

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



Session 1 Review

Spiritual Transformation is...

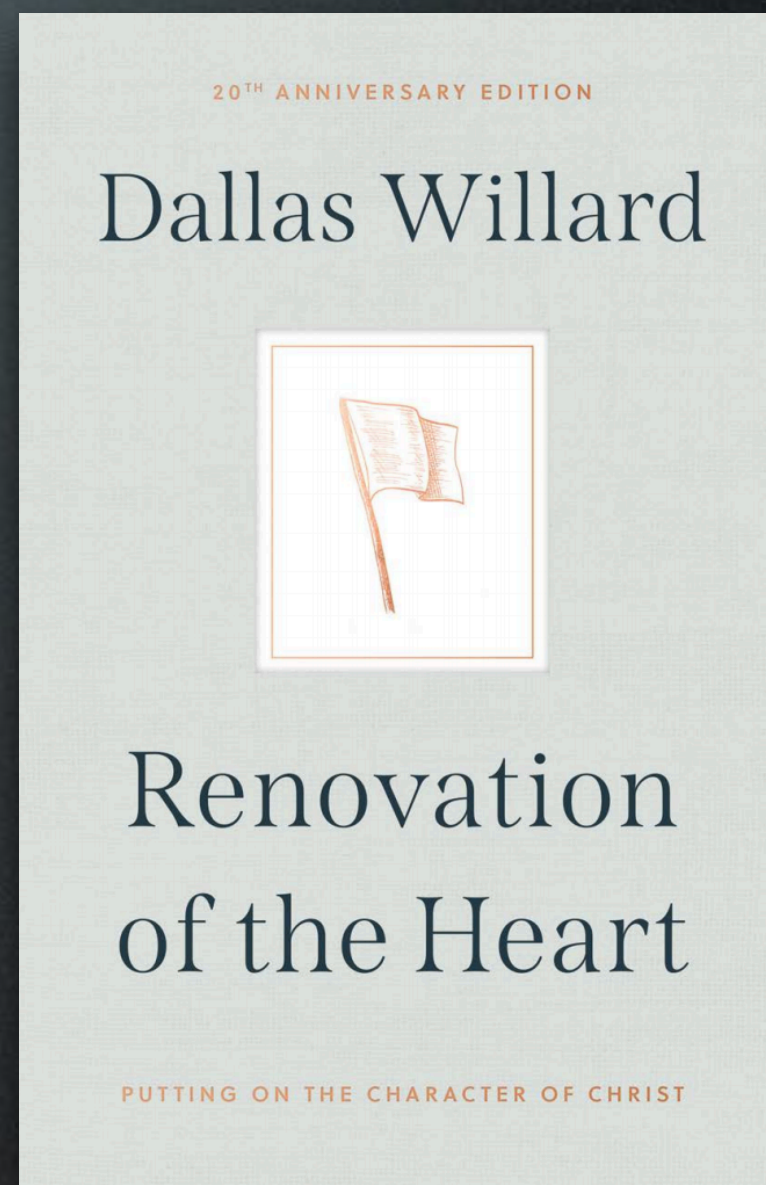
...an inescapable human problem.

...a gift of grace.

...the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self like Jesus Christ.

...of the human spirit by the Holy Spirit.

...something we humans can and must undertake.



Christian spiritual formation is focused
entirely on...

JESUS

...SIMPLY JESUS

Spiritual formation is, in practice, the way of rest for the weary and overloaded, of the easy yoke and the light burden.

