

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

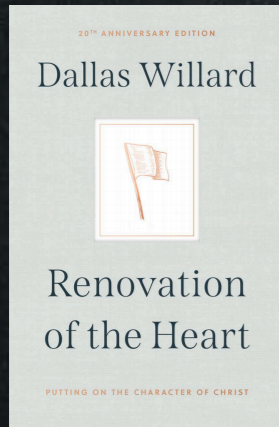
The Problem of Evil

Recognizing, Responding to and Ridding Evil



The Problem of Evil

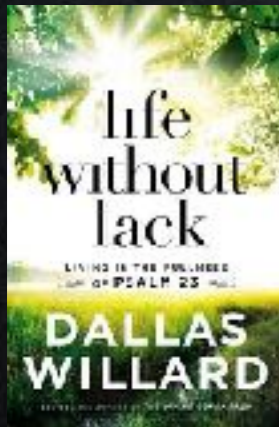
Recognizing, Responding to and Ridding Evil



Session 1

The ruined soul must be willing to recognize its own ruin before it can find how to enter a different path, the path of eternal life that naturally leads into spiritual formation in Christlikeness.

Renovation of the Heart, 2021, p. 56



Session 2

We occupy a world in “the snare of the devil”. It is, indeed, a battle of hearts and minds — false beliefs and images and feelings — the very things that rob us of knowing the life without lack — except by the power of God...to those who have been trained to fix our minds on God.

Life Without Lack, p. 92

Session 3

God permits but does not produce pain & evil, for pain separated from evil makes good character possible, and there is no good without evil, trusting we can stand against evil with Jesus.

The Allure of Gentleness



Why bother
with this?

The Problem of Evil

Recognizing, Responding to and Ridding Evil

To join the divine conspiracy, namely...

“God’s aim to defeat this dreadful declension from God’s world and God’s kingdom by bringing out a world and history wide community of people who have the character and power of Jesus Christ Himself.”

“God’s action in history...to overcome evil with good.”

Dallas Willard

“The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”

Harvey Fellows Summer Institute, 2007



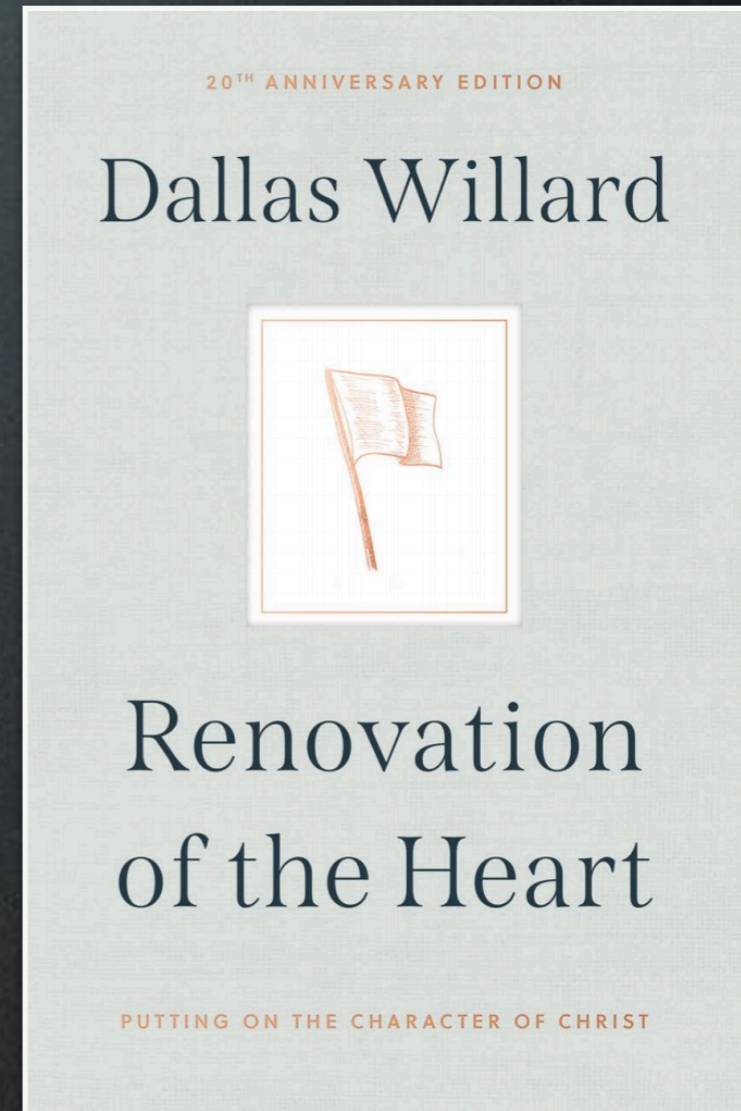
THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

