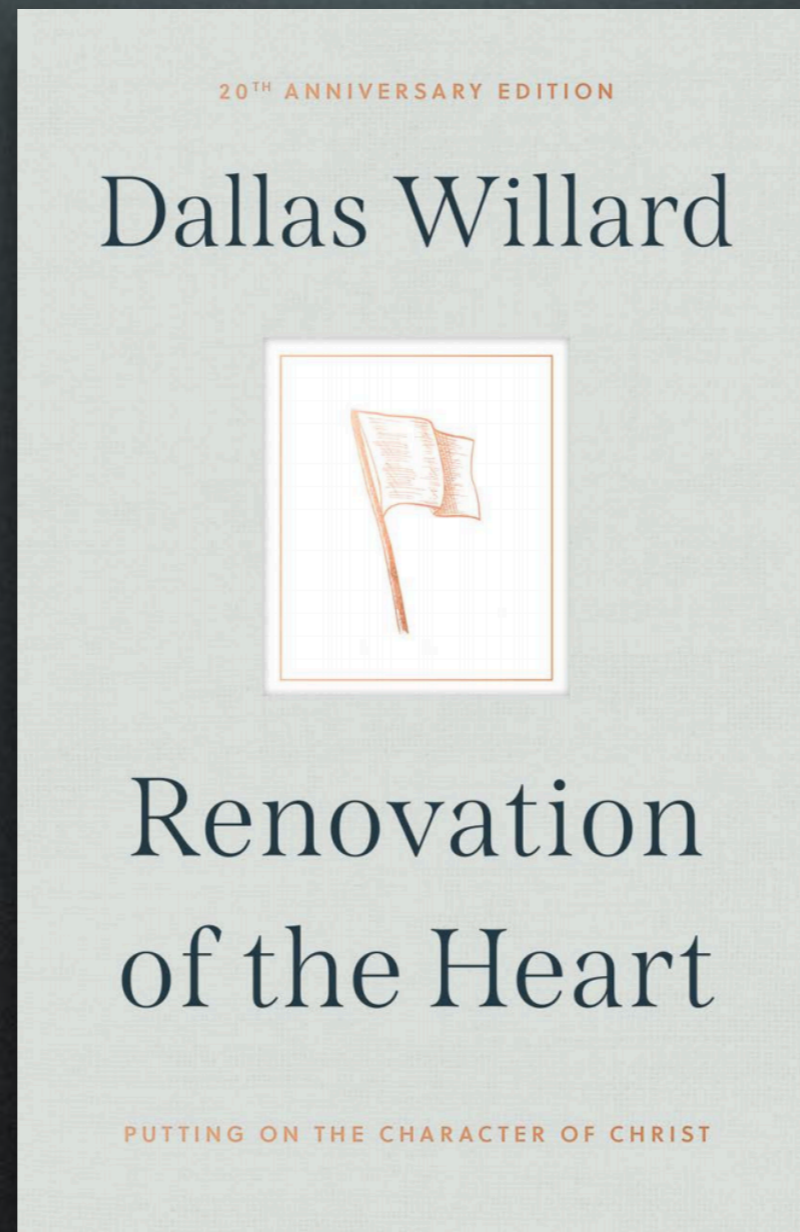
WELCOME to a thirteen week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 13 - Spiritual Formation in
the Local Congregation- Chapter 13

