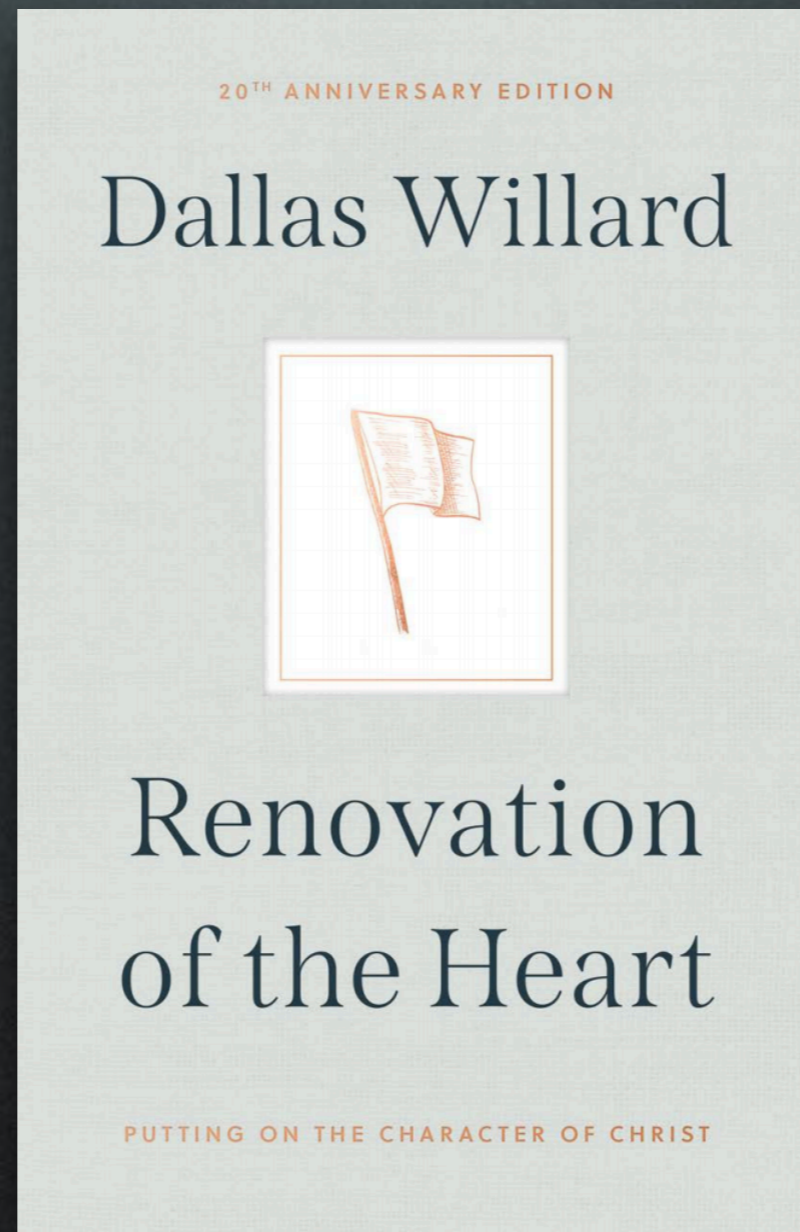


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# RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 6 - Chapter 6 - “Transforming the Mind, part 1”

