

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



<https://dwillard.org/life-without-lack>

Dallas Willard's 8-part series on how to live in the reality of the 23rd Psalm was presented in 1991 as a mid-week evening Bible study at Valley Vista Christian Community, Dallas and Jane's home church. This content was published in *Life Without Lack* in 2018.

Here is a copy of his [original handout](#).

*NOTE: The audio quality is old, but the teaching is timeless!*

[God in Himself, Part 1](#)

[God in Himself, Part 2](#)

[Why There Are People on Earth](#)

[Why Such Lack and Evil?](#)

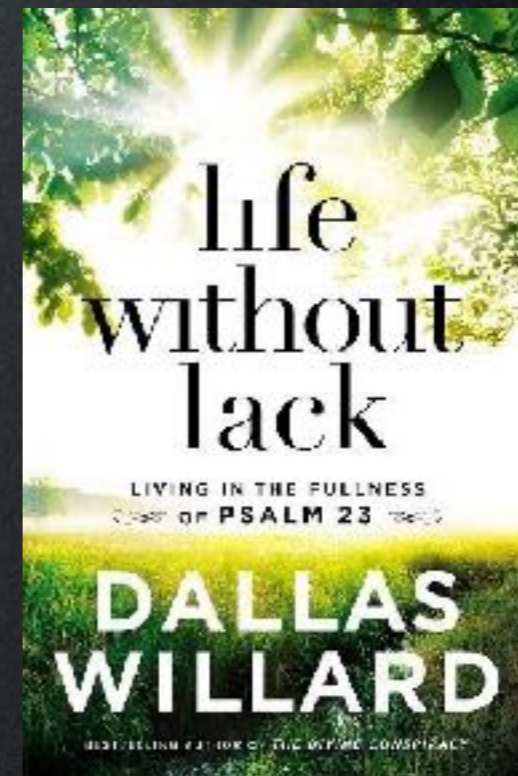
[Trust in God: The Key to Life](#)

[Trust and Death to Self](#)

[Sufficiency Completed in Agape](#)

[Through One Day With Jesus](#)

## AUDIO Teaching



## life without lack

REVIEW Session 1 - Chapter 1 - God in Himself (part 1)