Our Final Session

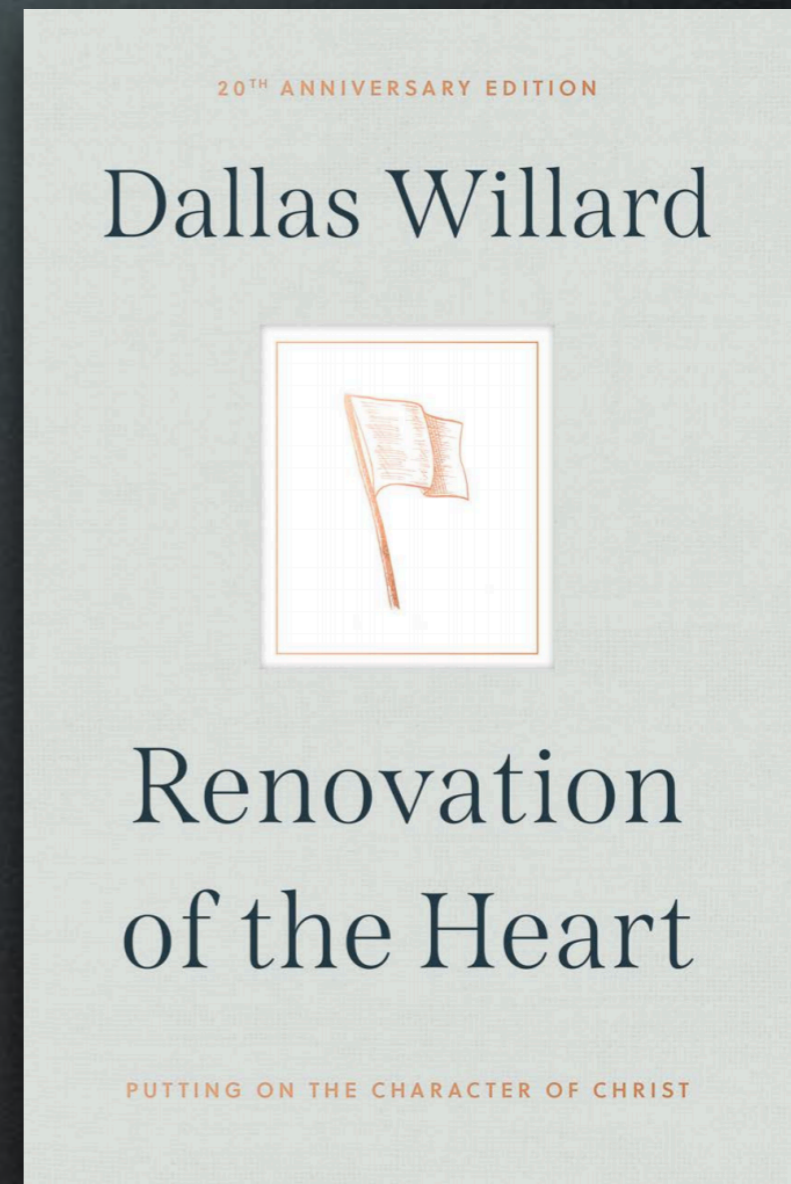


Session 12 Summary

The call of Christ today as “Children of the Light” is to be His apprentices, to live in the power of God, learning to do all He said to do, leading others into apprenticeship to Him, and teaching them how to do everything He said.

2021 Edition p. 243

2002 Edition p. 231



RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 13 - Spiritual Formation in
the Local Congregation- Chapter 13

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:8-10

Local congregations are made
up of the children of light to
light up their world.

“The Radiant Church”

Ephesians 5:27

2021 Edition::246

2002 Edition::234

Our Current Situation - *The Distracted Church*

Q – Why does the New Testament say nothing about all those matters to which the usual congregation today devotes almost all of its thought and effort?

A – Those matters are not primary and we'll take care of themselves with little attention whenever what is primary is appropriately cared for. Pay attention to the principles and absolutes of the New Testament church and, everything else will fall into place – in large part because everything else really doesn't matter much one way or the other.



"SQUIRREL!"

2021::248

2002::236

Vessels vs. Treasures

Vessels: Human, historical contingencies we mistake for the real presence of Christ in our midst.

- 1) They are not the starting points.
- 2) If treated as essential, the church will make little or no spiritual formation progress.

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this TREASURE in earthen VESSELS, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” II Corinthians 4:6-7

2021::248-249

2002::236-237

The Cost of Non-Discipleship = *Mean Christians*

Christians are routinely taught by example and word that it is more important to be *right* than Christlike...to be hard on people who were wrong, and especially Christian leadership. The practice of “*condemnation engineering*”.*

A fundamental mistake of the conservative church today, and much of the Western church, its basic goal is to get as many people as possible ready to die and go to heaven. It aims to get people into heaven rather than to get heaven into people. This of course requires that these people, who are going to be “in”, must be *right* on what is basic.