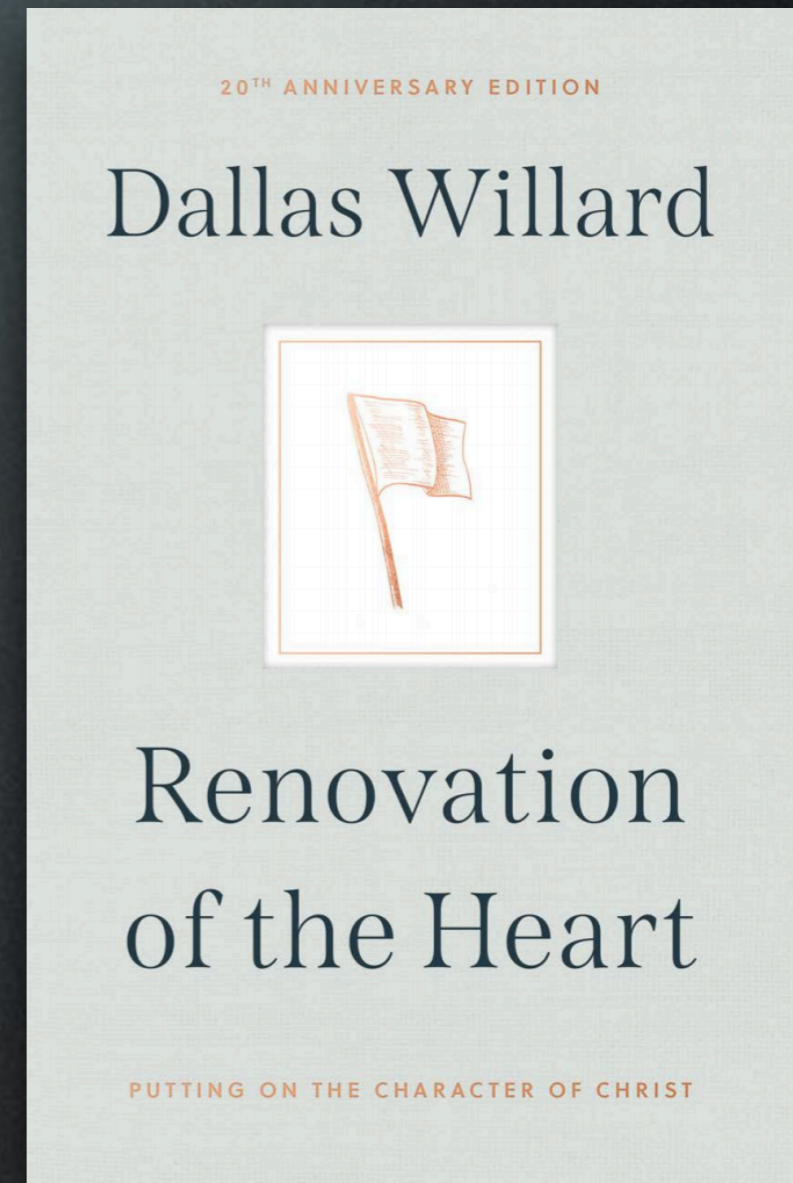


## Session 5 Review

Spiritual formation into  
Christlikeness occurs  
through the constant  
upholding of the grace of  
God on the path of V-I-M:  
Vision, Intention, Means

2021::84

2002::85



# RENOVATION OF THE HEART

## *The Interlude*

It is very important we do not lose sight of the simplicity of spiritual formation in Christ.