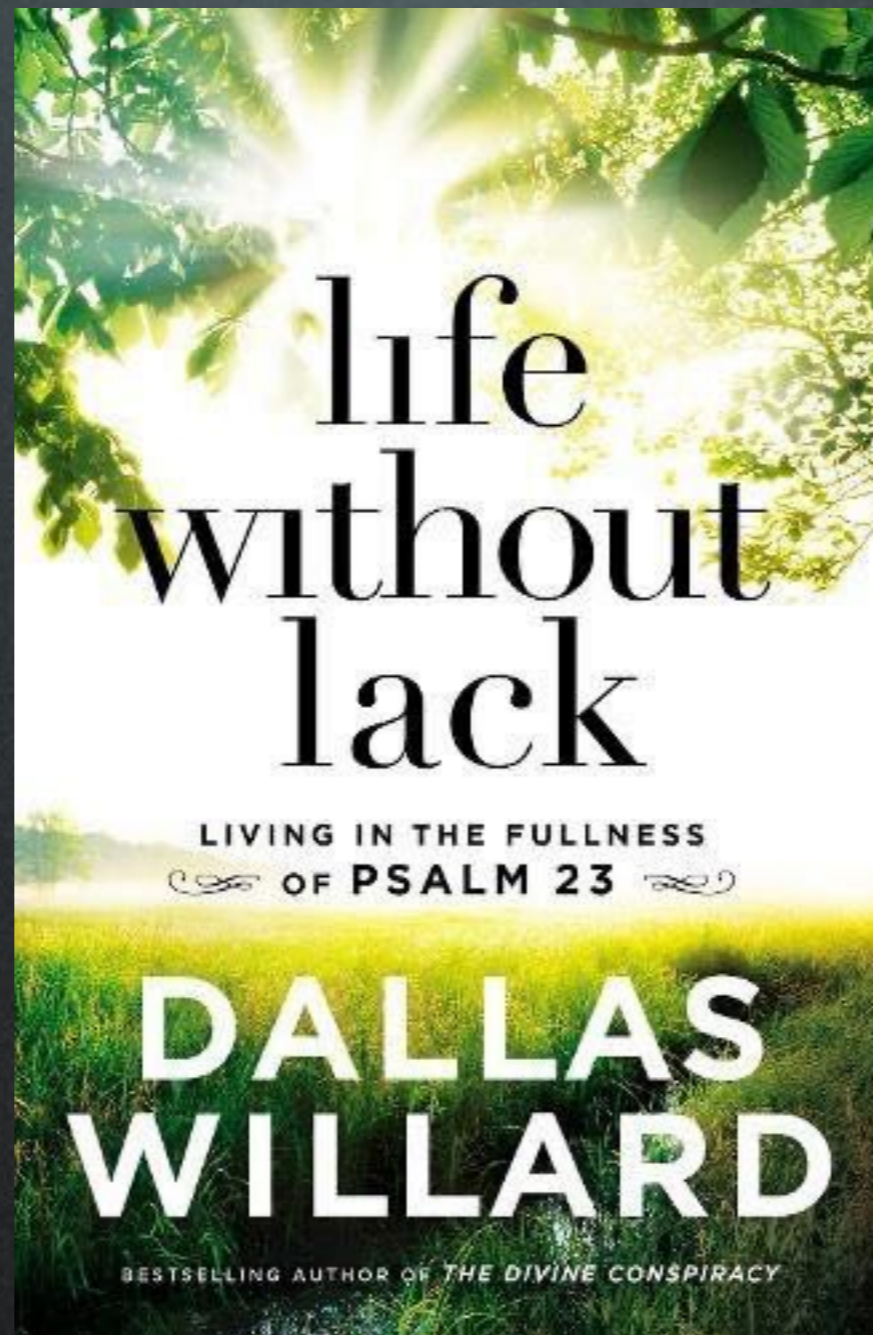
*“The Glorious Shepherd”*


God is an immaterial, intelligent, free personal being, of perfect goodness, wisdom, and power, who made the universe and continues to sustain it, as well as to govern and direct it in His providence. (18)

—> That is the Being upon whom a life without lack relies. Such a life is guaranteed for those whose minds are set upon this God in faith. (19)

# life without lack

Session 2 - Chapter 2 - God in Himself (part 2)  
*“Living in Mindfulness of Our Magnificent God”*



A scenic view of a sandy path leading to a beach at sunset. The path is bordered by a rustic wooden fence made of logs and posts. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and the sky is a mix of orange and yellow. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

God loves to give. God  
loves to forgive. God loves  
to just gush forth with his  
goodness... Nothing so  
delights him as giving to  
anyone and everyone who  
will receive.

adapted from *Life Without Lack* by Dallas Willard

## life without lack

Session 2 - Chapter 2 - God in Himself (part 2)

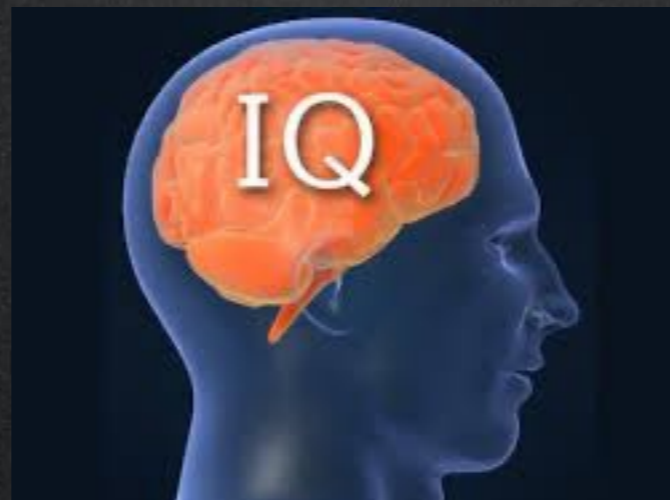
*“Living in Mindfulness of Our Magnificent God”*

The secret to a life without lack is rooted in our knowledge of God. When that knowledge is absent from our minds, everything goes to pieces.

