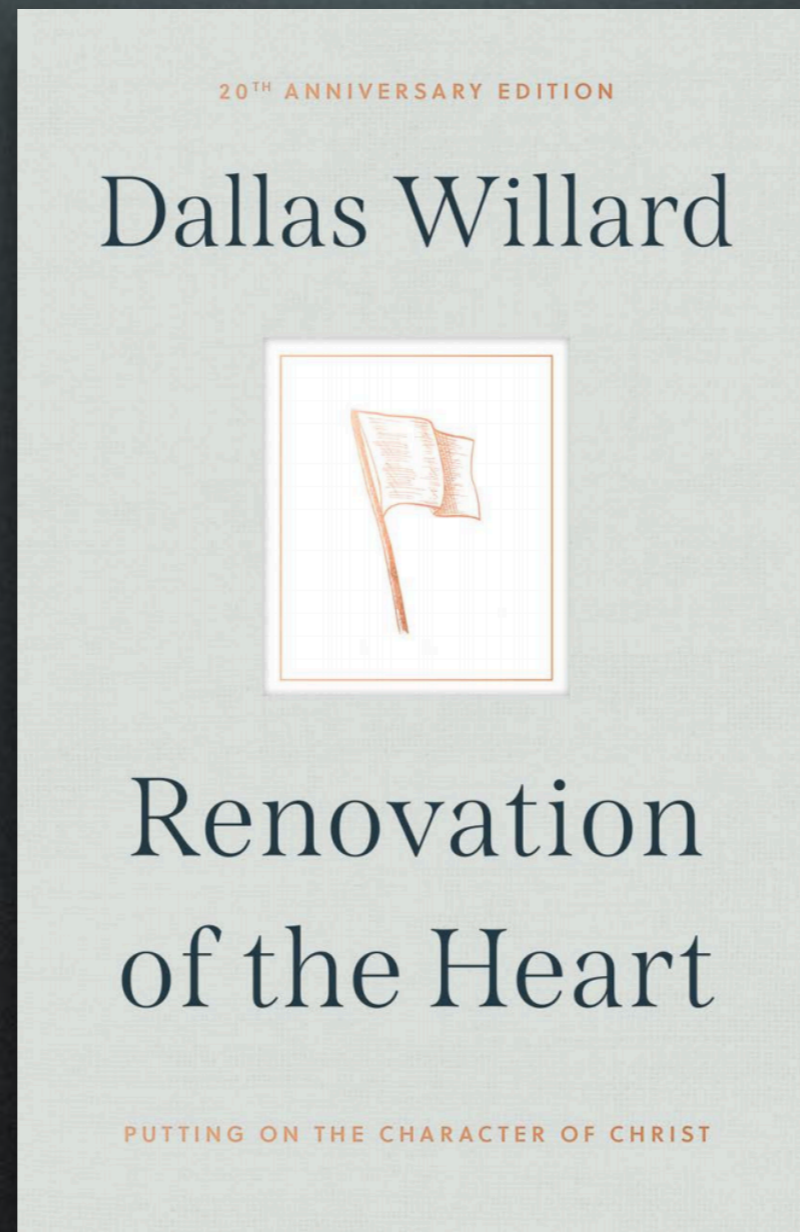


WELCOME to a thirteen week Course sponsored by
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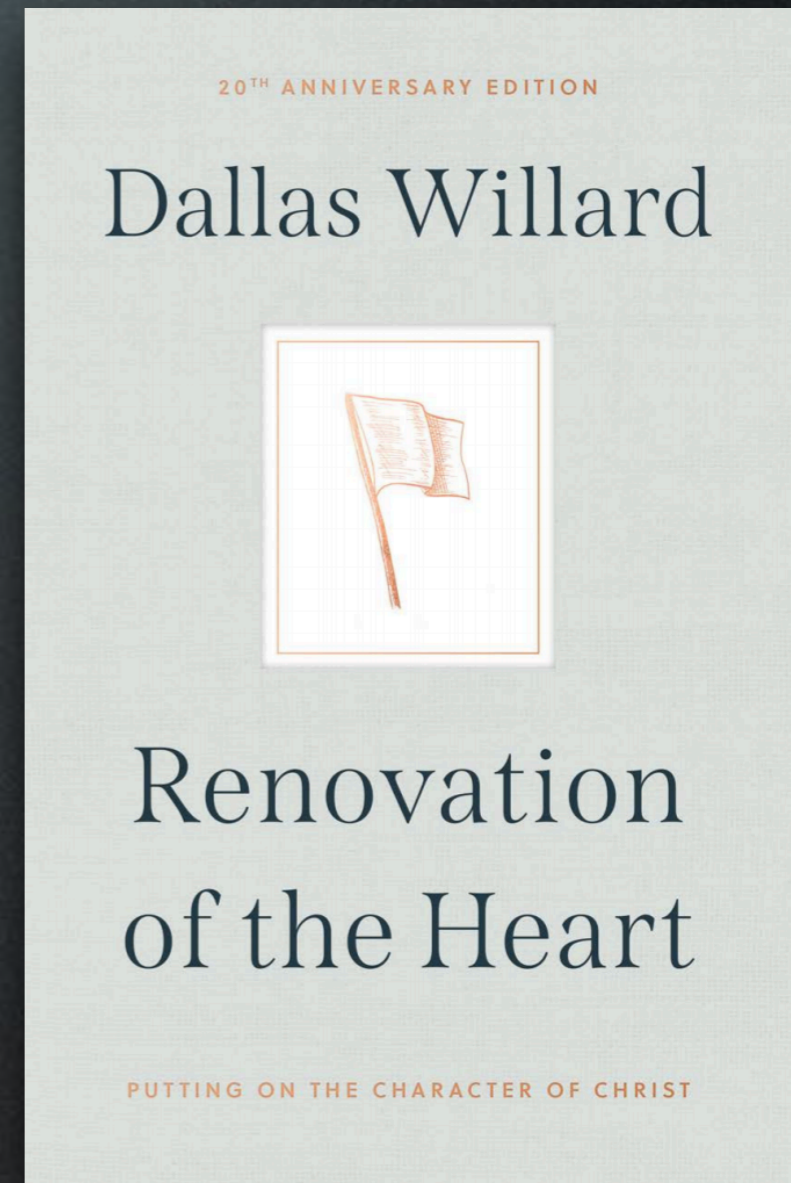
RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 5 - Chapter 5 - “Spiritual Change: The Reliable Pattern”



Session 4 Review

Laying down the burden
of having my way truly
resurrects with Jesus a
life full of Love, Joy,
Giving & Forgiving that
pulls together every
dimension of my life.



RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 5 - Chapter 5 - “Spiritual Change: The Reliable Pattern”

The effort to change our behavior without inner transformation is precisely what we see in the current shallowness of Western Christianity.



2021 Edition::77

2002 Edition::79

Blocks to Transformation

- 1.) IMPOSSIBLE – Transformation into Christlikeness is impossible...without the rigorous process of inner transformation initiated and sustained by the graceful (grace-full) presence of God. (77/79)

- 2.) MISERABLE – First, as long as we are in the depraved flesh, we remain, secondly, “just as wicked as anyone else”. Rather, we are “recovering sinners” running the unfinished race. (77-79/79-81)

- 3.) MERITABLE – It is not our self-righteousness, but our worth that is tied to human nature. The initiative is always God’s, but we receive His gift of grace through well directed and unrelenting action consuming unmerited grace by leading a holy life.(80/82)

2021::75-81

2002::78-82



“A good tree does not bear bad fruit.”



A GIFT OF GRACE

The transformation of the inner being is as much or more a gift of grace as is our justification before God. We consume the most grace by leading a holy life, in which we must be constantly upheld by grace, not by continuing to sin and being repeatedly forgiven.

(2021::81 2002::82)

Flashback to Chapter 1

A WAY OF GRACE AND REST

God has provided a methodical path of recovery. Grace does not rule out method, or method grace. Grace thrives on method and method on grace.

(2021::18 2002::25)

Projects of personal transformation rarely if ever succeed by accident, drift, or imposition.



