

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

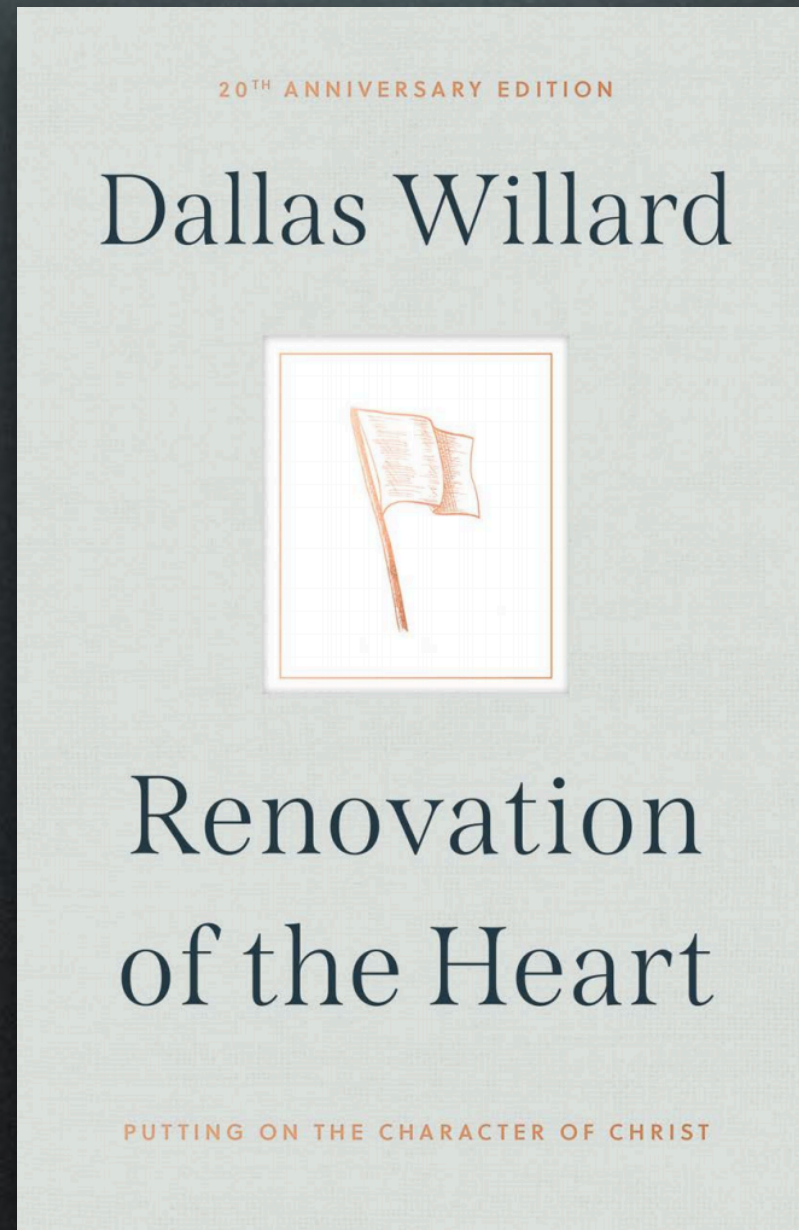




# RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 7 - Transforming the Mind, 2 - Chapter 7

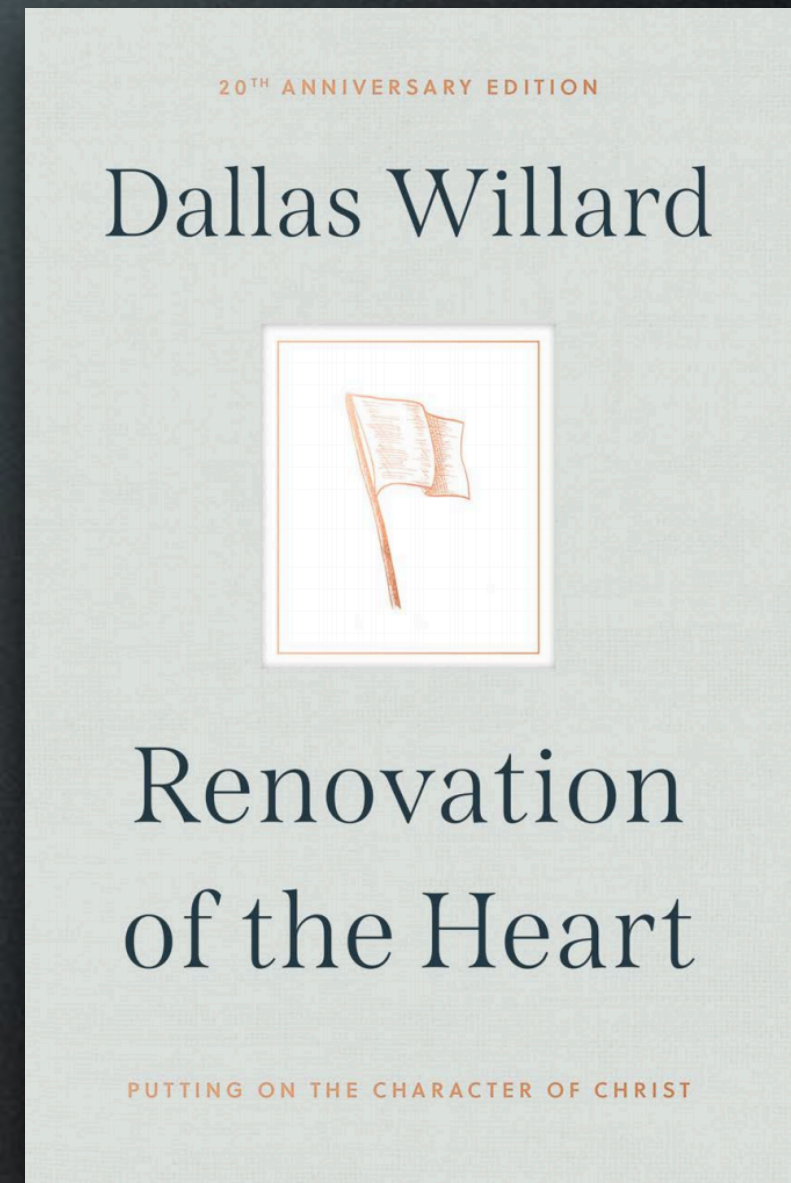
*“Spiritual Formation and Our Feelings”*





## Session 6 Review

Ideas, images & information shape our spiritual transformation by engaging our ultimate freedom - what we think about - in light of the ideas & images that filled the mind of Jesus.