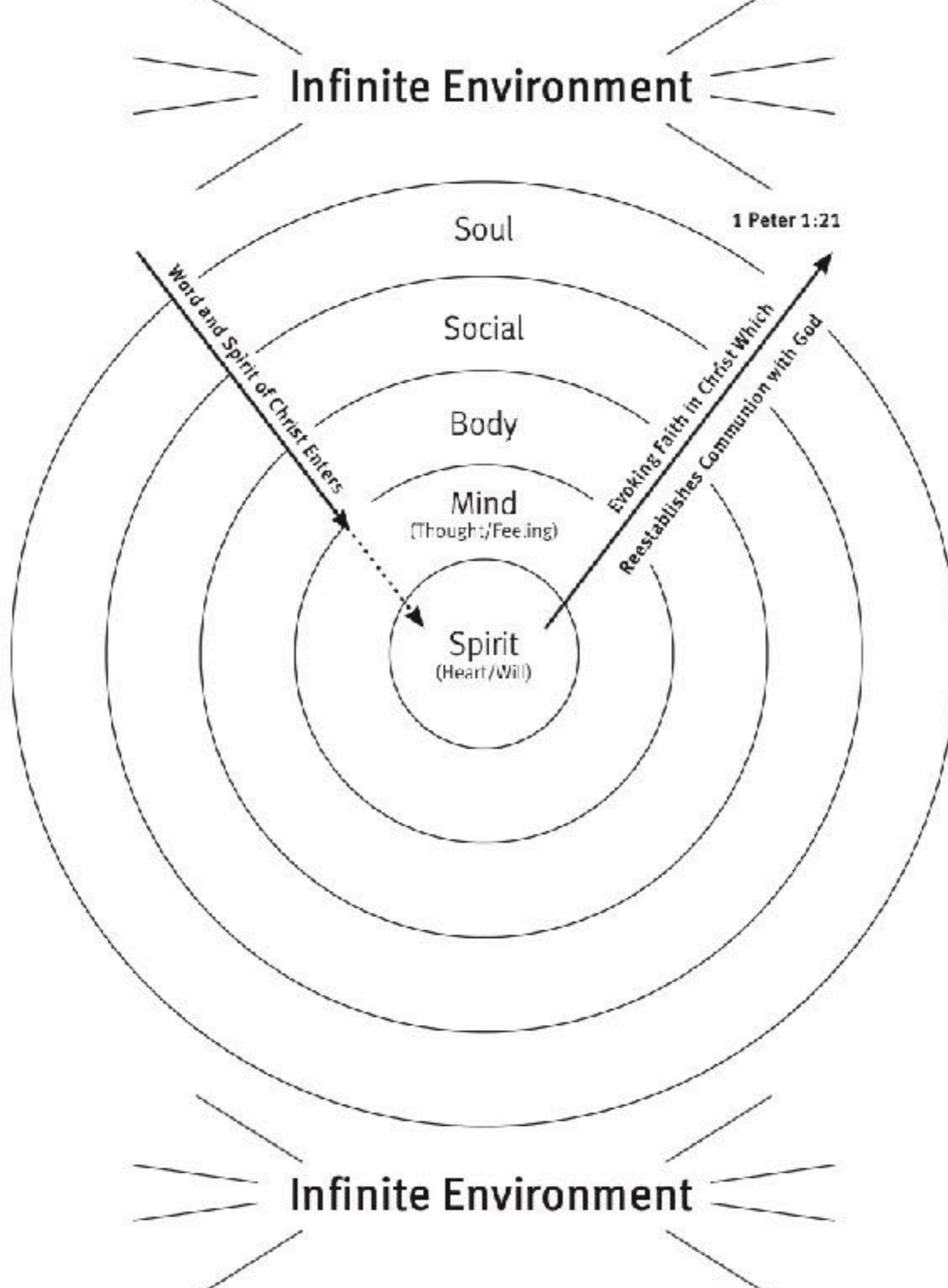
Now, the simplicity of spiritual formation lies in the intention. Simple focus — not distracted by other things, no matter how good they appear.

Grace — God has made provision for achieving this aim.

There are no formulas — no how-to's — for growth in the inner character of Jesus. Such growth is a way of relentless seeking.