(24)

Review: Your primary contact with God is through your mind, and what you do with your mind is the most important choice you have to make. Wherever your mind goes, the rest of your life goes with it.

(25)



When Jesus came, He essentially said to people,

“Forget everything you think you know about God and I’m going to tell you what He is really like.”

Yahweh is my Shepherd!

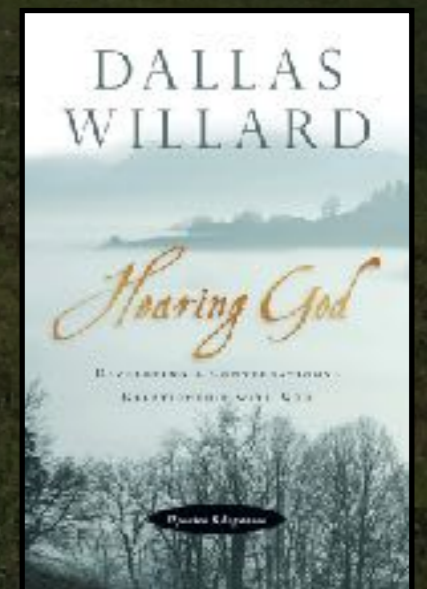
God is a being who cannot *not* be.

(25-26)



In the last analysis, nothing is more central to the practical life of the Christian than confidence in God's individual dealings with each person. The individual care of the shepherd for his sheep, of the parent for the child and of the lover for the beloved are all biblical images that have passed into the consciousness of Western humanity. They pervasively and essentially mark our art in general culture as well as a religion. Not only conservative and liberal Christians, high-church and Penecostal, but also Christian and Jew, and even Jew and Muslim, come together in saying, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack for nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters." Psalm 23:1-2

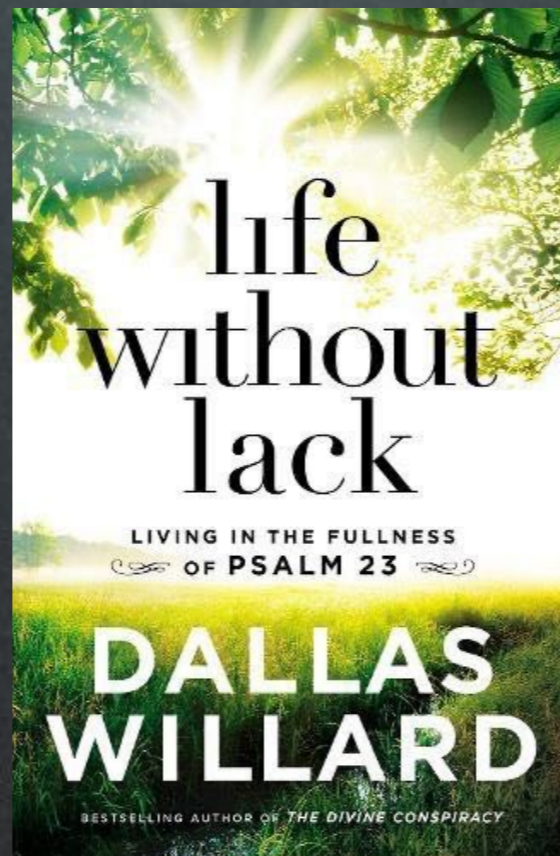
Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*, p. 27





You are reading this book now because the invisible side of you decided to do so, directed by your body to do the necessary things, and now here you are...reading.