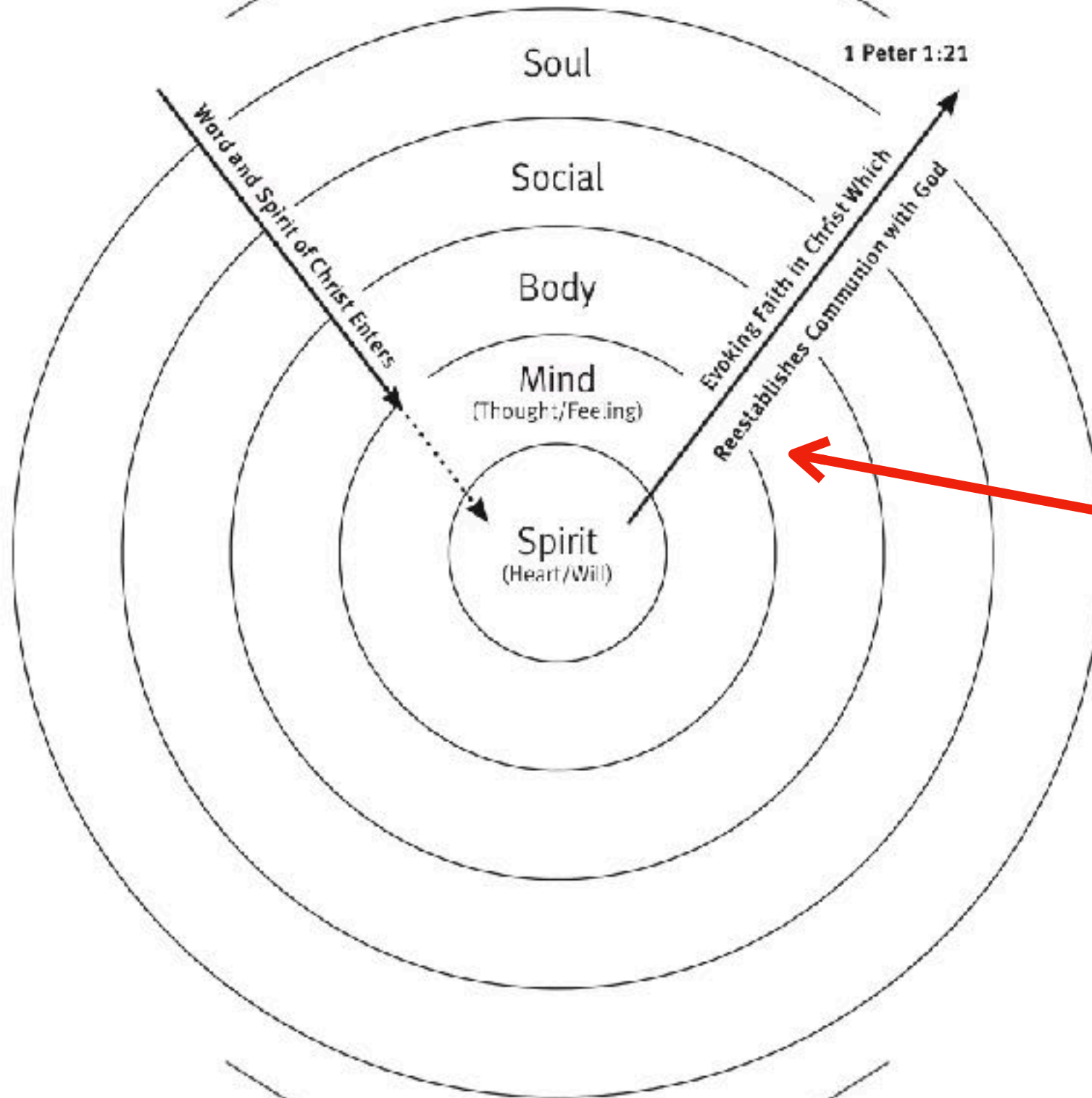


“We have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:16



Infinite Environment



1 Peter 1:21

Word and Spirit of Christ Enters

Evoking Faith in Christ Which Reestablishes Communion with God



“Feeling” Dimension of the Mind

Infinite Environment

2021::33  
2002::38

Six Dimensions of Human Nature



# RENOVATION OF THE HEART

## *“Spiritual Formation and Our Feelings”*



*Feelings...*

*unruly children clamoring for attention.*

We fight emotions head on by willpower but we lose the battle and give in = *“a slave of sin”*. (John 8:34)

By contrast, the person who happily lets God be God does have a place to stand in dealing with feelings — even in extreme cases. That have the resources to do what they don't want to do and not do what they want. They plan their path accordingly.

*“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

*(John 8:36)*

2021 Edition::120-121

2002 Edition::118-119





## My Identity Beyond My Feelings

It is a major step forward just to sincerely desire, not to *not* sin, but to have different feelings — feelings that lead away from sin.

*One has to strongly want to not want what one now wants, and to want to want what one does not now want.*

This proves to be absolutely necessary in order to “put off the old person” and “put on the new person”...to take steps to avoid those feelings.





## **The Vision in Christ**

“Apprentice of Jesus” is the starting point from which the new identity will emerge.

## **The Power of Feeling**

Feelings — sensations, desires, emotions — move us,  
and we enjoy being moved.

† If we are to be formed in Christlikeness, we must take good care of our feelings and not just let them happen.

*Feelings are, with a few exceptions, good servants.*

*But they are disastrous masters.*

2021::122-125

2002::120-122



## **The Proper Course for the “Condition”**

Replace destructive feelings, not deny or repress them, with others that are good. We must walk away from destructive feelings. (125-126/123-124)

Feelings can enslave and blind us - take over our ability to think and perceive. (127/124)

Feelings can be successfully “reasoned with”, corrected by reality, only in those who have the habit and are given the grace of listening to reason even when they are expressing violent feelings or are in the grip of them.