Both Editions::93-94

**Six  
Dimensions  
of  
Human  
Nature**

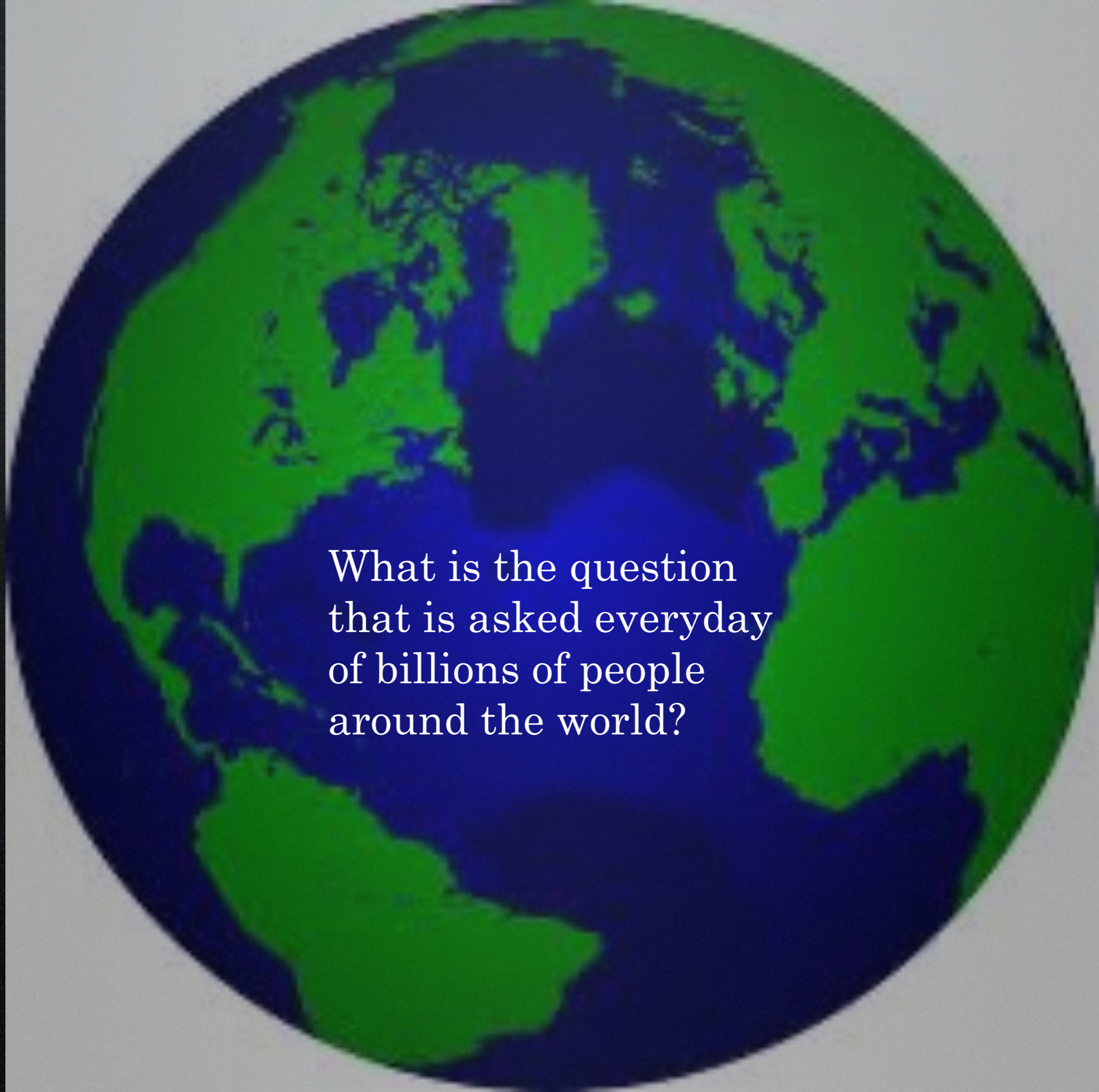


# RENOVATION OF THE HEART

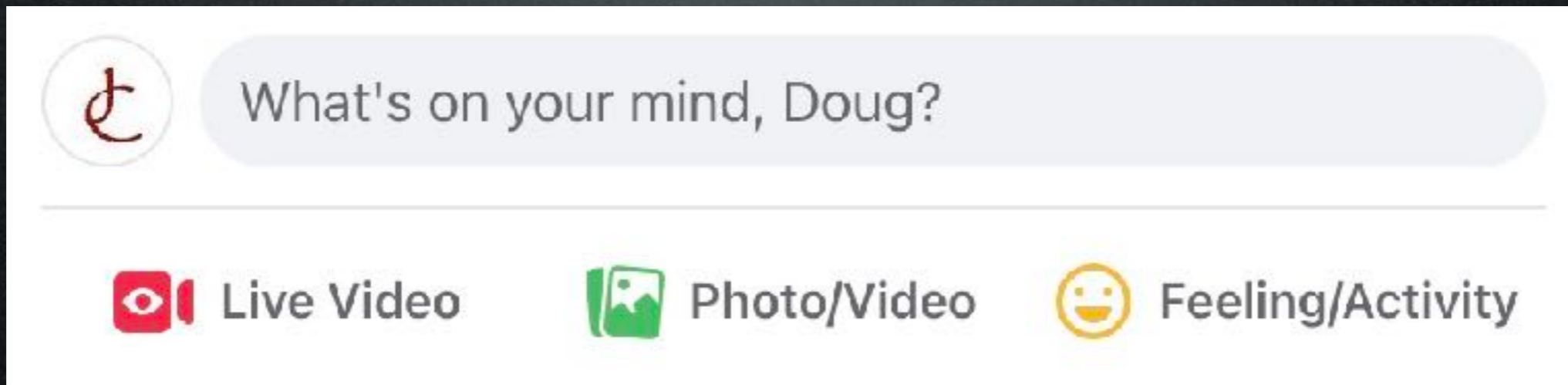
Session 6 - Chapter 6 - “Transforming the Mind, part 1”