Effective action has to involve order, subordination, and progression, developing from the inside of the personality.

Just waiting to see it “happen” is laughable.

2021::82

2002::83-84

العربية

Learning Arabic – Sign up for language courses, listen to recordings, buy books, associate with people who speak, Arabic, immerse yourself in the culture, practice, practice, practice.



Any successful plan for spiritual formation, whether for the individual or group, will, in fact be significantly similar to the Alcoholics Anonymous program.

2021::84

2002::85

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 5 - Chapter 5 - “Spiritual Change: The Reliable Pattern”

If we are to be spiritually formed in Christ, we must understand and implement the general pattern and all effective efforts toward personal transformation must follow – appropriate vision, intention & means.

If this V-I-M pattern is not put in place properly and held there, Christ simply will not be formed in us.

2021::84

2002::85

Why We Fail and Don't Grow

Those who are Christians by profession today, do not usually have, or not leading to, the V-I-M that would enable them to routinely progress to the point where what Jesus himself did and taught would be the natural outflow of who they really are “on the inside”.

And that is why today you find many professing Christians circling back to non-Christian sources to resolve the problems in their inner life.



2021::84

2002::85

V-I-M: **Vision** of Kingdom Living

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17

The stark vision of the Kingdom is where we must start.
It is the place where Jesus started.

What is the Kingdom of God? * - “The range of God’s effective will - where what God wants done is done.”

Psalm 93:1-2, 103:17; Daniel 4:3; 7:14; Luke 17:21, 21:32, 22:18
John 18:36-37; 22:18; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:1-2; Colossians 3:17

“partaking of the divine nature”

2021::85-86

2002::86-87

* — *The Divine Conspiracy*, chapters 1-2

V-I-M: **Intention** to be a Kingdom Person

“If anyone *WOULD* come after me,
LET them DENY...TAKE UP...FOLLOW.” Luke 9:23

We actually decide to trust Jesus, rely on Him, to count on Him being the Anointed — “the One”.

We intend to obey the precise example and teachings of Jesus. “Believing” is set to act as it is true.

The hardest thing — the level of real unbelief:
unformulated skepticism about Jesus.

Not “wished”, “wanted”, “begun”, or “professed”.
But, robust intention with inseparable decision.



2021::88-89

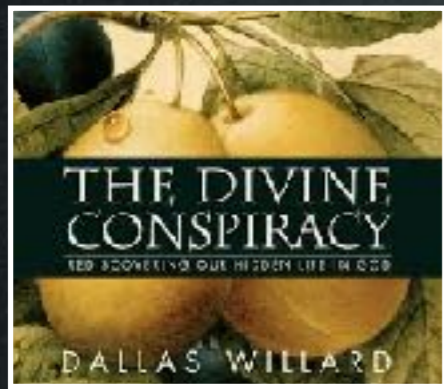
2002::87-89

The vision of life in God's Kingdom and its goodness provides an adequate basis for the steadfast intention to obey Christ...

...and it will naturally lead to seeking out and applying the means to that end.

2021::88

2002::89



How to Become a Disciple **The Power of Decision & Intention**

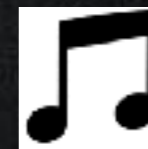
I rarely find any individual who has actually made a decision to live as a student of Jesus in the manner discussed in this book.

We do not drift into discipleship. (297)

We fail because we do not intend to be disciples. (298)

Intention and decision are absolutely fundamental to this matter of apprenticeship to Jesus. (299)

*“I have decided to follow Jesus.
No turning back, no turning back.”*



V-I-M: **Means** to to Obey Christ

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny HIMSELF...take up his CROSS...follow ME.” Luke 9:23

A “thicket of lostness” stands in the way.

START — Identify the thoughts, feelings, habits of will, social relations, and bodily inclinations that prevent me from obeying Jesus.

I find the MEANS of changing my inner being until it is substantially like Jesus.



2021::89
2002::89-90

How to Train “Off the Spot”

† STUDY & meditate on Christ and Scripture about God, the world, my life, especially Jesus in the Gospels.

† REFLECT deeply of the standard human way in contrast with the way of Jesus.