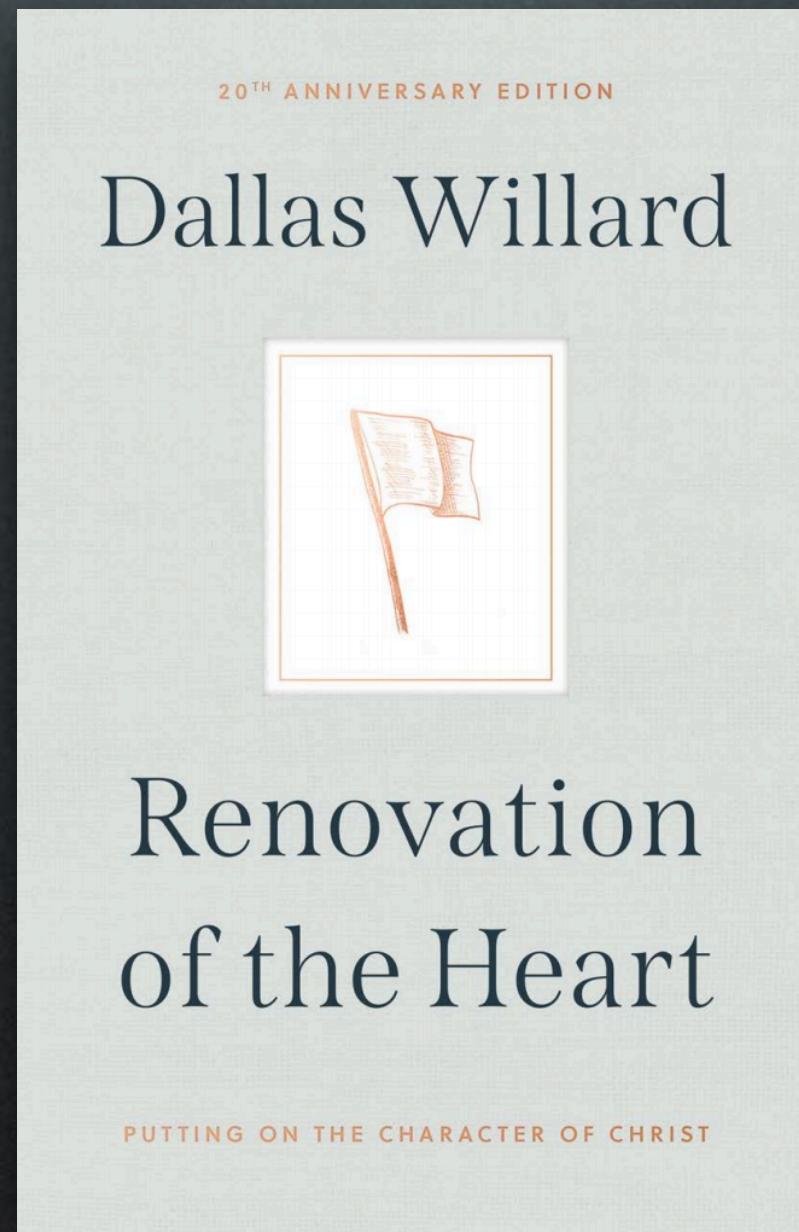
(p. 17 - 2021
p. 24 - 2002)



“I look at this picture daily to remind me that I walk alongside Jesus moment by moment in His easy, custom-fitted yoke. I'm the horse on the left, adjusting myself to His pace (especially not running way ahead of Him), talking to Him all the time about what's going on, learning to listen to His calm and gentle voice, following His lead.” *Elaine, Maryland, U.S.A.*

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 2 - Chapter 2 - “The Heart in the System of Human Life”



“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Mark 12:29-31

“Do this and you will live!”

Luke 10:28

The Contemporary Battle Over Human Nature *

It is the ACADEMIC that today governs the idea systems of our world and opposes traditional views of human nature — specifically, the Judeo-Christian or biblical understanding of human life.

- 1.) The issue of human nature is of great importance.
- 2.) Strongly armed prejudices prevent seeing the obvious, simple and straightforward.

Human Nature — Purely physical or a brain? We are good and free to do as we please? A social construct?

Biblical and classical wisdom are lost.



(2021 Edition:: p. 22-23)

(2002 Edition:: p. 28-29)

See *Knowing Christ Today*, and
The Disappearance of Moral Knowledge



Flashback from Chapter 1

BEYOND MERELY HUMAN

So spiritual transformation, the renovation of the human heart, is an inescapable human problem with no human solution.

Genuine transformation of the whole person into the goodness and power seen in Jesus and his “Abba” Father—the only transformation adequate to the human self—remains the necessary goal of human life.