REVIEW: Session 1 - “Radical Evil in the Ruined Soul”

Session 1 Summary

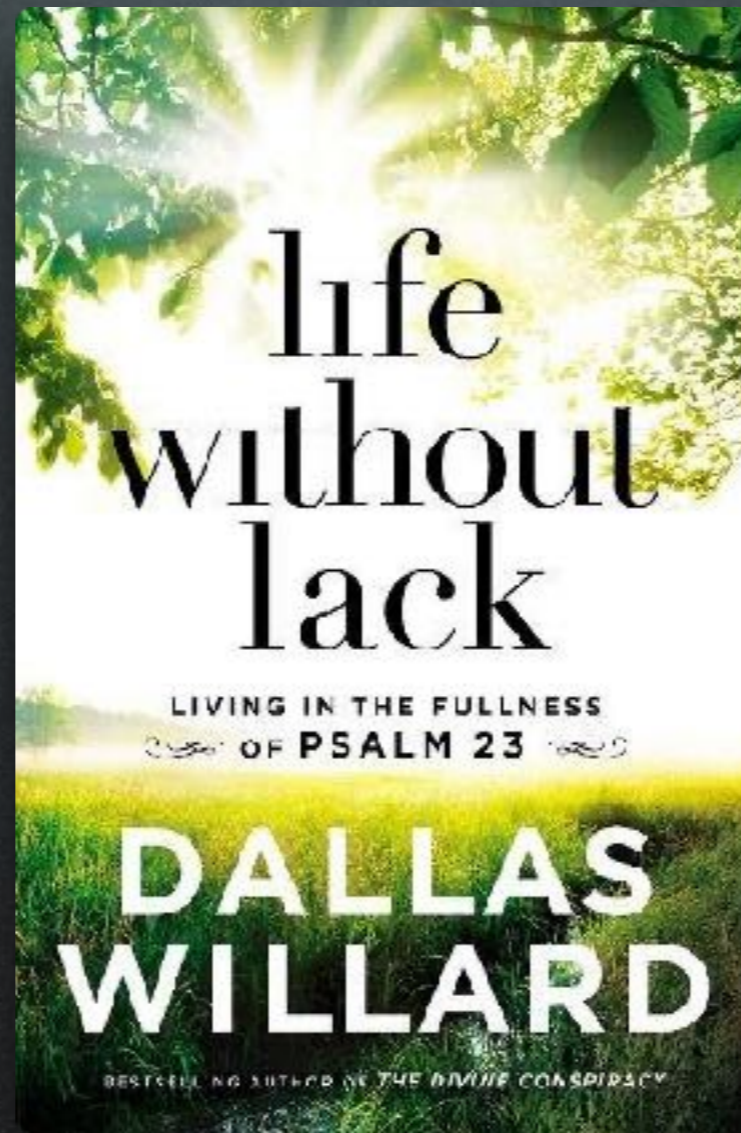
The ruined soul must be willing to hear of and recognize its own ruin before it can find how to enter a different path, the path of eternal life that naturally leads into spiritual formation in Christlikeness.

(2021::56)



THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Session 2 — Why Such Lack & Evil?