† PRACTICE explicitly self-sacrificial actions in less “demanding” situations.

† ABANDON “looking out for #1” (Ch. 4 - self-denial)

† OBSERVE well-known saints who lived Jesus’ way.

† LOOK closely at legal adversaries to see if I want to be a part of that.

† PRAY God will change my inner being to obey Jesus.

The Problem of Spiritual Transformation

...is NOT that it is impossible or that effectual means to it are not available.

...IS that it is NOT intended.

They (we) do not see it. They (we) have not been given a vision of life in God's Kingdom.

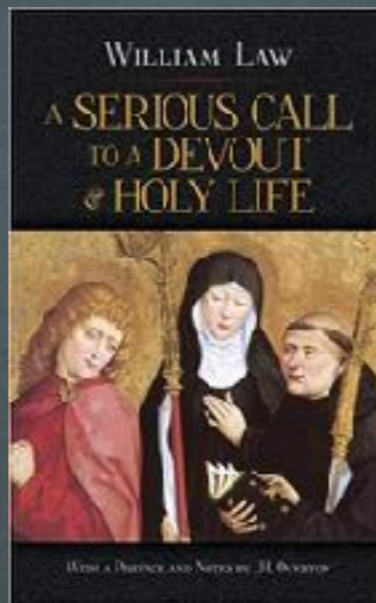
The V-I-M of Christ's life and life in Christ is not the intentional substance and framework of their (our) life.



2021::90-91
2002::91



“Intention”



“For let a man but have so much piety as to intend to please God in all the actions of his life as the happiest and best thing in the world and then he will never swear more. It will be impossible for him to swear whilst he feels this intention within himself as it is impossible for a man to please his prince to go up and abuse him to his face.

If you were to stop and ask yourself why you were not as pious as the primitive Christians were, your own heart will tell you that it is neither through ignorance nor inability, but purely because you never thoroughly intended it.”

William Law

A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life, p. 56-57

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



What if I met with some folks who loved me, and together they devised some simple disciplines to help me stop behaving a certain way?

80:00 + 10K

p. 56





Today's Experiment

What blocks my spiritual growth intentions?

- I lack adequate vision of life in the Kingdom.
- I haven't examined what Jesus said and did.
- I don't trust Jesus, rely on Him, count on Him.
- I think knowing the right doctrine is enough.
- I doubt who Jesus was here on Earth.
- I have accepted living by drift is normal.
- I have accepted myself as who I am.

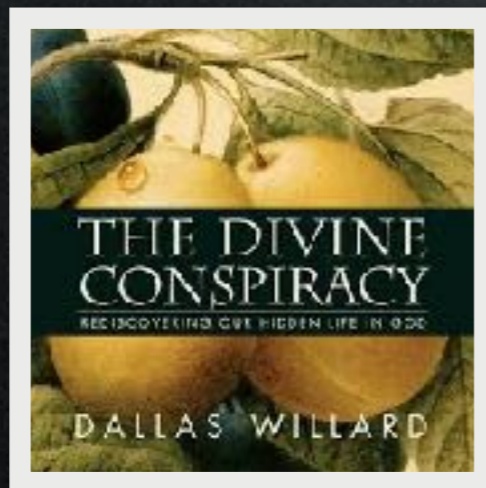
...I have not asked, "What is the way forward?"

80:00 + 10K

p. 61-62



Dallas Willard
“The V-I-M Principle”
[Run time 18:20-26:00]