(2021::13)
(2002::20)

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 2 - Chapter 2 - “The Heart in the System of Human Life”

The Will — the Spirit — the Heart

“WILL” — power to initiate, to create, to bring about what did not exist before.

“SPIRIT” — a fundamental nature as distinct and independent from physical reality.

“HEART ” — the center to which every other component of the self owes its proper functioning.

All in the same dimension of the human being.

(2021::23)

(2002::29)

The Heart Directs the Life

Those with a WELL-KEPT HEART are persons who are prepared for and capable of responding to the situations of life in ways that are good and right. Their will functions as it should, to choose what is good and avoid what is evil, and the other components of their nature cooperate to that end. They need not be perfect, but what all people manage in at least a few times and areas of life, are managing life as a whole.

The human heart, will, or spirit is the executive center of a human life...where decisions and choices are made for the whole person.

“Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.” Proverbs 25:28

(2021::24-25)

(2002::29-30)

The Six Basic Aspects of Human Life

- Thought — images, concepts, judgments, inferences
- Feeling — sensations, emotion
- Choice — will, heart, spirit, decision, character
- Body — action, interaction with the physical world
- Social Context — personal & structural relations with others
- Soul — integrates all of the above to form one life
 - the invisible computer that keeps everything running

5 Functions of a human being:

Think - Feel - Choose - Behave - Interact



(2021::24-25)

(2002::30)

The ideal of the Christian spiritual life...

All of the essential parts of the human self are effectively organized around God, as they are restored and sustained by Him.

Spiritual formation in Christ is the process leading to that ideal and, and its result is:

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
Love your neighbor as yourself.*

The human self has been fully integrated under God.

The salvation or deliverance of the believer in Christ is essentially holistic or whole life.

“Do this and you will live!”

(2021::25)

(2002::31)

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;
because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

Psalm 16:7-9

The Human Self is Not Mysterious (26/31-32)

God's creation is inherently intelligible.

They have parts, these parts have properties, which in turn make possible relationships between the parts to form larger wholes, which in turn have properties to make possible relationships between larger wholes, that forms still larger wholes, and so on.

Such as...Atom, grain of salt, solar system, galaxy,
thought, feeling, whole person or social unit

~ ~ ~

Nature (def.) - *“A group of basic properties which determines what is possible for the thing in question.”* -