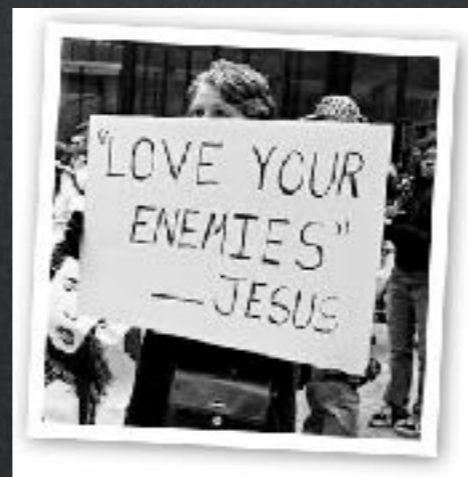
Chapter 4

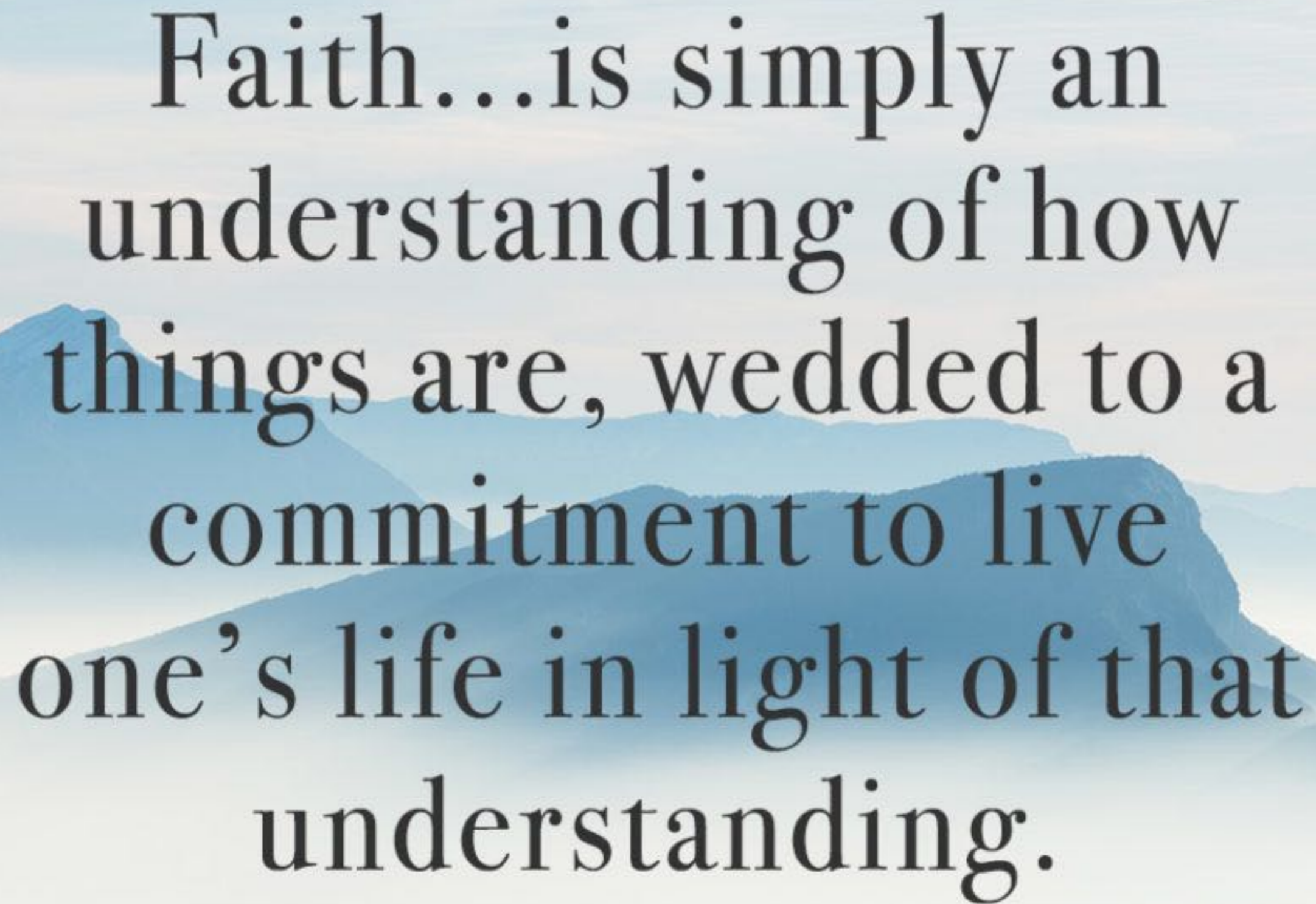
THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Session 2 — Why Such Lack & Evil? - *Life Without Lack, Chapter 4*

