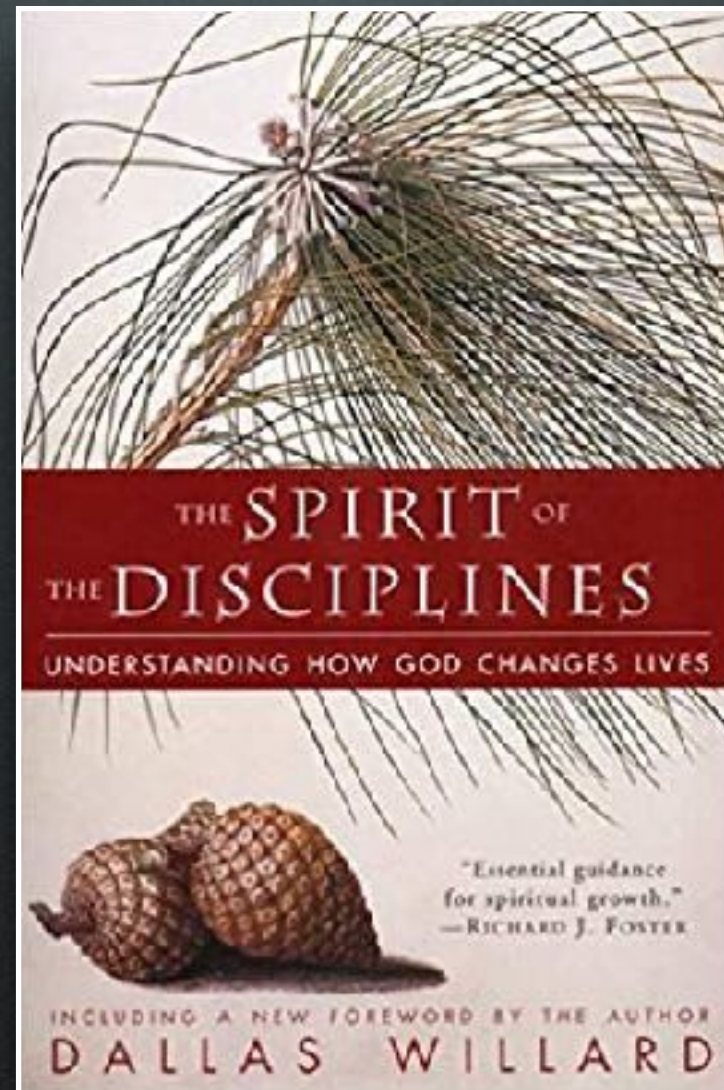


WELCOME to an eleven week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 4 - *"Little Less Than a God"* - Chapter 4



Session 3 Review

Salvation is participating in the indestructible life of Jesus found in the enduring reality and openness of the Kingdom of God that will never end...nor will we.

Session 1 Review

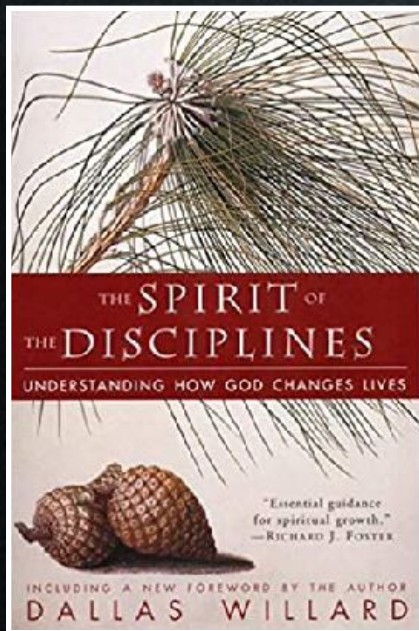
We need to do two things:

- 1.) Take human transformation seriously
- 2.) Clarify and exemplify realistic methods

Session 2 Review

The practice of spiritual disciplines by grace in ordinary people brings the human personality into the fullness for which we were made.

The secret of the easy yoke is to choose to live your life the way Jesus lived His life.





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The Spirit of the Disciplines

Session 4 - "Little Less Than a God" - Chapter 4

Why Are We Here?

[Chapters 4-6] are devoted to an explanation, from the biblical viewpoint, of who we are and what spiritual life is.

(Chapter 3, p. 42)

What "salvation" is depends upon what is being saved.

It is the nature of what is being saved that determines how it can be at risk and loss.

Between the Dustheap and the Heavens

The sober truth is that we are made of dust, even if we aspire to the heavens. (46)

What is man that thou art mindful of him,
and the son of man that thou dost care for him?
Yet thou hast made him little less than God,
and dost crown him with glory and honor.