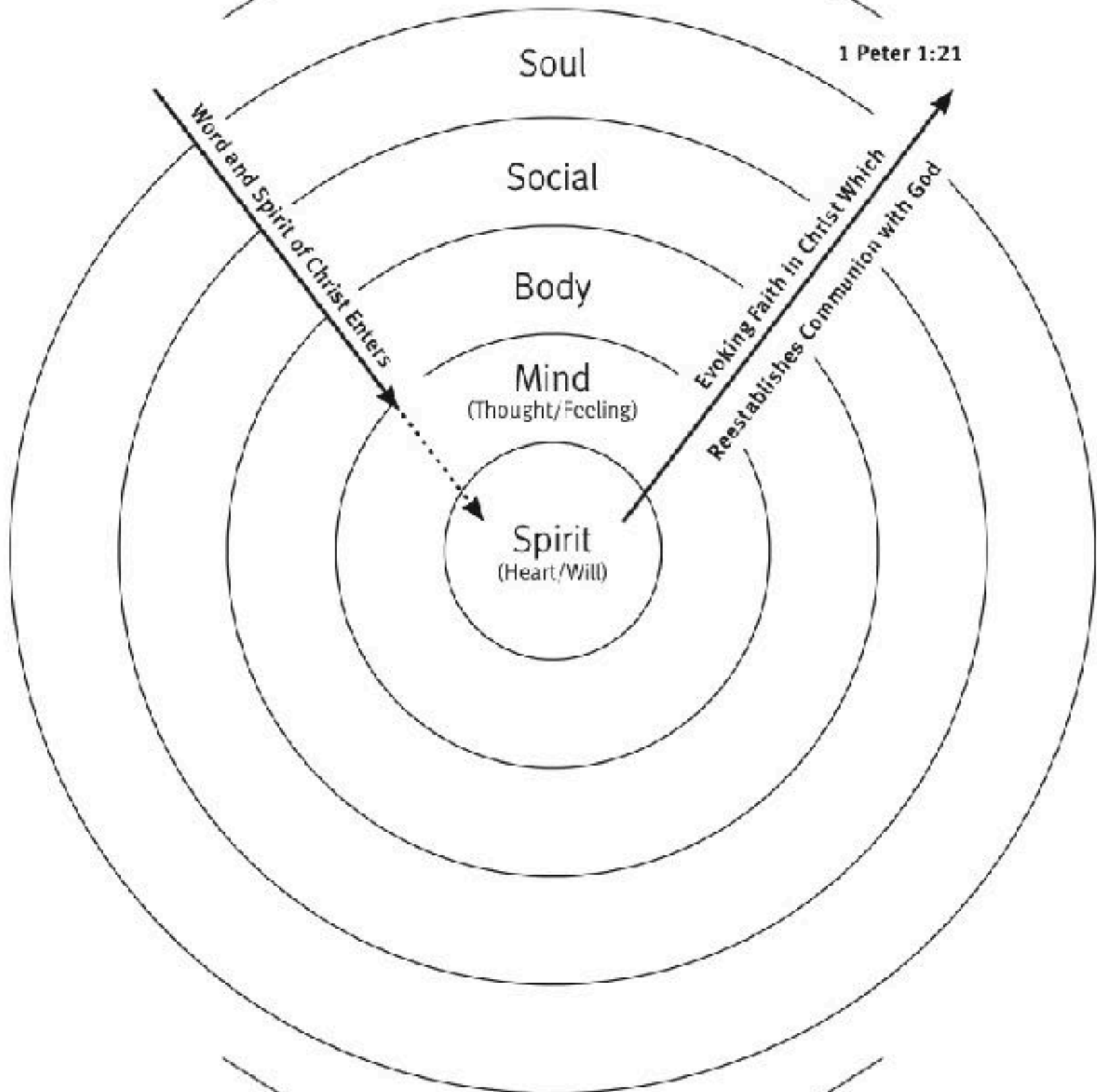
Nature determines the excellence and well being of things of that nature.

Dallas Willard, “Human Nature”