People who may be ready to die, but clearly are not ready to live...to be Christian without being Christlike.

(251//238-239)

* *The Divine Conspiracy*, 230



Avoiding the Vessel Trap = “Full Throttle Discipleship”

Applying V-I-M to New Testament Principles & Absolutes

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to
Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and
the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all
that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

2021::252

2002::240

The exclusive, primary goal of the Church:
Christlike Spiritual Formation (/235)

Matthew 28:18-20 — The Great Commission

Stage One — *Making Apprentices*

Stage Two — *Immersing Apprentices*

Stage Three — *Transforming Apprentices*

2021::253

2002::240

Stage One — *Apprentice Makers*

“I am an Apprentice of Jesus”

Trust Jesus with my whole life, wanting to be with Him, learning to be like Him and everything He has to teach me about life in the Kingdom of God now and forever.

I give up my life, understand clearly what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and be solidly committed to discipleship in my whole life.

1st - To understand and do Jesus' commands.

2nd - How Jesus would lead my life if He were me.

2021::253-254

2002::241



Stage One in Action — *Surrender*

The Problem - Spiritual Transformation is unnatural to non-Apprentices - Christians who are not Disciples. They have rejected God to live life on their own...not what God says, but what they think - *rebels & outlaws* - who just need a little help. (255/243)

Discipleship is Non-Negotiable! “To know Christ crucified”*

Giving up your life as you have understood it. Our idea of a successful life is precisely our problem. (256/243)

Leaders' Goal: Help all *in attendance* understand clearly what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to be solidly committed to discipleship in their whole life. (257/244)

* 1 Corinthians 2:2



Stage Two * — *Immersing Apprentices*

The single major component: Teaching God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — in the midst. (259/245)

A place where divine life and power is manifestly present to glorify God and meet the needs of repentant human beings.

- Honesty • Openness
- Indiscriminate acceptance • Supernatural caring
- Utter admiration for a confidence in Jesus.

* *Stages Two & Three = the “Means” of V-I-M*

(259-260/246)

Stage Two in Action - *Eliminating Performance*

The sufficiency of Christ to all is the basis of our efforts in gathering and service. Our only hope:

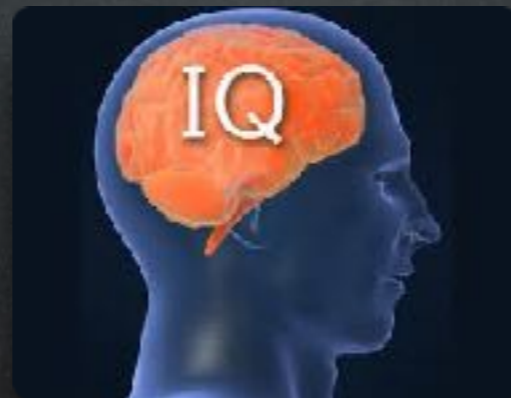
“I have been given authority over all things”, and
“Look, I'm with you every moment”

MINISTERS — with time and experience, expect to receive from the *Christ-with-them* profundity of insight, sweetness and strength of character, and abundance of power to carry out the role... not tricks, techniques, only to speak Christ's words from Christ's character in the manifest presence of God. (260/247)



Stage Three * — *Transforming Apprentices*

Once the spirit or will has been quickened with new life from above, then the priority of the mind – thought and feeling – in inner transformation must be respected.



* *Stages Two & Three = the “Means” of V-I-M*

(261/248)

Stage Three in Action — *Changing Beliefs*

What Does NOT Change Beliefs

Our beliefs and feelings cannot be changed by choice. We can choose to take in the word of God, and when we do that, beliefs and feelings will be steadily pulled in a godly direction.

One of the worst ministry mistakes - To think that people can choose to believe and feel differently. We will mistakenly try to generate faith by going through the will – possibly playing on emotion.



2021::261-262
2002::248

Stage Three in Action — *Changing Beliefs*

What Does Change Beliefs

The “will” must be moved by insight into truth and reality.