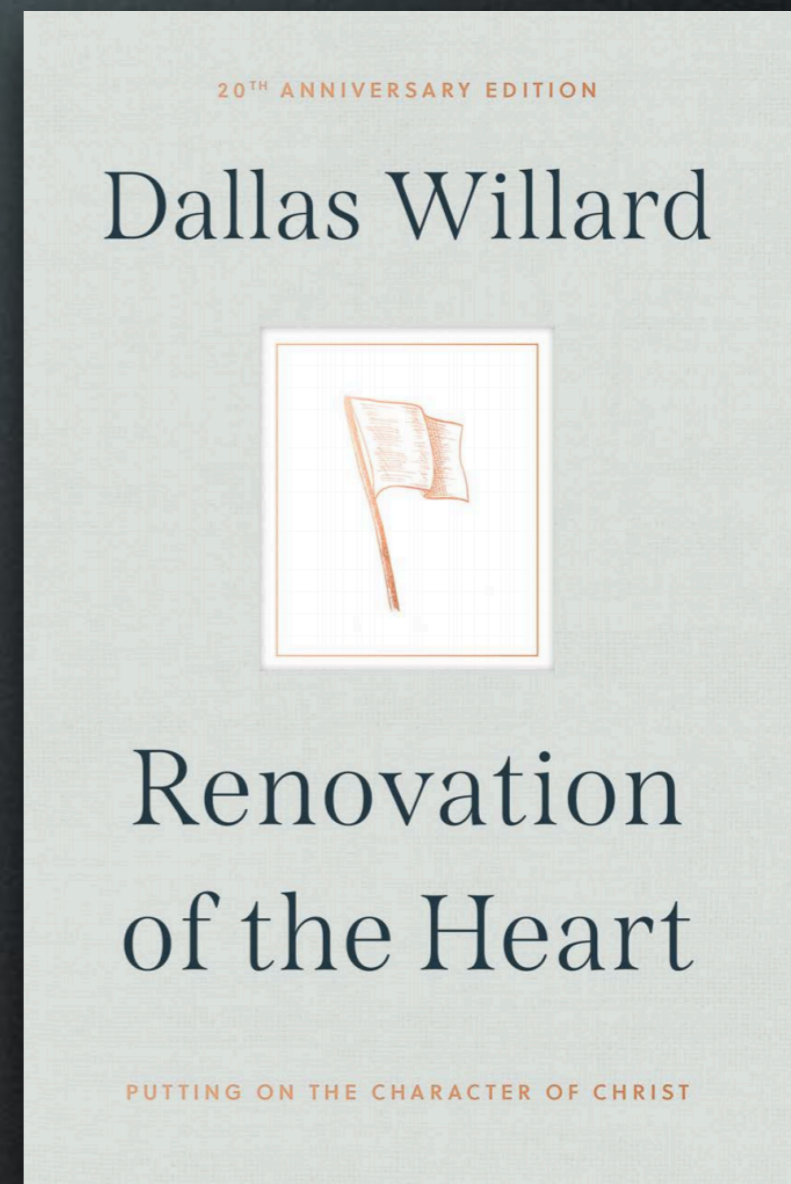
“The Divine Conspiracy”
Harvey Fellows Summer Institute, 2007,
Session #8 of 12

Session 5 Summary

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



Next Week — Session 6

“Transforming the Mind, part 1”

Chapter 6

Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice

Chapters 21-26



Enter the Divine nature in God's Kingdom in your next 10,000 minutes by reflecting on your intention to decide to discover daily means to live with Jesus to become like Him.

Doug

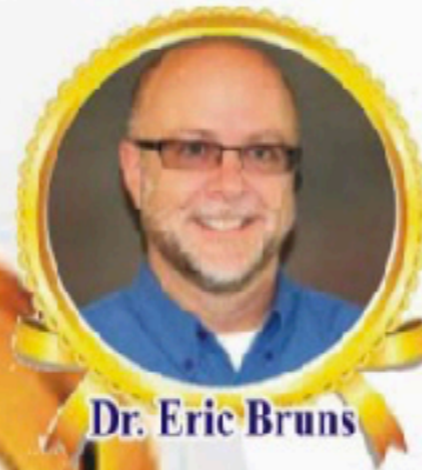
“So they are no longer two but one flesh, therefore what God has joined together , let no one separate” .

PAKISTAN COUPLES GATHERING 2023

Speakers



Pst Douglas Webster



Dr. Eric Bruns



Oladipo Shoyoola



Kona Brown

Date:

18 sep 2023

Monday evening 7pm to 10pm

Venue:

smart marriage hall kasur

Translator



Mr. & Mrs Asad Paul

Host



Mr. & Mrs Hezqiel Asad

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Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



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“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
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