OSU, November 2002



Infinite Environment



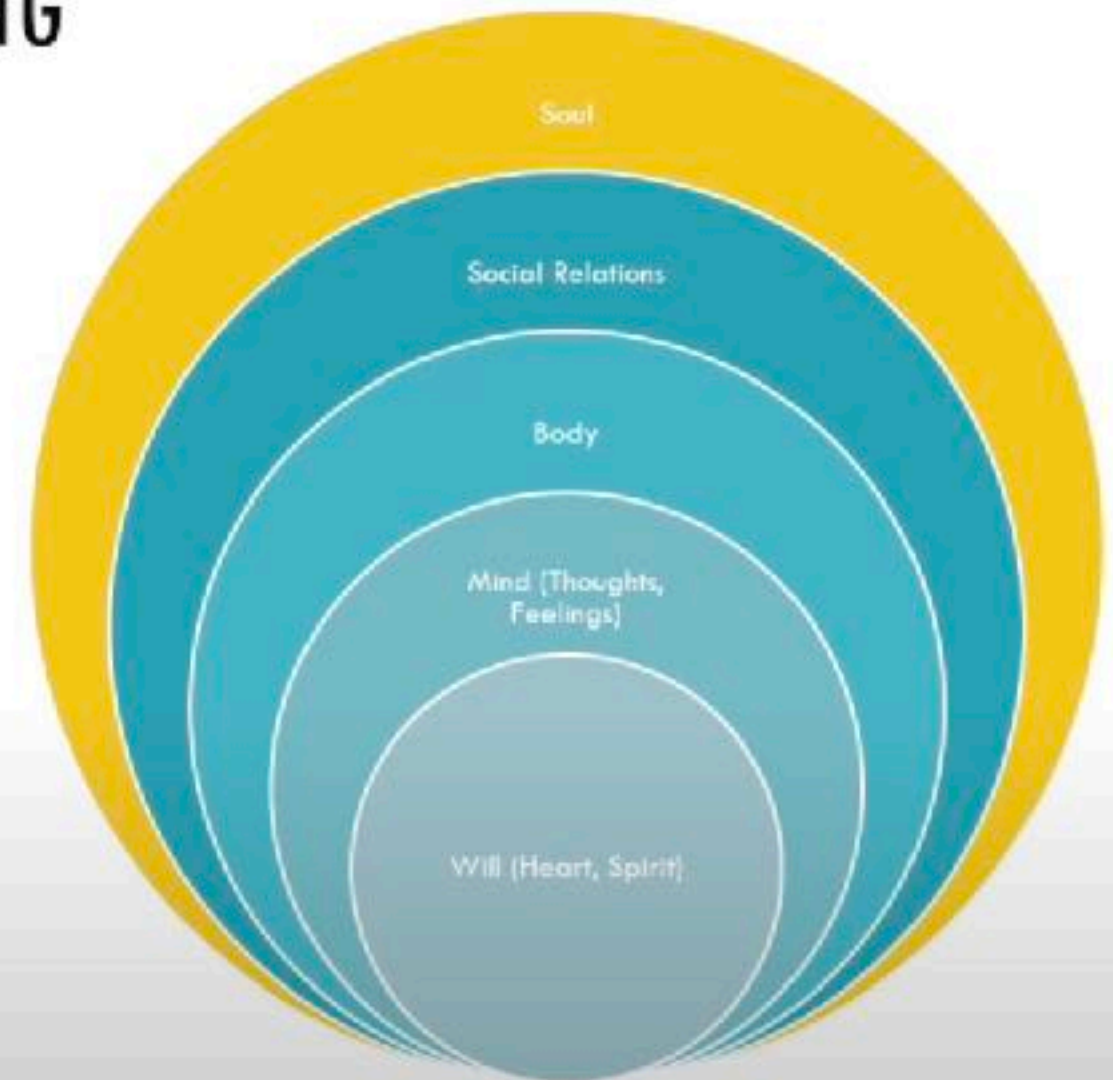
Infinite Environment

(2021::34)
(2002::38)

THE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF A HUMAN BEING

As per Jesus: Luke 10:27 and Matthew 27:37-39

- Will / Heart /Spirit: The capacity to make decisions.
- Mind: Thoughts, Feelings
- Body: Your power pack for life.
- Social Relations: No one stands alone.
- Soul: The part of the person that puts all the other parts together (if it's not broken) and makes one life.



Critical
Section

The Will (Heart/Spirit) — Freedom & Creativity

The inner “Yes” or “No” of the individual alone to originate good or evil.

The thought of sin is not sin. Temptation is the thought plus the inclination to sin—possibly manifested by lingering over the thought or seeking it out. But sin itself is when we inwardly say “yes” to the temptation, when we would do the deed, even though we do not actually do it. (28::33)

The acts of willing form the spirit. (34)

~ ~ ~

The spirit is unbodily, personal power.

It must be given a godly nature
to govern the entire personality. (28::34)

