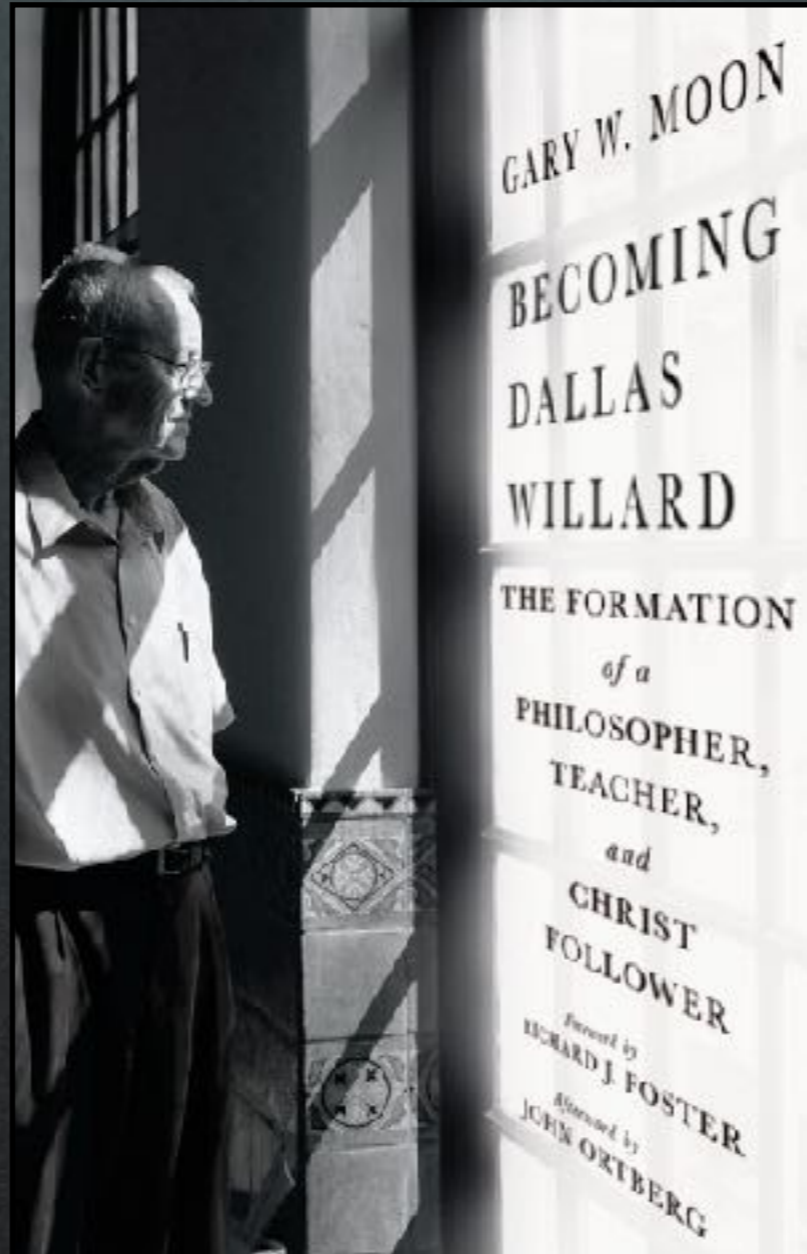


# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

Chapters 11 & 12

*Session 6 - "A Movement With-God Among Friends"*



## **SESSION 5 REVIEW - BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

### **The Willard Family Formation**

Stories of a couple walking through a death shadowed valley who learned not only of the sufficiency of God, but how to pray and practice disciplines of the With-God life on their way to becoming more like Christ.

Still, the music, the dancing, the art continued. And some restoration between a father and son.

# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 11 - “Birth of a Movement”

Enter Richard Foster — a life long, dear friend and ministry partner of Dallas. Their friendship started in 1970 in the small Woodlake Avenue Friends Church. Richard started pastoring “the desert” at 27.

~ ~ ~

While still staring ahead at the speaker, the young man could not help whispering to his neighbor, “*Who is that?*”

A soft reply came back,

*“Oh, that is Dallas Willard. He’s a philosophy professor.”*

He began taking notes.

*“Who thinks like that?”*

(159-160)



## BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

### Chapter 11 - "Birth of a Movement"

*"Dallas hadn't made his mark yet [in the academic world]," Richard later recalled. "He was still several years away from getting his landmark book out on Husserl. And he had not published in Christian circles at all. I had no idea whom I was about to meet."*

Dallas later said, "I thought, 'Here is a lovely, smart young man. He is a winning man.' Basically we started talking and never stopped."