Respecting the priority of the mind in spiritual formation means that we seek to understand these things and to help others understand them...to work in depth...to choose to turn our minds toward these truths. Belief will come as God’s gift within the hidden depths of our life and will grow under the nurturing of the Word and the Spirit.

That is God’s plan for Church spiritual formation.



2021::262-263

2002::248-249

Two Steps of Confidence

1.) **EXPECT** the apprentices to learn to do the various things that Jesus taught us to do.

2.) **ANNOUNCE** we teach people to do the things that Jesus said to do. (264/250)

Apprentices of Jesus — Ordinary people gathered in the name of Jesus and immersed in His presence, taking steps of inward transformation as they put on the character of Christ. (265/251)



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



Jesus is the one who disciples people.

Discipleship is about relationship,
so the process will be different for everyone.

(168)



80:00 + 10K



Today's Experiment

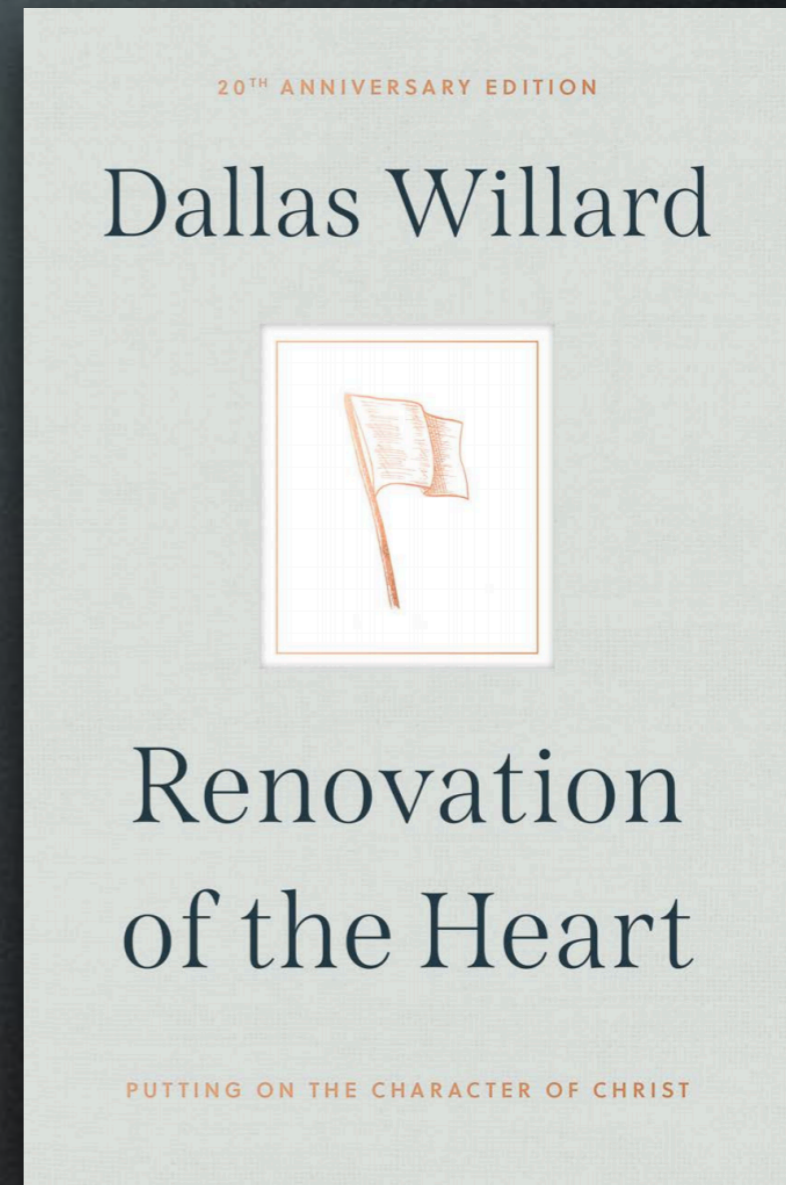
What is my next step in understanding and doing the things Jesus gave us specific commandments and teachings about?