The ultimate freedom we have as human beings is the power to select what we will allow our minds to dwell upon.

Both Editions::95



What is the question  
that is asked everyday  
of billions of people  
around the world?



Remind you to be mindful of what's on your mind.



# What Thoughts Are

Memories — Perceptions — Beliefs

To bring vast ranges of reality and non-reality.

*What isn't that could be, ought to be, never should be.*

A “Lifescape” for our will to make decisions to determine what we do and who we become

Ideas

Images

Information

Think





## IDEAS

Models of assumption about reality.

Our ideas system is a cultural artifact, growing up with us from earliest childhood.

Ideas are not defined or precise.  
They are broadly inclusive.

It is extremely difficult to recognize which and how ideas are governing our lives. The “Ideas Grip”.

Spiritual Formation — from Evil to God System

Both Editions::96-97

# RENOVATION OF THE HEART

## Session 6 - Chapter 6 - “Transforming the Mind, part 1”

To change governing ideas is one of the most difficult and painful things in human life.

Genuine “conversion” is a wrenching experience.

Jesus confronted and undermined an idea system and its culture, which in turn killed him.



2021::98-99

2002::98

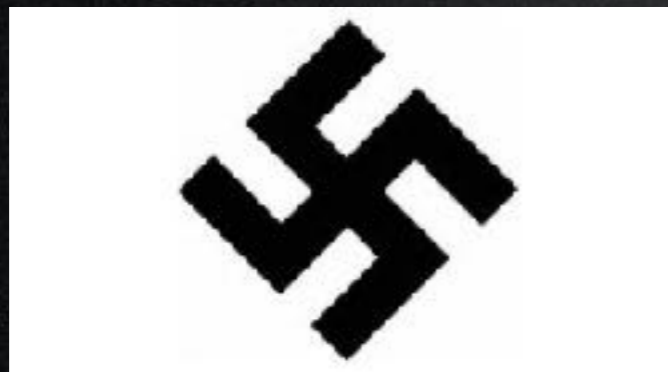


## **IMAGES – Ideas Pictured**

Concrete, specific, heavy laden with feelings

Serious linkage to governing idea systems.

Both Editions::99



When [Satan] undertook to draw Eve away from God, he didn't hit her with a stick, but with an idea: That God could not be trusted and that she must act on her own to secure her own well-being.

Both Editions::100



The single most important thing in our mind is our IDEA of God and the IMAGES associated with it. (100)

The process of spiritual formation in Christ is one of progressively replacing those destructive IMAGES and ideas with the IMAGES and IDEAS that filled the mind of Jesus Himself. (102/101)

We can (and must) begin to take initiative in progressively retaking the whole of our thought life for God's Kingdom. (103/102)





## **INFORMATION**

The first task in Jesus' earthly ministry was to proclaim God: to inform those around Him of the availability of eternal life from God through Himself. The "Kingdom of the Heavens" was basic information for human life.

His death was the revelation of the nature of basic reality. Without knowledge of it and its meaning, we are desperately ignorant of reality, and therefore all our thinking can only result in monstrous falsehoods.

2021::104-105

2002::103-104



## THINKING

### **Spiritual Formation Requires Thinking**

We must seek the Lord by devoting our powers of thinking to understanding the facts and information of the gospel.