(162)



# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 11 - "Birth of a Movement"

Richard himself later described Woodlake Avenue Friends as a *"marginal failure on the ecclesiastical scoreboards."*

*"A wonderful, ragtag, highly dysfunctional group of people."*

Foster may have been too generous.

*"[Dallas] knew we as a congregation had to be prepared for a long, slow process."*

(163-164)



# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 11 - "Birth of a Movement"

### Redefining Salvation Itself

Dallas most memorable teaching series:

The Book of Acts, the Sermon on the Mount, and  
Spiritual Disciplines (164)

*"The most unique interpretation I'd ever heard on things like the Beatitudes and what our response should be to the book of Acts...it blew me out of the water."* Richard Foster (165)

Salvation meant far more than merely a decision. It meant a new kind of living, healing of the soul, living with God in the present moment. (166)

\* Abide \* Obedience \* Grace \* Kingdom of God \*

# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## Chapter 11 - “Birth of a Movement”

### **A Living Laboratory**

The Kingdom of God as a present reality.

Salvation as ongoing life with God.

Participation in Spiritual Disciplines.

*“Most important of all [Dallas] offered a comprehensive theology of spiritual growth that placed the spiritual disciplines squarely at the center as ‘the means of grace’ for the formation of the human personality.”* Richard Foster

(168-169)

# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## Chapter 11 - "Birth of a Movement"

### **Along Came a Praying Woman...**

Agnes Sanford, *The Healing Light*

She had a real and interactive relationship with the Trinity. She was fearless.

Let the power of the Trinity, the healing Light, flow in and through us. (169-172)

### **Along Went a Writing Pastor...**

...from Woodlake Avenue Friends to a land of Woods & Lakes in Oregon. (172-174)



## **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

### **Chapter 12 - “So Long as We are Doing the Work Ourselves”**

Creating a study Bible that would approach Scripture through the lens of Christian Spiritual Formation.

#### “The Immanuel Principle”

*“I think the unity of the Bible is found in the development of a with-God kind of life as a reality on earth. It begins in the Garden of Eden and crescendos in the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the sending of the Spirit.”*

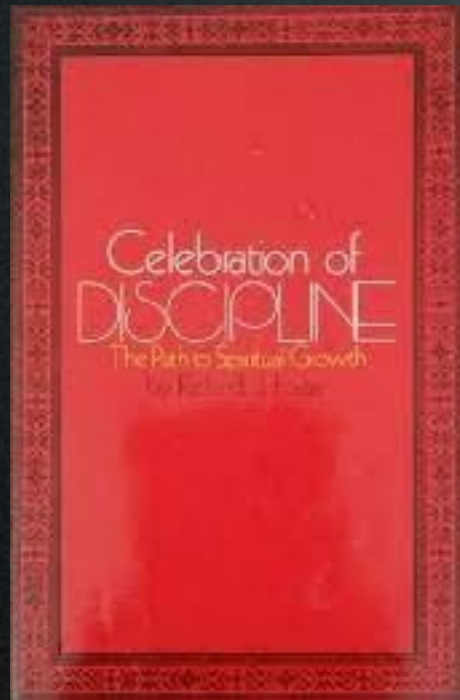


**THE IMMANUEL INVITATION**  
Abandoning With-less Living

(175-176)

# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 12 - "So Long as We are Doing the Work Ourselves"

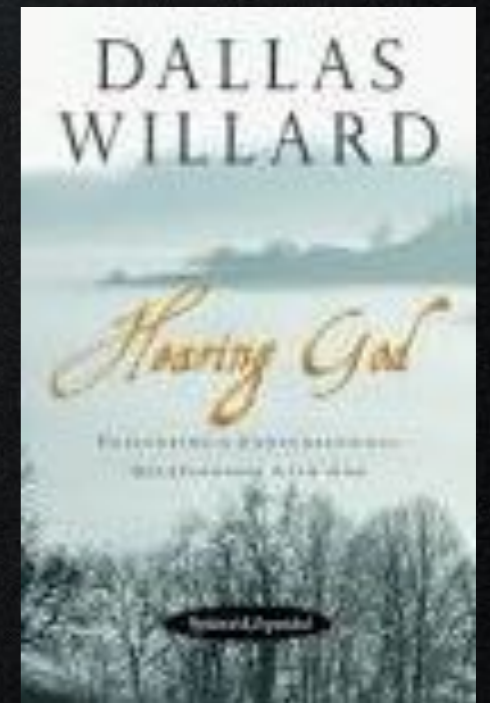


1978

1980, October 10

"Discipleship: For Super-Christians Only?"