Those who are wise will...never willingly choose to allow feeling to govern them. (127/125)

*Keep the pathway open to the House of Reason.*



## Feeling Today

ADDICTION – a feeling phenomenon, a giving in to feeling. (128/125)

DECIDING by HOW we FEEL – Overwhelmed with decisions only made on the basis of feelings. (129/126)

Inability to distinguish between Feelings & Will.

*“Felt like doing”* (130/127)

IMAGES & MOODS – Images foster moods - feeling qualities that pervade our selves. (130/127)





## **On the Positive Side**

*“Accepted in the beloved” Ephesians 1:6*

...the humanly indispensable foundation for the reconstruction of feelings, moods & underlying conditions...transformed by discipleship to Christ.

(131/128)





THE MONGOOSE OF A DISCIPLINED WILL  
UNDER GOD AND GOOD  
IS THE ONLY MATCH  
FOR THE COBRA OF FEELING.



2021::130  
2002::127



## **Spiritually Transformed Feelings**

Love, Joy, Peace, Faith & Hope defined

LOVE — The will to good - “benevolence”  
...not the same thing as Desire. (133/130)

Desire is compatible when ruled by love. (134/131)

JOY — A pervasive state of ultimate well being. (136/132)

PEACE — Assurance that things will turn out well. (137/134)

FAITH — Confidence grounded in reality, a readiness to act.  
(133/129)

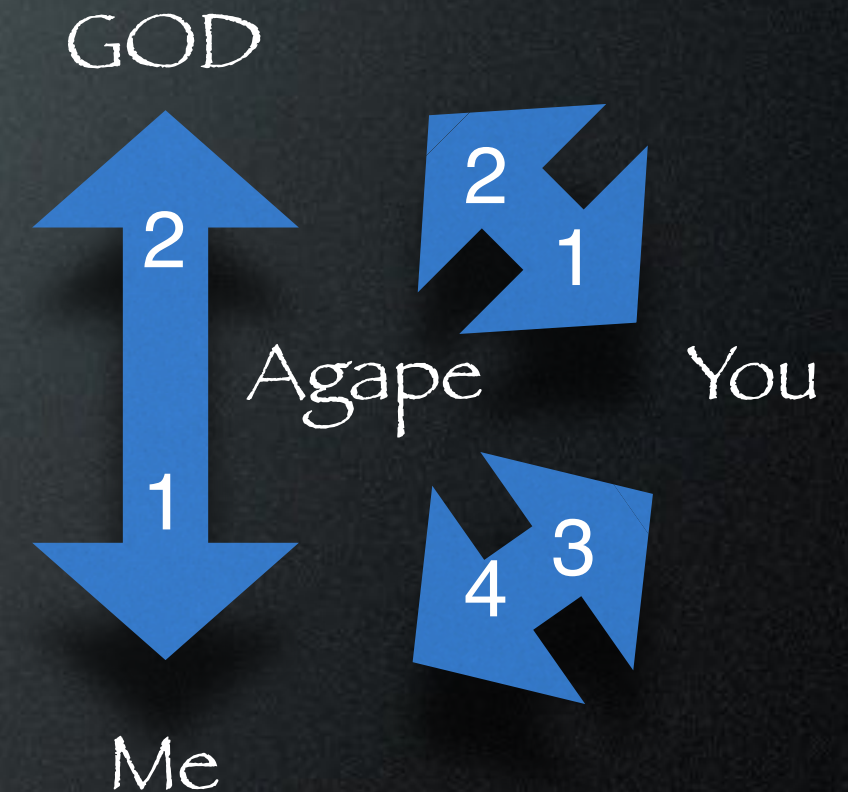
HOPE — Anticipation of good not here yet. (132-133/129-130)

Romans 5:1-5 - Character transformation with pervasive hope.



## Four Movements Toward Perfect Love

- 1 — We are loved by God.
- 2 — We love God.
- 3 — We love others through God.
- 4 — Others love us through God.



The opposite of love is pride. Love eliminates pride because its will for the good of the other nullifies our arrogant presumption that we should get our way.