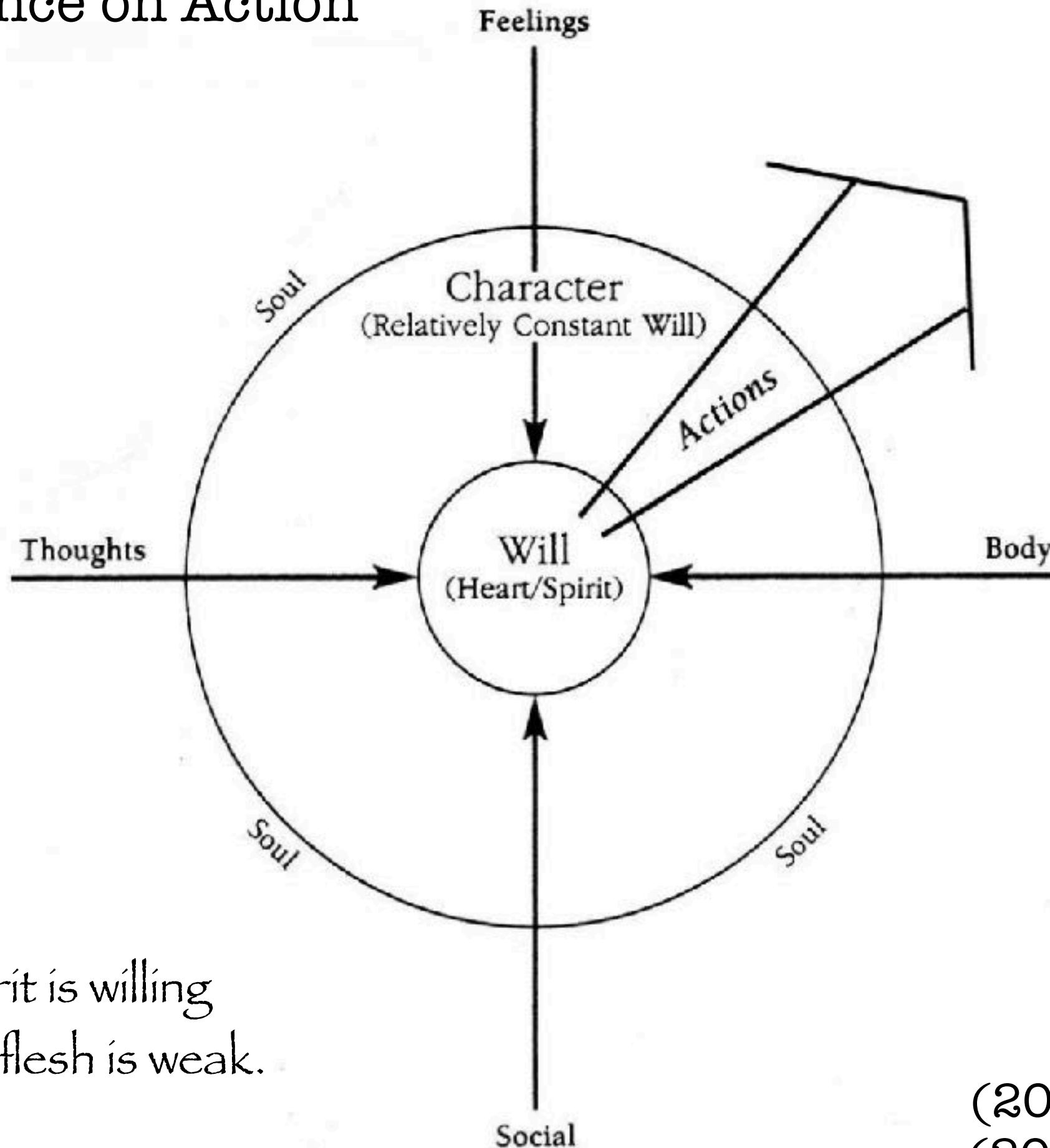
The Will (Heart/Spirit) (continued)

The heart in the human system
is the core of its being. (28::34)

To choose, one must think and have a feeling about the thought, the object of choice. No choice does not involve both. What we choose to think about and allow our selves to feel is critical to the practical methods of spiritual formation.

The fact that feelings and thoughts are largely a matter of choice is not widely understood—especially feelings. (29/34)

Influence on Action



The spirit is willing
but the flesh is weak.

(2021::35)
(2002::40)

Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

1 Peter 1:21

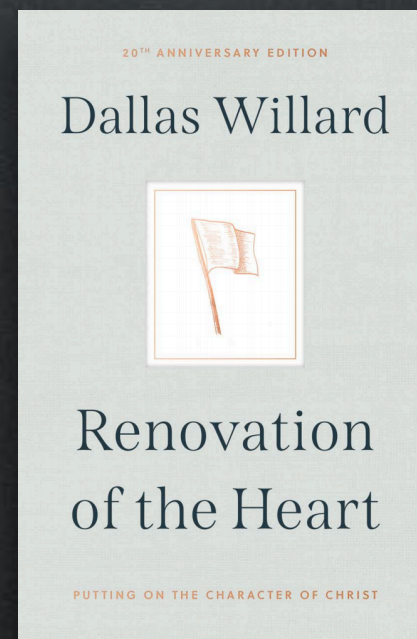
A good tree does not bear bad fruit. — Jesus



Actions are not impositions on who we are,
but are expressions of who we are. (35/39)

It is the central point of this book that spiritual transformation only happens as each essential dimensions of the human being is transformed to Christlikeness under the direction of a regenerate will interacting with constant overtures of grace from God.