1983 — Randy Neal + Transcribed Cassette Tapes =  
*In Search of Guidance...which became...*  
*Hearing God*



(175-182)

## **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

### Chapter 12 - "So Long as We are Doing the Work Ourselves"

#### **1988 – The Birth of Renovaré**

*"I'm not asking you to succeed, only try."*

When Dallas was asked to join the board and ministry team,  
*"So long as we were actually doing the work of the ministry ourselves."*

From 1989 - 2008, 140 conferences around the world.

Then *Streams of Living Water* by Richard Foster

(182-186)

# THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

REDISCOVERING OUR HIDDEN LIFE IN GOD

I remember when he read a chapter from *The Divine Conspiracy*.

When Dallas finished, Pastor Bill Vaswig said,  
*"I'll never forget this day,"* as he wiped away his tears.

"A masterpiece and a wonder . . .  
the book I have been searching for all my life." (185)

—From the Foreword by RICHARD FOSTER

# **“BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD” - CH. 12**

## **Pushing a Boulder**

USC Philosophy Department

Woodlake Avenue Friends Church resistance

Perhaps at home his son's will

From 1965-1985, 3 places of calling:

Philosopher, Family Man & Pastor to Pastors

...he had finally become Dallas Willard.

(187-188)



## “BECOMING YOU”

Who has God brought into my life that changed the trajectory of my faith journey and calling?

What beauty has come from the ashes of my own “Woodlake Avenue”?

What came to mind when I read Richard Foster’s recollection of starting Renovaré,  
*“I’m not asking you to succeed, only try.”*

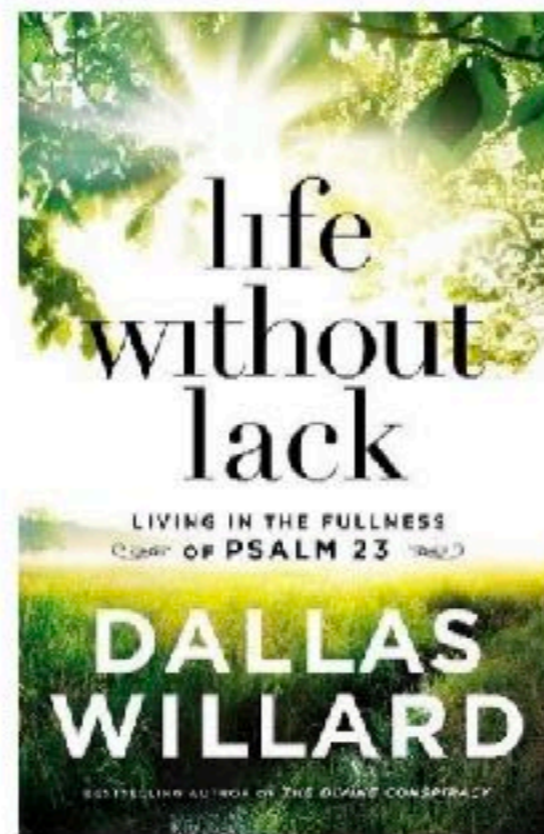


## **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

### **Next Session #7**

Chapters 13 - "Ideas for Time & Eternity" part 1

Pages 191-208



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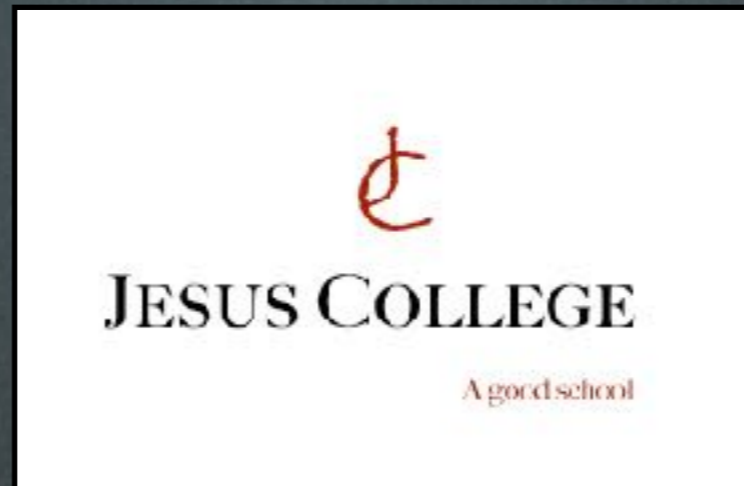
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