(27)



the invisible originating the visible = free will

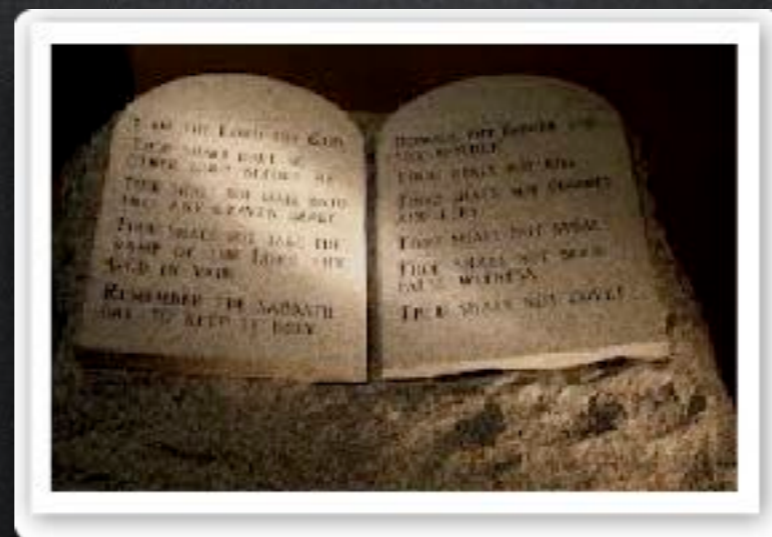
## **A Big No-No: Confusing Anything with God (28-30)**

2nd Commandment: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image.” (Exodus 20:4)

3rd Commandment: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” (20:7)

Idol - To degrade God to the level of a created being.

God — Ultimate, Invisible, Personal Power (9-10)



## **A Long Education in the Same Direction**

At what point do we finally come to the place where we can use God's name without doing so "in vain"?

After we have come to know Jesus Christ. *John 17:5-6*

God is a being who is glorious and perfectly safe.

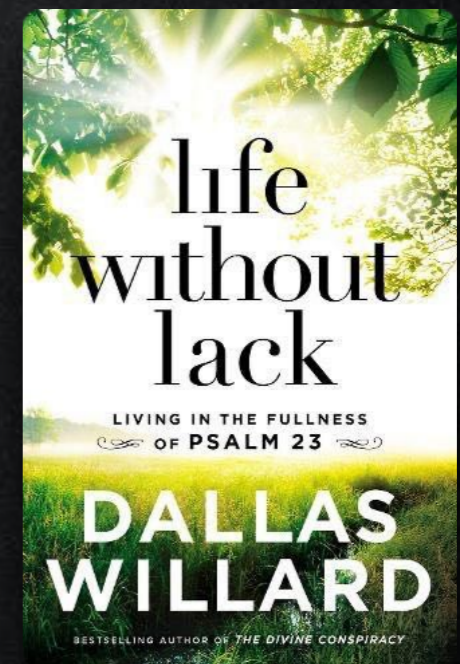
When you give God your highest praise, He will always be deserving of more. There is absolutely nothing that God lacks. The overflowing sufficiency that we will experience when Yahweh is our Shepherd lies in the all-sufficiency of the Shepherd Himself.

(30-31)



Those who take time to increasingly come to know and trust God as He truly is, are laying the sure foundation of a life without lack.

(31)



## **Come to Think of it, There's Nothing to Fear**

My objective here is to help you think about God, and to do so correctly in accord with the truth about the kind of being God is.

I'm also asking you to think about yourself and what kind of being you are. I want to help you think things through and come to a correct understanding of matters. This will lead you, together with the Lord, into actions based on this truth.

*Jesus taught us not to be afraid  
of those who can kill the body.*

You can live completely without fear.

(32)



FEAR

## **What do you fear?**

If you will take the time required to come to know and trust God as He is, and ask the Lord to give light to your mind, you can come to a place of perfect peace and fearlessness. This is precisely what the Shepherd Psalm is talking about. (32)

The transformation of the self away from a life of fear and insufficiency takes place as we fix our minds upon God as He truly is.

(33)

*Because God is  
with you, you can  
live without fear.*

**I Am the Good Shepherd :: Jesus Christ is Yahweh**

*Ephesians 3:8; John 10:17-18*

At the center of these riches is Christ Himself, that being of complete self-sufficiency we have been focusing upon.