For most of us, the thought of a life without lack is unimaginable because we live in a world so obviously full of lack – lack of kindness, fairness, and compassion, all of which are more precious because they seem so rare. (67)

The secret to a life without lack is faith in God and God's full capacity and willingness to meet all our needs – and more. (68)





Faith...is simply an understanding of how things are, wedded to a commitment to live one's life in light of that understanding.

Satan: The Early Years

“the prince of the power of the air”

To Persuade - Tempt - Deceive (71)

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”

Ephesians 2:1-2

In God's Crosshairs

John 3:8 Matthew 1:20-21

To destroy sin is to destroy the works of the devil. Satan is God's primary target for he is the one who bears the primary responsibility for all that is wrong with the world. (72)

Jesus came to destroy death - Hebrews 2:14

"Wiles of the Devil" Ephesians 6:10-11

Not the wiles of your neighbor (73)

To succeed in walking in the way of Jesus and know the life without lack, it is essential that we understand and believe the devil is real and at work.

(74)

Satan's Three Weapons of Temptation (74-77)

- 1.) Lust of the Flesh
- 2.) Lust of the Eyes
- 3.) Pride of Life

He does not have direct power over will. He has to fool us.

(75)

The word lust is probably better “desire”. The appearance of being good is at the center. (76)

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

1 John 2:15-16

Jesus — Tempted in All Ways Like Us

<u>Jesus</u>	<u>Eve</u>	<u>The World</u>
Stones to Bread	Good for food	Desire of the Flesh
Off the Temple	Pleasant look	Desire of the Eyes
Power & Glory	To be Wise	Pride of Life

Satan's way of dealing with people is to catch them up in these three patterns and then make them think they are doing what they want to do. (78)

Masters of Justification

Genesis 4:9 - Cain

The foolishness is all obvious if we stop to think. Satan counts on our not stopping to think. (79)

You can be sure that when Cain committed the first murder recorded in the Bible, his killing of Abel, he was completely justified in his mind.

Fearing for Our Desires

Satan uses our fear that we will not get what we desire. (80)

If we are to experience a life without lack...we must by the grace of God, deal with these fears – or we will be in bondage to Satan...both in terms of fear and the temptation to meet our needs in a way that is not right before God, which reveals our lack of faith in Him and lack of trust in His all sufficient care and strength. (80-81)

“He guides me in paths of righteousness...” Psalm 23:3

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Session 2 — Why Such Lack & Evil? -
Life Without Lack, Chapter 4

How Satan & Our Heart Works

Our heart is the source of action in our lives.

More importantly, our thoughts are where Satan applies his trade...images, through ideas, through feelings and fears. *On the heart through the mind.*

The heart is our point of contact with God's unlimited capacity to protect and provide. *Prov. 4:23*

Deciding to fill our minds with God keeps our hearts.

(81-82)



*If you are not entertaining God's truth,
you will be entertaining Satan's lies.*

Dallas Willard
Life Without Lack, p. 83

Taught by the Victorious Master Jesus

Satan was aware only Jesus could break
his grip on the human world

Jesus would refuse to use evil to defeat evil. (84)

...from a Battle Strategy Formed in a Garden

Christ's death and resurrection demonstrated to His followers and other observers that what Jesus said about the Kingdom and its availability was and is true. Knowledge of the presence and the unfailing availability of God to those who trust Him.

Jesus' basic idea — This world is a perfectly good and safe place...if they [we] have placed their [our] lives in hands of Jesus and His Father. (86)

A statue of Jesus Christ on a cross, set against a background of trees and a building. The statue is the central focus, with its arms outstretched. The background is slightly blurred, showing green foliage and a tall, reddish-brown structure, possibly a tower or chimney.