(recall "Death to Self" Chapter 4)

2021::135

2002::132



*Willard's Notable Quotables...*



HOPE — One of the remarkable changes brought by Jesus and His people into the ancient world concerned the elevation of HOPE into a primary virtue. (132/129)

LOVE — It is not hard for God to LOVE, but it is impossible, given His nature, for Him not to LOVE. (134/131)

JOY — For JOY, all is well. Self-sacrificial love is always JOYOUS — no matter the pain and loss. For we are always looking at the larger scene in which love rules. JOY is a basic element of inner transformation into Christlikeness and of the outer life that flows from it. (136/133)

PEACE — To be at PEACE with God and others is a great attainment and depends on grace far beyond ourselves as well as our own efforts. PEACE with God only comes from acceptance of His gift of life in His Son. (137/134)

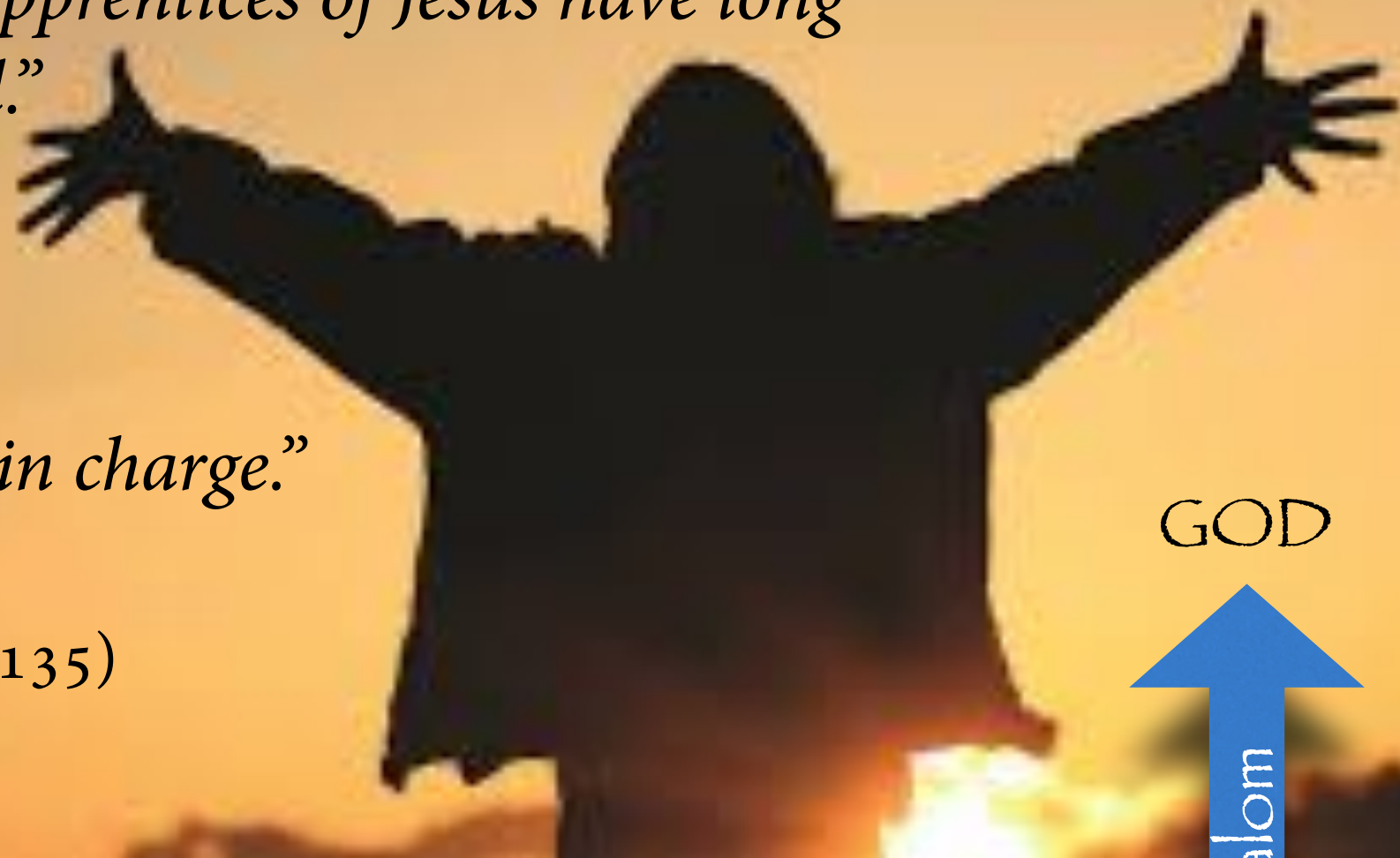


*“The secret to peace is, as great apprentices of Jesus have long known, being abandoned to God.”*

*“All shall be well because God is in charge.”*

Dallas Willard

*Renovation of the Heart* (138/135)



GOD



Me



“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7



## **Love, Joy, Peace, Faith & Hope...Inseparable**

The positive movement into love, joy, and peace, based on faith and hope in God, eliminates the destructive feelings or at least eliminates them as governing factors in our life.

Belonging to Christ does mean that the merely fleshly passions and desires are on the way to death and already have ceased leading a life of their own, much less, than, leading our whole life as they use to.

Put on Christ and take our place on the Cross.



2021::140

2002::136



## What We Can Do

Opening ourselves to and carefully cultivating love, joy and peace...

First — Receiving them from God and others

Then — Grow and extend them to others

...following our V-I-M pattern - intend and decide

Next — Come to honest terms with our feelings

And — Give our wounds to God and receive healing

Recognize the reality of our feelings and agree with the Lord to abandon those that are destructive.

• Journaling • Confer • Fellowship •

“Rooted and grounded in love” Ephesians 3:17-19

2021:140-142

2002::136-137



## What Satan Will Do

Satan uses feelings to captivate us today by making them more important to our life than they really are. At all stages of adult life, feelings are among Satan's primary instrument.

They are used to devastate the soul. This need not be the case.

*Appropriate spiritual formation in Christ will prevent it.*



2021:142-143

2002::138



# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



80:00 + 10K



## Today's Experiment

**Reflect** on what might be a common underlying condition for you.







Ask the Holy Spirit to...

...**REVEAL** the underlying settled conditions that keep these destructive feelings active.

...**REVEAL** ideas, images, bits of information that nurture these feelings that you keep in front of your mind.

...**REPLACE** destructive conditions and feelings with settled conditions of love, joy & peace that will dwell in you.