He is the Shepherd Lord of the 23rd Psalm,  
Yahweh in the flesh!

He was completely and totally without fear.

*Why?*



(33-34)



Jesus is the first person who ever fully lived Psalm 23:1,

*“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”*

His union with His Father was such that He never knew lack or fear.

The Father was Jesus’ Shepherd, just as Jesus is ours.

As Jesus knew no fear, so can we.

(34)



## **Who Jesus Is (34-35)**

To see how a life without fear is possible, you need to look deeper into who Jesus is.

The deep end of the theological pool - the nature of God as triune: God's infinite, loving personality to be multiple in itself and in its creative activity. This is why God created the heavens and populated them - to develop love.



## Who Jesus Is

God is personality. He treats other personalities and, out of the plentitude of His being, He loves them.

*1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 3:19; 1 John 4:18*

At the center of so many of our difficulties is fear. What is the answer to all our fears? Love.

The love that comes out of plentitude - out of the fullness of God's sufficiency.

To fear is to be tormented.

But to be loved perfectly - and to know it - is to be free of fear's torment. (35)



FEAR

**Let 'er Rip**

Hebrews 11:35-38

Because of the nature of God and His kingdom...

*“Let the worst happen, and God and I will go on together  
in the abundance of His being.” (36)*

Jesus is a manifestation of that glorious reality.

The Insignificance of Bethlehem - “The last first and  
the first last” is primarily a declaration of the limitless  
Kingdom of God.

The life that the Son knew before His incarnation...  
glimpses that were meant to provide us with a vision  
of a life without lack. *John 17:24 (37-38)*





## **Glimpses of Glory & Self-Sufficiency**

God's power is meant to be at the disposal of human beings.  
(38)

*The Transfiguration - Luke 9:28-36*

Advanced Training in Kingdom Ministry

He gave them a sight of His glory.

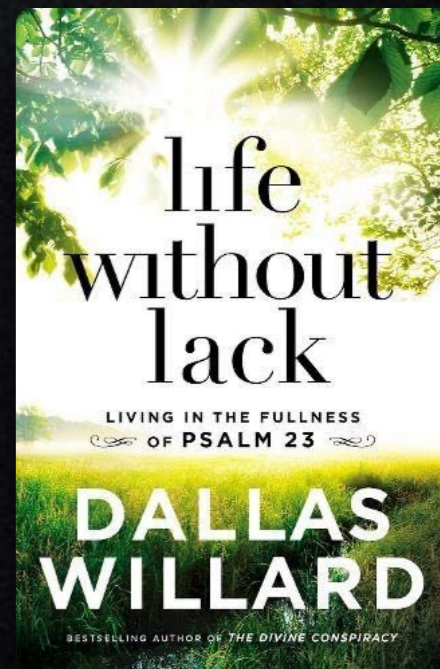
The greatness and grandeur of His Kingdom (40)

## Entering in Through the New Covenant

“Jesus the mediator of the new covenant”

Hebrews 12:18-24

In the new covenant that Jesus initiated, we are given a foretaste of this reality...the overwhelming abundance of this world in which God exists at the very center, in which He calls us to draw from so we may know a way of life without lack. (41)



## Coming to Grips with the Ineffable \* God

(def.) *“too great or extreme to be described in words”*

this is  
weird

If you're thinking this is weird, you're right. (42)

Exodus 19; 24:18; 34:28 - Mt. Sinai & Moses aglow

The 2nd Commandment - “Not make for yourself an idol”

God is so other that He is literally out of this world.