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” John 12:32

This was the Trinity’s winning strategy to break down the rule of Satan.

Jesus stands quietly at the center of the contemporary world, as He Himself predicted.

(85-86)

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Session 2 — Why Such Lack & Evil? - *Life Without Lack, Chapter 4*

Satan's Target — Satan knew he had been defeated and his attention now was to be focused on those who believed in Jesus...

his effort to defeat Jesus' followers. (86)

Satan's Weapon — Ideas that govern society's individuals...about what is good and what is right and how things should be done.

Satan governs ideas by the way people understand themselves. (88)



The Vision Dims

Why the decay?

The desire to look good and be wise.

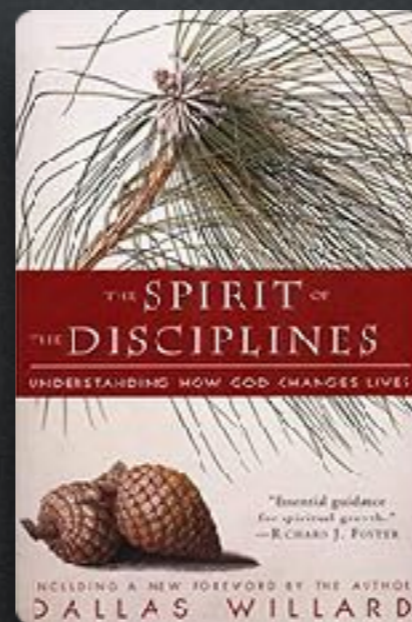


Truth does exist, but it does not come easily, if at all, to those trapped by Satan's deceptions about what is desirable. (90)

When looking good takes precedence over knowing the good, Satan wins the battle, if not the war. *John 5:44* (91)

“The evil that we do in our present condition is a reflection of a weakness caused by spiritual starvation.”

Dallas Willard
The Spirit of the Disciplines, p. 63



THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Session 2 — Why Such Lack & Evil? -
Life Without Lack, Chapter 4

Destroying the Citadel of Satan

Satan's constant assault is aimed at our belief in God's goodness & power, that God will supply all our needs, and that we can trust God to be sufficient in all ways. When our minds are on God, and our thoughts are formed by our knowledge of God, such sufficiency will flow to us. Satan's main task is to keep our minds elsewhere, anywhere but on God. (91)



“Take every thought captive in obedience to Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:6



Destroying the Citadel of Satan (continued)

A world in “the snare of the devil” (II Timothy 2:24-26) is also a world that God loves, into which He sent Jesus. Only the gospel of Christ can take back what Satan controls and reclaim the mind and heart of every human being held captive. This involves coming to think about God as Jesus thought about Him, and to trust God as Jesus trusted Him – moving from having faith IN Jesus to having the faith OF Jesus.

To do so is to know the life without lack.

A Prayer for the Battle of the Mind

by Dallas Willard

Lord minister to me by your Spirit.
Come into my heart and mind,
and release me from all inward
tension and anxiety.

Hold before my mind the truth that
I have nothing to fear from Satan
for you have defeated him;
all I must do is fill my life and
my mind with you.

Remind me often, especially in the
midst of difficulty,
that you, who are in me,
are greater than he who is in the world.

Help me to carry this truth with me
as I contemplate the awesome reality
of the spiritual battle taking place,
a battle that, perhaps in our time, is
moving perceptively closer
to its climax.

Give me the vision of who you are:
Our Father who art in heaven,
The Shepherd in whose presence there
is no lack, so I may have the
confidence and power to love and to
live as Jesus lived.

In His name, amen.

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

1.) How well do I know and recognized the “wiles of the devil”, his “snare”?

2.) What is my motivation to look good?

What am I willing to do to accomplish it?