Such transformation is not the result of mere human effort and cannot be accomplished by putting pressure on the will, heart, spirit alone.



(2021::37)

(2002::41-42)



MILK & HONEY

Farmstead

Possessing the Land

Grace means we are to be,
and God enables us to be,
active to a degree
like we have never been before.

We therefore live in hot pursuit of Jesus Christ.



(2021::38)
(2002::42)

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed [to do good].”

2 Corinthians 9:8

We need not and must not wait until we die to live in the land of milk and honey.

39/43



A man with glasses, wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark blue trousers, stands on a balcony. He is looking out of a large window with a black metal frame. The window reflects the exterior of a brick building. The balcony has a brick railing with decorative tiles. The background shows a courtyard with a bench and some greenery.

“A Christian Reading of Human Nature”

Dallas Willard
Ohio State University, 2002

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLICwWL2VzI&t=816s>
[21:43]

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



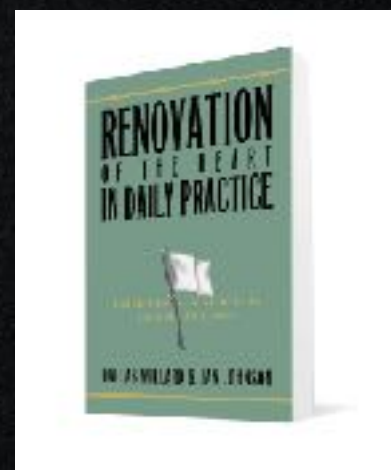
It's quite startling to begin to believe that transformation into Christlikeness is really possible.

To possess this promised land,
we will have to arrange our lives differently.

Such transformation is possible.

Do I believe transformation can happen?

80:00 + 10K





Today's Experiment

Tell God what you admire most about Jesus and what you most like to be able to do in cooperation with the power of the Spirit.

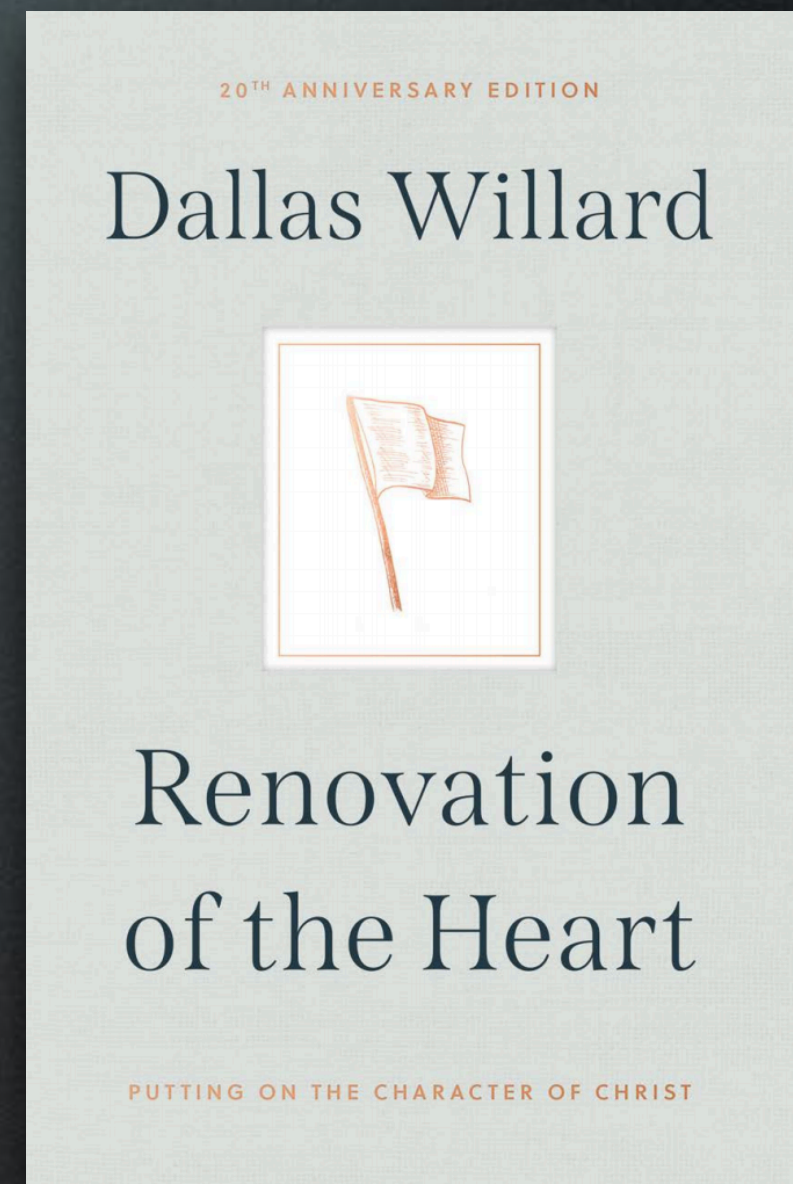
Thank God for the opportunity to explore this transformation process.