Israelites in the wilderness - Manna from heaven Deut. 8:2-3

“Hidden manna” Revelation 2:17

“I am the living bread” John 6:51

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has  
eternal life.” (v. 53-55)



## **From Glory to Glory**

Jesus was talking about being transformed into a completely new reality, a world of complete sufficiency, where all our needs are supplied by God. (45)

*“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

*2 Corinthians 3:18*



## More Glory to Glory...

you're  
weird “I don't need anything.” People will think you are weird.  
You are supposed to lack! (45)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

It becomes a matter of one person reminding another of the full sufficiency of God. Notice the word “reminding”. It really should be *re-minding* because the first two chapters we have been talking about getting new minds on God. (II Cor. 3:18) (46)

*“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

*Romans 12:2*

This is the key to a LIFE WITHOUT LACK, that we would have the mind of Christ – our Shepherd, who knew first hand the complete and perfect SUFFICIENCY of our magnificent God. (46)



*The radiant SUFFICIENCY of the Shepherd provides the life without lack.*

*(48)*

# *The Triangle of Sufficiency*

**Faith**  
*"Trust"*

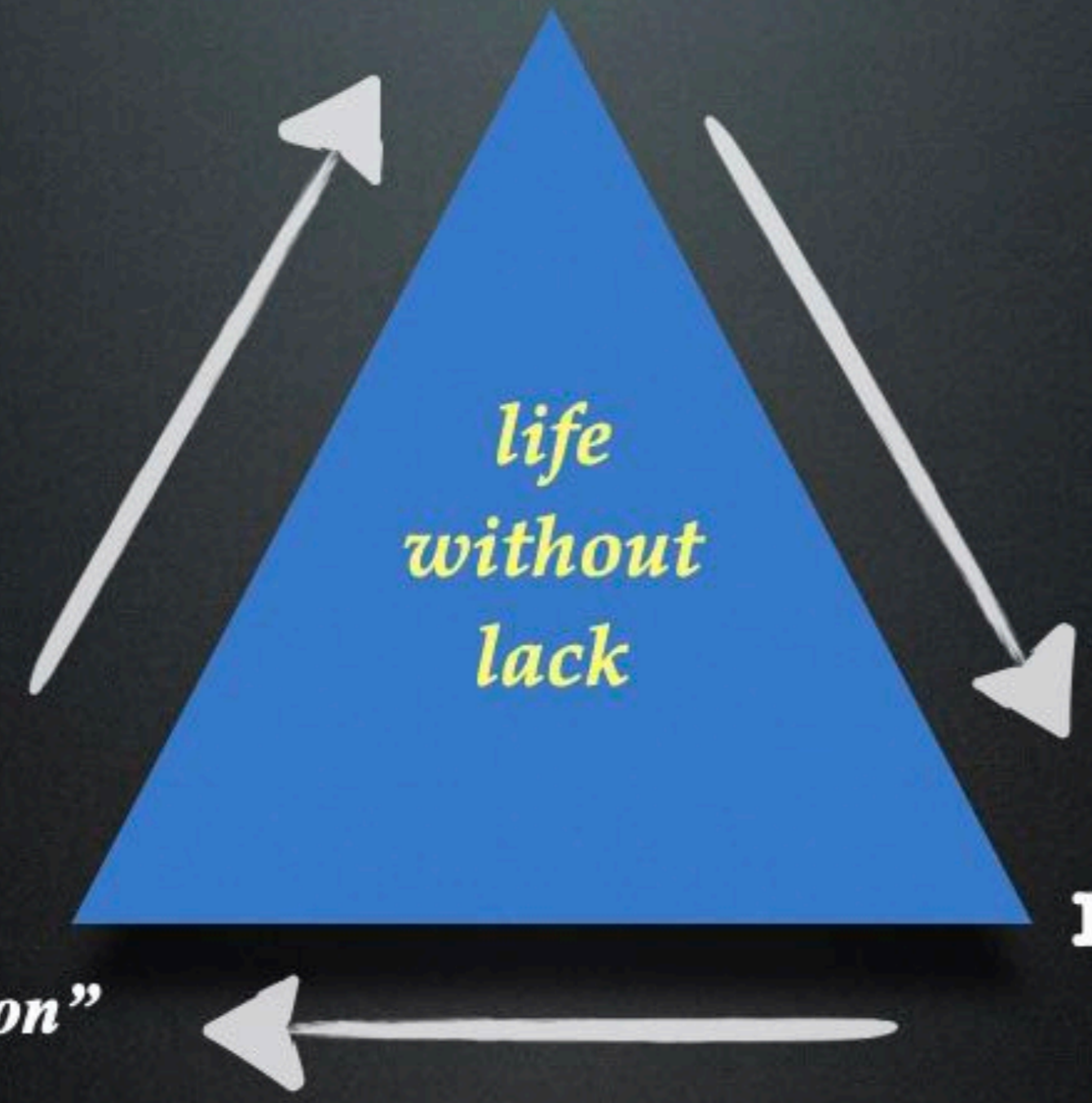
*life  
without  
lack*

**Love**

*"Good Disposition"*

**Death to Self**

*"Humility"*



# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

80:00 + 10K

**Meditation** — *Psalm 23:1, John 17:5-6*

**V-I-M in your next 10,000 minutes...**

**VISION** — What do I see in my mind driving my fear?

**INTENTION** — What do I “think” to know a glorious, magnificent God?

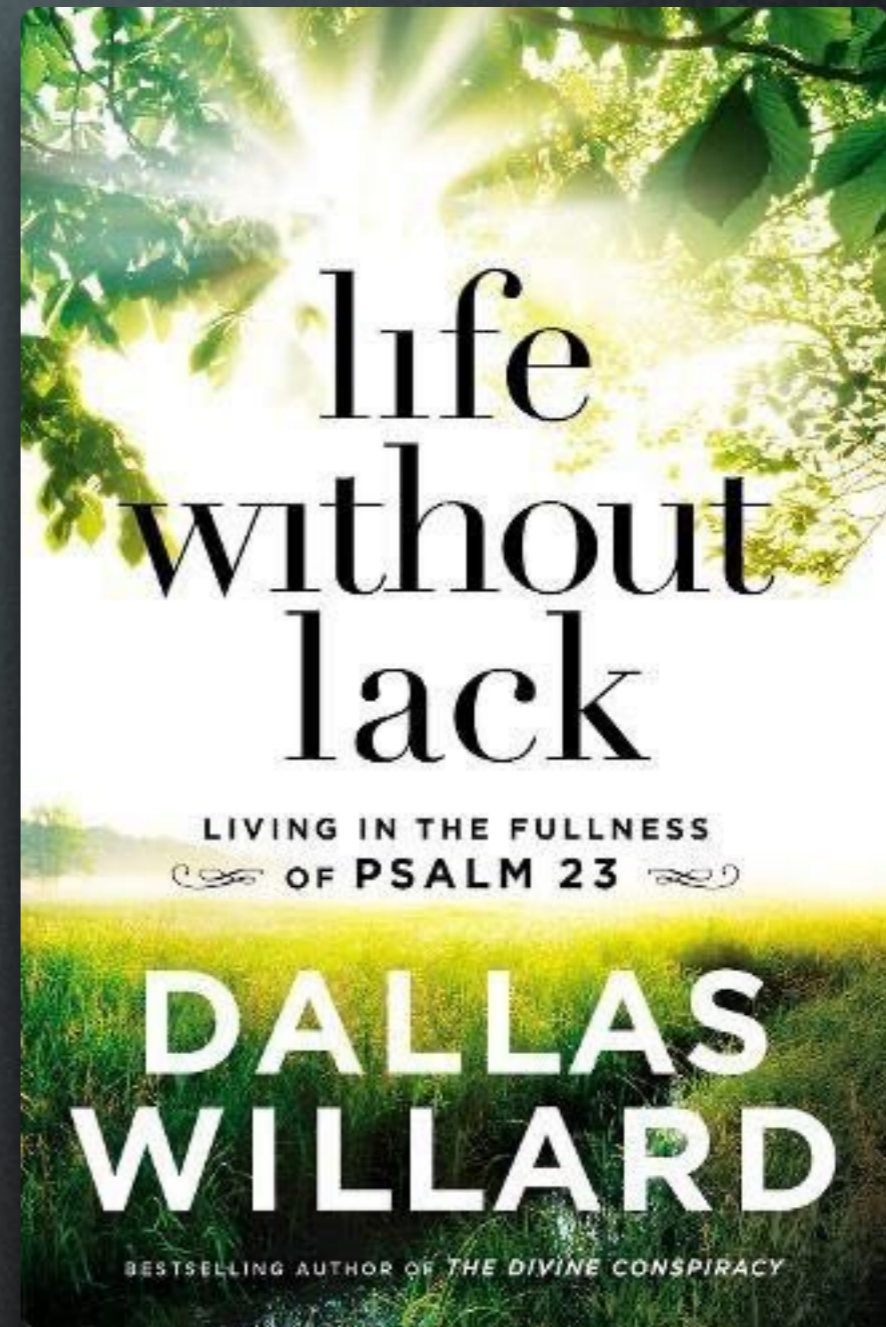
**MEANS** — How/when will I to take the time this week to know this “Being” better?