Jesus, how would you lead my life if you were me?

Session 13 Summary

Renovation of the Heart — putting on the character of Christ — is the unfailing key to provide all the blessings this world cannot begin to supply, and it will strongly anticipate, within this present life, a glorious entry in the full presence of God.

2021:://2002::251



A CELEBRATION of COMPLETION

Yahwehallelujah!

From Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College
to the Apprentices who completed the Course:

“Renovation of the Heart”



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This Certifies that

Terry Norris

Has diligently and devotedly completed in November, 2023, the Course

“RENOVATION OF THE HEART”

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



JESUS COLLEGE

A good school

Rebecca Willard Heatley

REBECCA WILLARD HEATLEY



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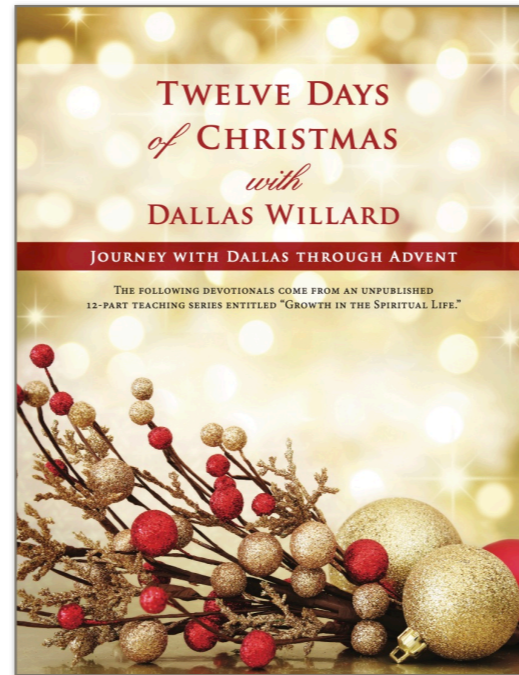
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A good school

As a surrendered apprentice of Jesus, may your next 10,000 years be ravished with the Kingdom of God, further up, further in, as you immerse every dimension of your life into the Trinitarian family to reign with Jesus over a new Heaven and Earth for all eternity.

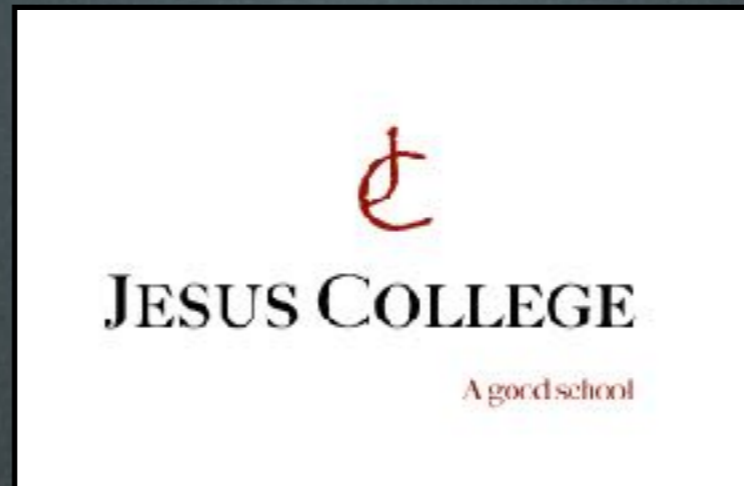
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“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

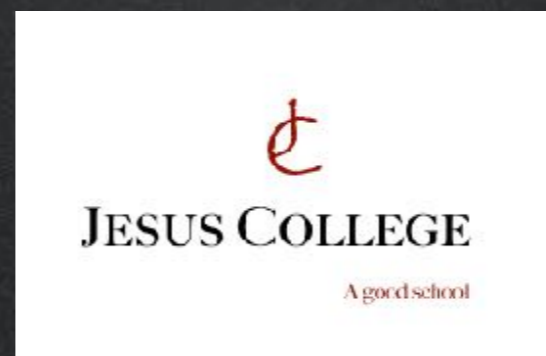
Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

The Mission of Jesus College - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

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