80:00 + 10K



Session 2 Summary

Spiritual transformation only happens as each [of the six] essential dimensions of the human being is transformed to Christlikeness under the direction of a regenerate will interacting with constant overtures of grace from God.

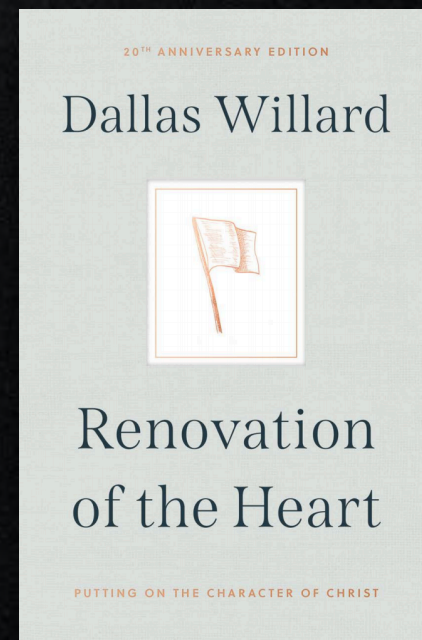


Next Week — Session 3

“Radical Evil in the Ruined Soul” Chapter 3

Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice
Chapters 10-13

with Special Guest — Dr. Eric Bruns
Professor of Psychology, Campbellsville University
Kentucky, U.S.A.



By His amazing grace,
explore & experience
the 6 dimensions of
your divinely made
nature over your next
10,000 minutes.

Doug

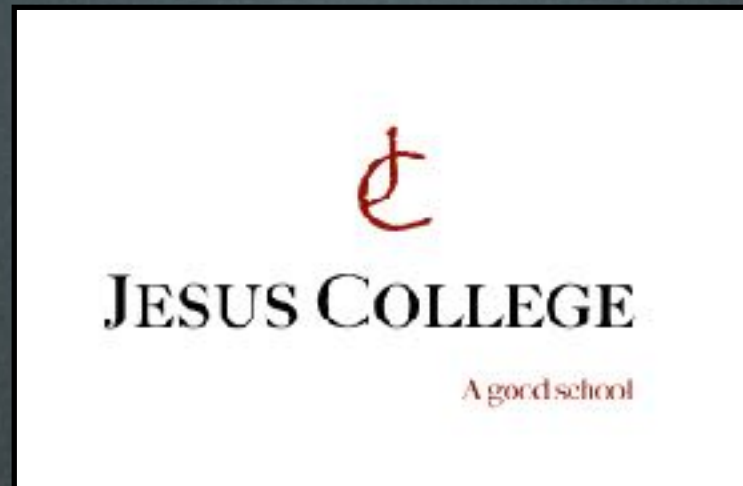
@OneAfterJesus



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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