† Cross Fit

## Session 2 Summary

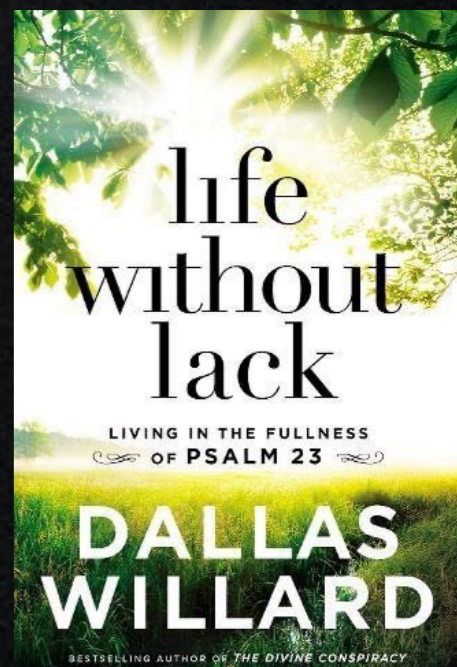
The key to a life without lack, that we would have the mind of Christ — our Shepherd — who knew first hand the complete and perfect sufficiency of our magnificent God. (46)



## Next Week — Session 3

Chapter 3 - “Why are There People on Earth?” (p. 49-66, Hardback)

Read Genesis 1-2 and Ephesians 3 for next week



May the invisible Father  
of the visible Shepherd  
become more real in  
your next 10,000  
minutes to change your  
mind of Christ!

*Doug*

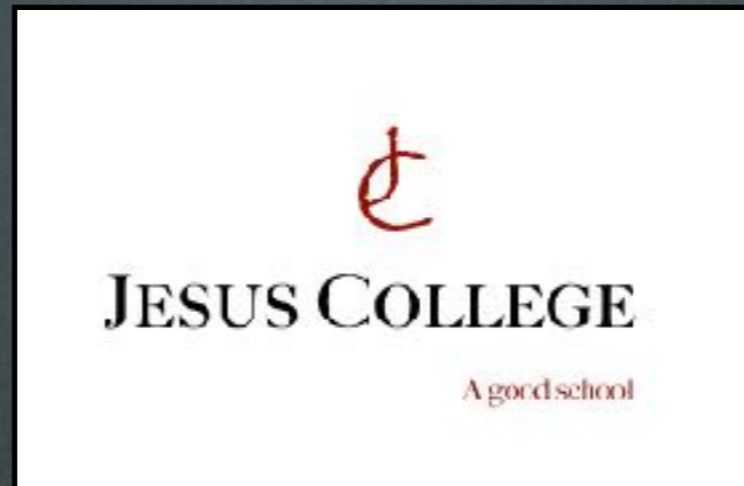






THE SCHOOL  
of  
KINGDOM LIVING

**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”*

**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.

**The Storehouse of Jesus College** - Over 360 [FREE downloadable resources & links](#) offering the good life in the person, work, teachings & life of Jesus through “Eyes to See” visual resources and “Ears to Hear” audio resources, plus gatherings live & online provided by JESUS COLLEGE.