Psalm 8:4-5

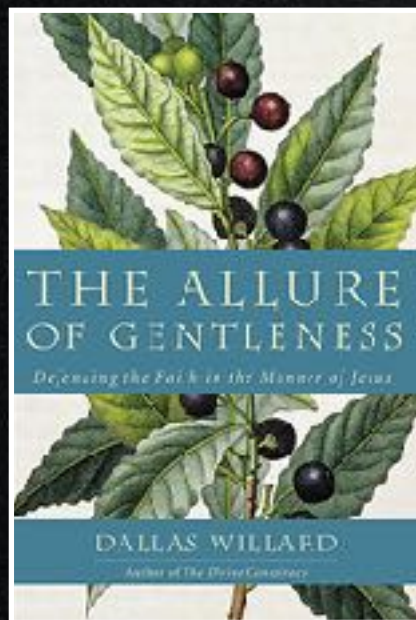
An indication of our greatness - God pays attention to us, meets us, and gives us work to do...
the work assigned to us at creation.

What were we originally put here to do?

(47)

Humankind - “The Crown Jewel of Creation”

“4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-7



Now this is what human history is about. Christlike people living together with the kind of love the members of the Trinity have.

Dallas Willard,
The Allure of Gentleness, 95-96



The Imago Dei

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27



The Imago Dei

Imago Dei = “Christlikeness” (48, 49, 50, 51, 53)

1.) Created to govern the earth (47-49)

Perception • Conceptualization • Valuation • Action

2.) To live right with God & Others and
to rule the earth with God (49-52)

Then God said, “Let us make man in OUR IMAGE, after OUR LIKENESS; and let them have DOMINION over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

Genesis 1:26

The Imago Dei and the Human Body

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being. *Genesis 2:7*

The potential power of “matter” — our bodies — comported by character, our pattern of habitual ways.

$$E=MC^2$$

We can stand with God or in opposition to God.

We are not puppets.

The human body is the vehicle through which we can effectively acquire the limited self-subsistent power we must have to be truly in the image and [Christ]likeness of God.



The Imago Dei and the Human Body (continued)

Central to understanding *the psychology of redemption* is the term “flesh”:

(def.) The natural physical substance of a person.

The power to interact with others, creation & God.

In the fall in Eden, Adam & Eve experienced the death of their interactive relationship with God. And with this loss came the loss of the power to rule over the earth with God.

(55)



Flashback to Chapter 3

One of our most important tasks – make clear how and why the use of the body for positive spiritual ends is a large part of our share in the process of redemption. (30)

The human body was made to be the vehicle of human personality ruling the earth for God and through His power. (42)



We are a little less than God only because our life is of such a nature that it can draw upon the infinite resources of God.

(55)



This original job description for humanity hints at a power far beyond what it now possesses independently of God's Kingdom order.

I believe men and women were designed by God, in the very constitution of their human personalities, to carry out His rule by meshing the relatively little power resident in their own bodies with the power inherent in the infinite Rule or Kingdom of God.



(54)



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Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

80:00 + 10K

Meditation – *Genesis 1:26-28 & Revelation 22:5*

Application

- 1.) How does chapter three's discussion of "salvation" influence my understanding of what is "saved"?
- 2.) What does it mean for me to train now to rule with God for all eternity?
- 3.) What does the "imago Dei" reveal to me?
How does it impact my self-image and self-esteem?