The prosperity of God's cause on earth depends upon His people thinking well.

*To put it bluntly, to serve God we must think straight.*

2021::105-107

2002::104-106



**IDEA** — “For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten son...” John 3:16

~ ~ ~

**IMAGE** — “The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.” Luke 24:7

~ ~ ~

**INFORMATION** — “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17

~ ~ ~

**THINKING** — “Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2



## **HOW? Thought, Love & Worship**

*“Astonished Reverence”*

Dwell Intelligently upon God → Love God Passionately  
= Think of God Steadily (107/106)

Constantly and thoughtfully engage ideas, images,  
and information provided by God through...  
Scripture, Jesus & Saints (110/109)

## Dangers in Our Thought Life with God



PRIDE – overconfidence in “ours” or “mine”.



IGNORANCE – willing ignorance about important facts.



DESIRES – Especially the desire to prove we are right.

*“Would I like it if Jesus were Lord?”*



IMAGES – What we admit into our minds.

*“The mind has cliffs.”* Gerald Manley Hopkins

*“Let your mind dwell on...true...honorable...right...pure...  
lovely...good repute...excellent...worthy.”* Philippians 4:8

2021::111-112

2002::110-111

## The Way Forward — V-I-M

Nourishing our mind with good and godly ideas, images, and information and the ability to think creates our **VISION**...without it, nothing moves.

From these, we **INTEND** to be formed so that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is a constant presence in our mind, crowding out false ideas, destructive images, misinformation about God and crooked beliefs.

As for **MEANS**, certain tried and true disciplines aid us in the transformation of our thought life toward the mind of Christ. We cannot transform our ideas, images, information or thought processes into Christlikeness by direct effort, but we can adopt certain practices that indirectly will have that effect. —> Key portions of scripture in our minds!

*And make transformed others close companions in our renovation.*

“Who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”<sup>1</sup>

But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16

1 - Isaiah 40:13



# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



## Three Keys to Memorizing

- Repetition
- Concentration (focus)
- Understanding

Suggested Passages: Romans 5:1-8, 8:1-15  
I Corinthians 13, Colossians 3:1-17





## Today's Experiment

Find others who are walking the walk — who have learned how to live with a transformed mind — practitioners not theologians. (p. 114)

*Honesty & thoroughness are required.* (p. 116)