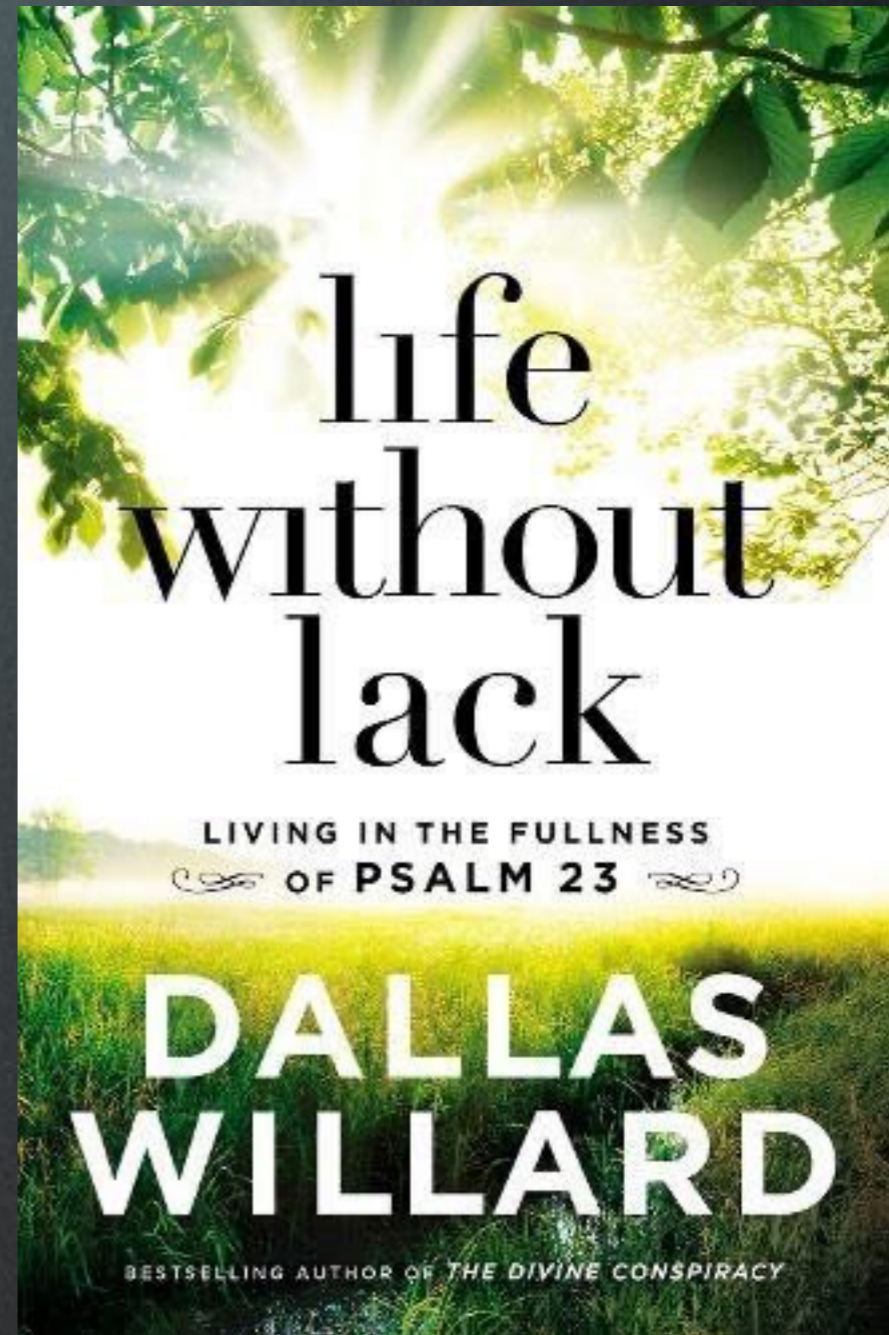
3.) What will I practice this week to take every thought captive in obedience to God?