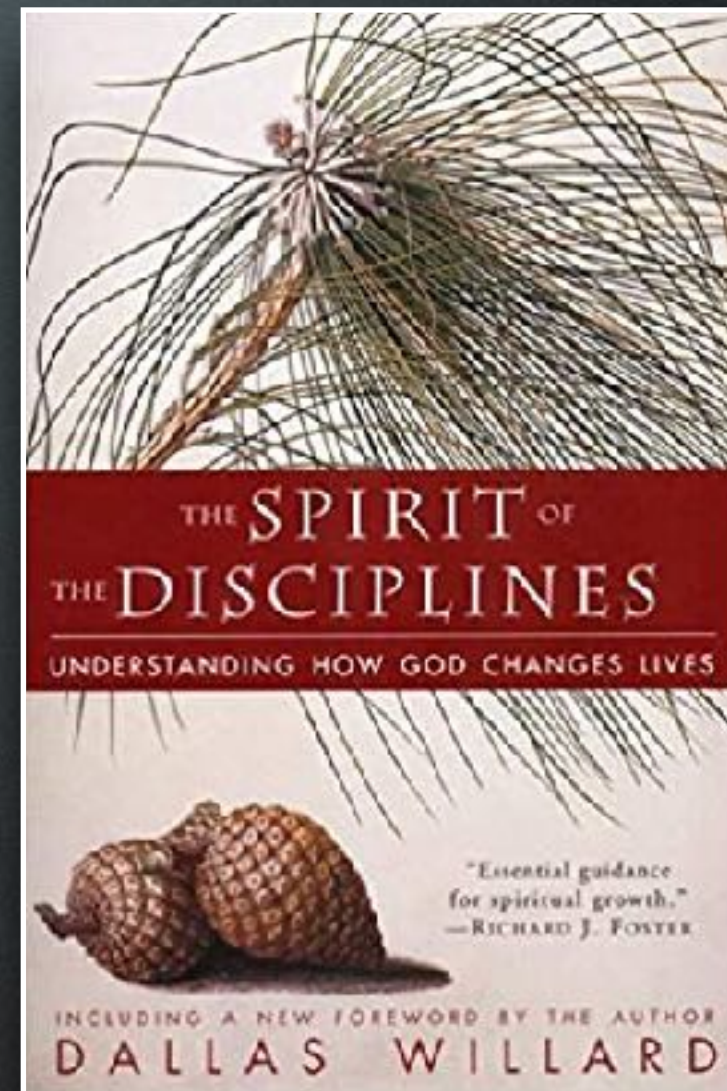


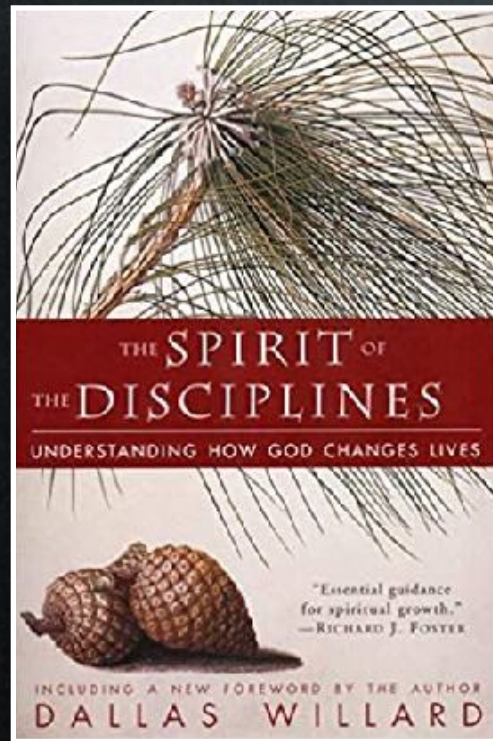
† Cross Fit

Session 4 Summary

We were created to reign with Christ over a new heaven and a new earth.

Redemption is the grace-filled process of restoring Christlike character to handle divine power in our bodies to train us to carry out our vast, impossible assignment of dominion.





Next — Session 5

“The Nature of Life” Chapter 5

To understand how such power is possible for us within the limitations of our finite bodily being, we must look more deeply into the nature of life and especially at its surprising abilities to transcend itself — to pursue its course by means of a substance that lies beyond it. (55)

A divinely unsearchable power is at your fingertips...literally, as you grow in Christlike character fleshed out in your bodily choices in the next 10,000 minutes.

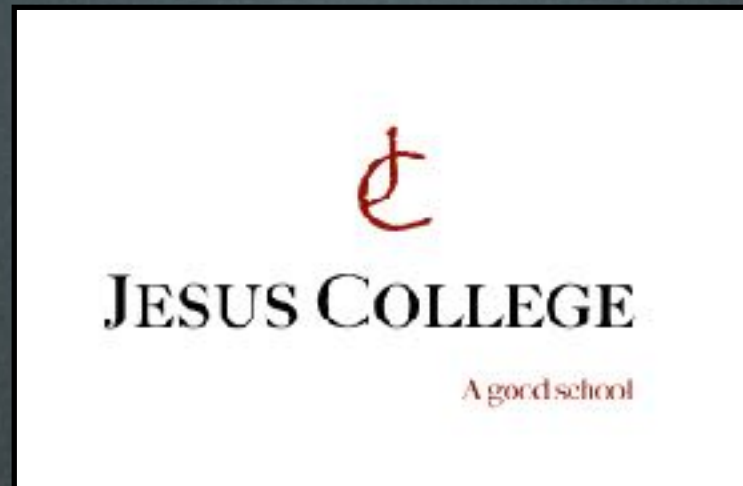
Doug



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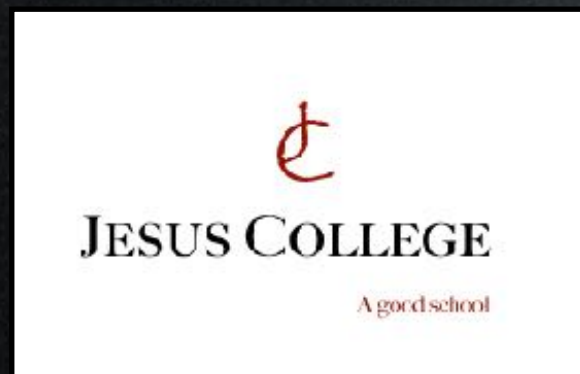


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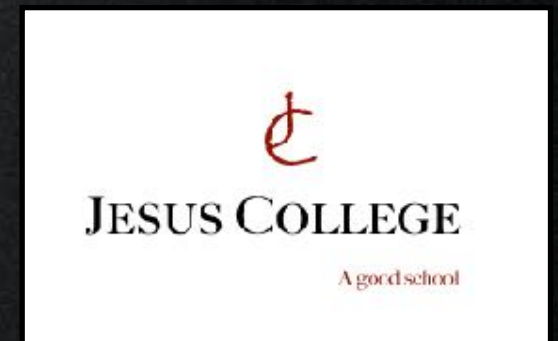
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