80:00 + 10K

p. 97-98

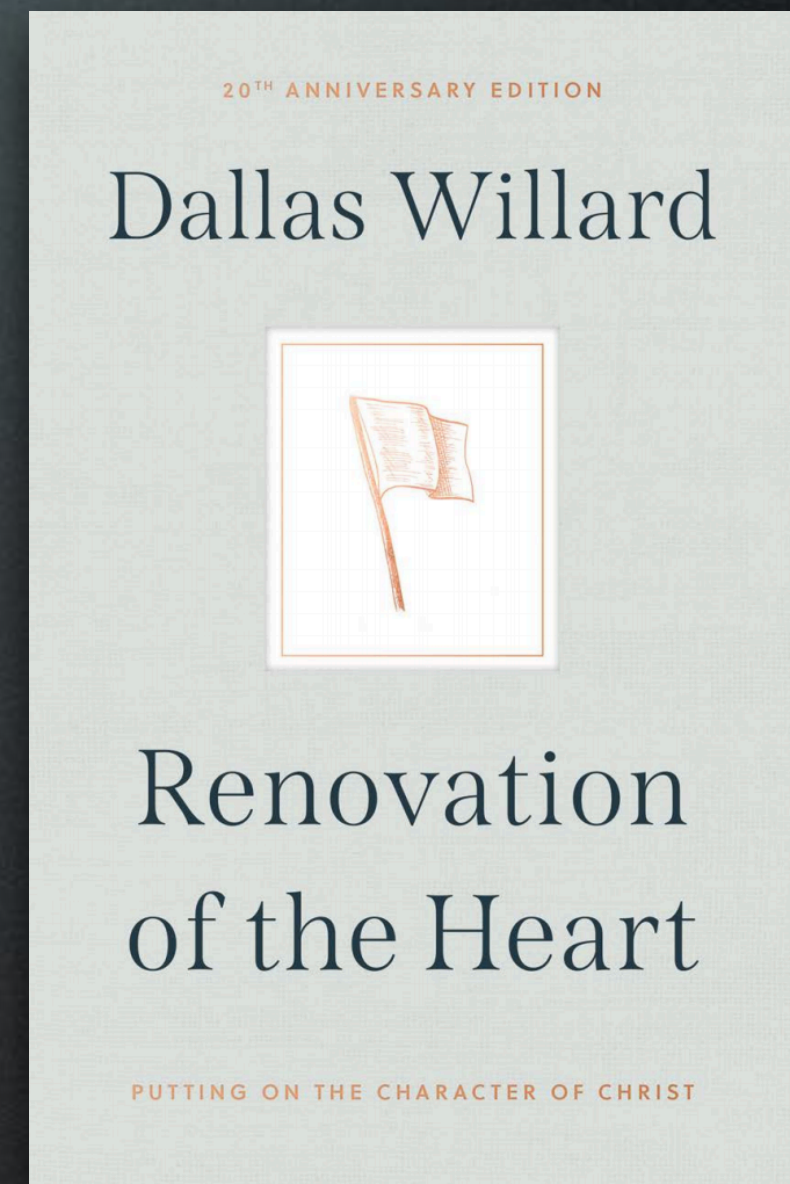




## Session 7 Summary

Feelings compel us but do not have to master us.

“Those who let God be God get off the conveyor belt of emotion and desire that lead to the buzz saw of sin.” (121/119)





## **Next — Session 8**

“Transforming the Will & Character”  
Chapter 8

*Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice*  
Chapters 33-36



In your next 10,000 minutes may you find inspired vision and grace filled intention through daily means to grow beyond being mastered by moods to becoming mastered by the Master's feelings.

*Doug*



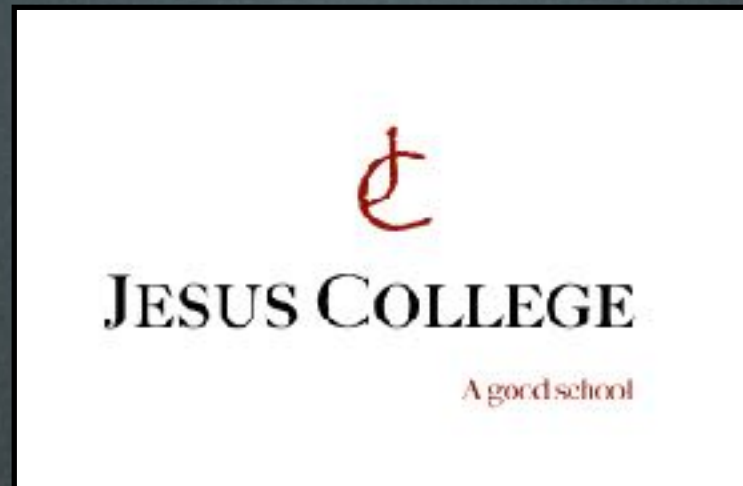


# THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



**Information...Registration** — [JohnC@dwillard.org](mailto:JohnC@dwillard.org)





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

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

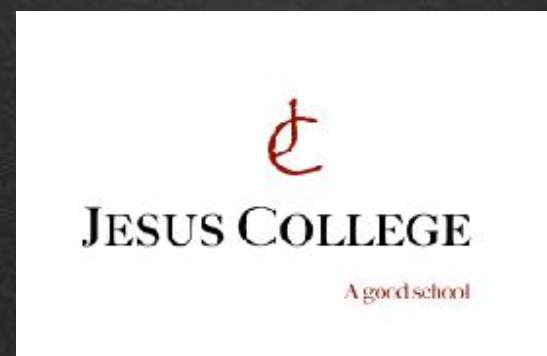


**The Mission of Jesus College** - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

**The Vision of Jesus College** - To equip trainers (parents, pastors, professors, professionals, politicians) to mentor leaders (senior apprentices) to disciple apprentices to Master love.

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