Session 2 Summary

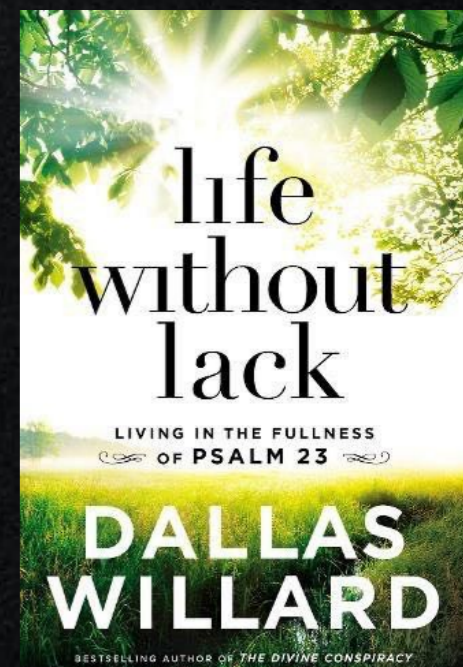
We occupy a world in “the snare of the devil”. It is, indeed, a battle of hearts and minds — false beliefs and images and feelings — the very things that rob us of knowing the life without lack — except by the power of God. This power comes to those who have been trained to fix our minds on God.

(92)



Session 2 Scriptures

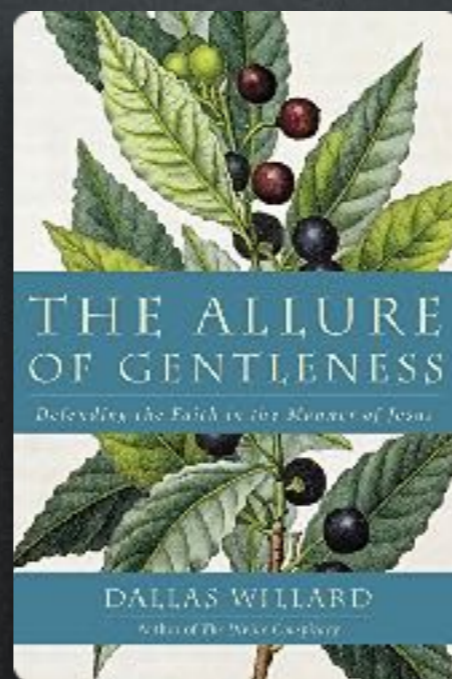
Ephesians 2:2; Isaiah 14:12-14;
Genesis 3:5; Ezekiel 28:14-17;
I John 3:8; Matthew 1:20-21;
Hebrews 2:14; Ephesians 6:10-11;
I John 2:15-16; Genesis 4:9;
Psalm 23:3; Genesis 6:5-7;
I Samuel 3:9; Proverbs 4:23;
Romans 1:28; Psalm 119:11;
John 14:30; John 12:32;
Ephesians 4:14, 17-18;
II Corinthians 10:4-5;
II Timothy 2:24-25



Next Week — Session 3 of 3

“The Problem of Pain & Evil”

The Allure of Gentleness, Chapter 6



May you see God pull
down strongholds in
your next 10,000
minutes as you act in
the knowledge of God
bringing every thought
into captivity to the
obedience of Christ.

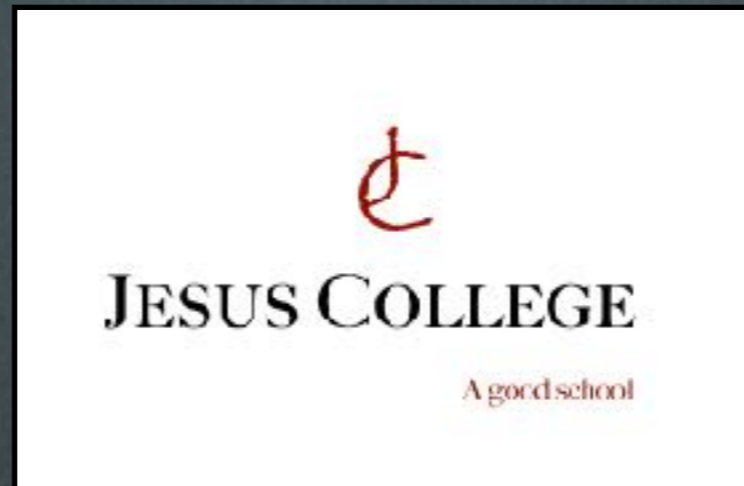
Doug





THE SCHOOL
of
KINGDOM LIVING

Information...Registration — 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 (Ministry, Business Leaders, Parents) to mentor Leaders (Senior Apprentices) to disciple Apprentices to Master love.

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