80:00 + 10K

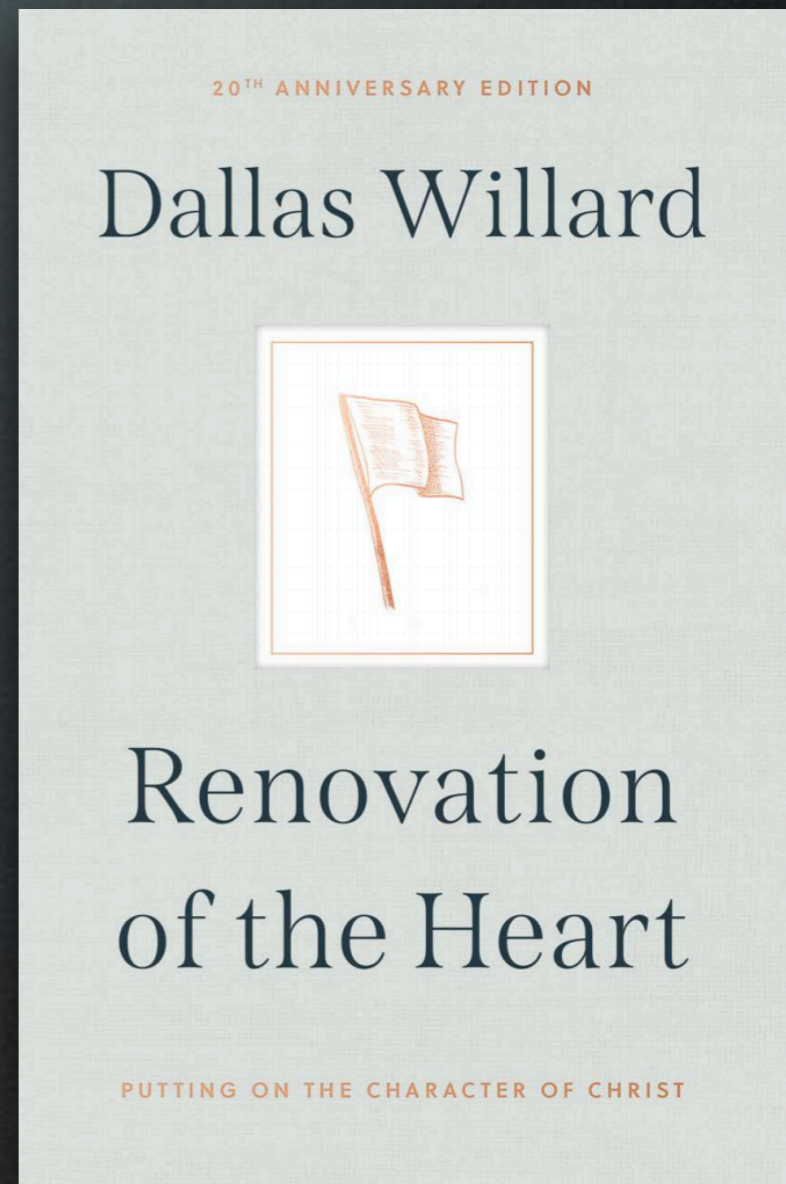




## Session 6 Summary

Spiritual (trans)formation of my thought life is achieved by the ministry of the Spirit...in ways far beyond my own effort or understanding, a gift of grace... in the midst of my necessary and well-directed efforts. (110-111/109)

*“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not rely on your own understanding...” Proverbs 3:5*



## **Next Session — # 7**

“Transforming the Mind, 2” - Chapter 7

*Spiritual Formation and Our Feelings*

*Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice*

Chapters 27-32

In your next 10,000 minutes, repent, i.e., “think about what you think about” and by grace, invite the information of God’s Word to shape your ideas & images.

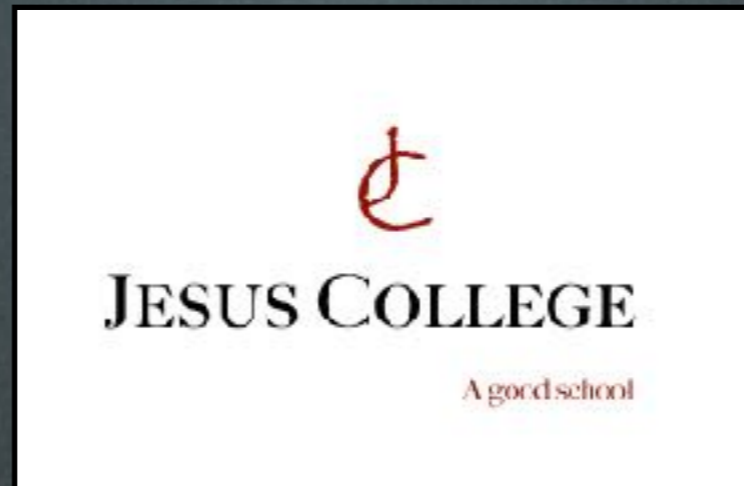
*Doug*



# 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”*

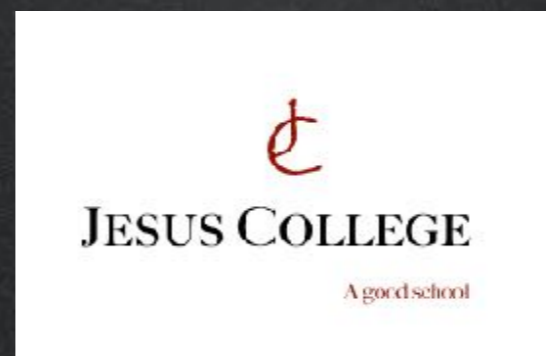
Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs  
*“Training to be proficient in willing the good”*

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**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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