



WELCOME to a 3 week Course  
*“Spiritual Formation as a Natural Part of Salvation”*  
Dallas Willard, Wheaton College, 2009  
sponsored by Jesus College





## **The Course Vision**

To offer grace & truth to overcome an almost insurmountable barrier into Christlikeness.

## **The Course Intention**

- \* Proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of God.
- \* Teach spiritual transformation as depicted in the Bible.
- \* Present spiritual disciplines for training into *Christlikeness*.
- \* Provide weekly encouragement and accountability.

## **The Course Means**

- \* 3 interactive sessions with optional, extended Q&C.
- \* Study Guide (40 pages) and spiritual growth practices.
- \* A Cadre of the Christlike from A-Z — Australia to Zambia



*“Spiritual Formation as a Natural Part of Salvation”*

**Format** - 30 minutes

- Welcome, Focus & Review
  - Session Highlights
  - Your Q&C’s
  - Summary & Blessing
- — —
- After: Optional more Q&C

Recorded sessions, slides,  
& study guide in the  
[Jesus College Library](#)



# Your apprentice scout *Doug Webster*

- \* Following Jesus for 50 years & working with Him since age 18
- \* Vanguard University & Fuller Seminary
- \* The Spirit of Jesus through the teaching of Dallas' awakened Jesus College in me a dozen years ago.
- \* This is our our 34th course engaging over 3150 students from 58 Countries.
- \* Jesus College's "Master's in the Master" spiritual training just graduated 17 students in December!
- \* A blessed family of 17 + Sadie







# “SPIRITUAL FORMATION AS A NATURAL PART OF SALVATION\*\*”

Session 1 - “Problems with Spiritual Formation Today”

Video Part 1 - 0:00-20:25

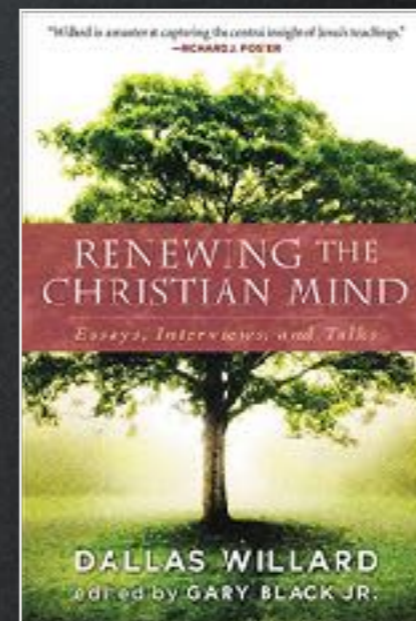
Session 2 - “Christian View of Salvation”

Video Part 2: 20:25 - 49:45

Session 3 - “Grace & Spiritual Disciplines”

Video Part 3: 49:45 - 1:13:00

\*\* Published as Chapter 26 —>





# “SPIRITUAL FORMATION AS A NATURAL PART OF SALVATION”

Session 1 - “Problems with Spiritual Formation Today”

[Video Part 1 - 0:00-20:25](#)



I - “Spiritual Formation” Clarification

II - What does being “Saved” have to do with Transformation?

III - The Problem of Soteriology - “Salvation”

IV - Grace



*Let us venture further up, further in...*





*“Test yourself to see if you are in the faith.  
Examine yourselves or do you not recognize this  
about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you unless  
in deed you fail the test.”*      *II Corinthians 13:5*



## **The Problem: Salvation Today as We Know It**

Given prevailing understandings poses almost insurmountable barriers of professing Christians into Christlikeness which is the meaning of spiritual formation in Christ.

Spiritual formation happens to everyone. It is like an education. You get one whether you want it or not.

The question is which one do you get?

\* Hitler or Mother Theresa both got one.









Being saved, hence being a Christian, has no conceptual or practical connection with transformation into Christlikeness.





# Transformation in the New Testament

Romans 5:1-5

Colossians 3:4-17

II Peter 1:2-11 - *"Brilliant passage"*, Willard



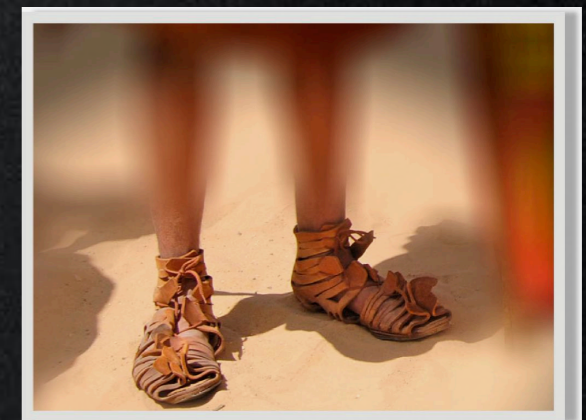


Such transformation is presupposed in the New Testament's massive descriptions of normative behavior. It shines in the lives of the great ones.

All of this appears like near or distant galaxies in the night sky. Visible somehow, but inaccessible in the conditions of life as we know it. Hence, you will rarely meet an individual seriously engaged in transformation depicted in the Bible and in church history or even has a hope for anything like that this side of Heaven.

You might think Christian organizations might have such transformation as their central focus but it turns out to not be true.

They are doing something else.





# Session 1 - “Problems with Spiritual Formation Today”

## I. “Spiritual Formation” Clarification

*Is Not...*

- Primarily behavior modification, though modification of behavior certainly is an outcome of it.
- Outward cultural form - Lutheran, Benedictine, Quaker, Baptist, or Priests. It that’s all = more Scribes & Pharisees leaving untouched inward character, the source of action.

*Is...*

- The process of reshaping the inner side until it has, to a substantial degree, the character of the inner dimensions of Jesus Himself: His Mind, heart, peace, and joy.

*Formation of the human spirit by the divine Spirit.*



## The Outcome of Spiritual Formation

“The Lord is one God. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength and love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Corinthians 13, Romans 5:5; Colossians 3:14, II Peter 1:7

High points culminating in agape love

“He who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me and will be loved by my Father and I will love him and will reveal myself to him.” John 14:21





## The Outcome of Spiritual Formation = Agape Love

Jesus is talking about the connection between loving Him and becoming the kind of person who routinely does what He says.

“Love does no wrong to the neighbor.

Love is the fulfillment of the law” Romans 13:10

“The one who says, ‘I have come to know him’, and does not keep his commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him.”

1 John 2:4



We have almost made a cultural form of saying we know Him but we do not keep His commandments.

The aim is not legalistic frenzy. The aim is not to obey.

The aim is to become the kind of person who takes obedience seriously and easily and routinely obey as a result of devotion to Jesus and consequently taking Him as Lord, teacher and friend.

The aim is to know Him, be devoted to Him in this inclusive manner.







## **II. What does being “Saved” have to do with Transformation?**

For almost everyone in Western Christendom, being saved has essentially nothing to do with it.

The Basic Nature of Salvation — All notable, theological and ecclesiastical positions claim you can be right with God in ways that do not require, routinely support and advance transformation. They often might include:

- Professing right doctrine
- Association with a denomination or group
- Sympathy with what Jesus stands for
- Forgiveness of sins and Heaven nailed down



### III. The Problem of Soteriology - “Salvation”

100 seconds with Dallas...



“*Spiritual Formation as a  
Natural Part of Salvation*”

[13:20 - 15:00]



### III. The Problem of Soteriology - “Salvation”

Identifying as being saved = your sins forgiven.

Our question - How does “sins forgiven” relates to spiritual formation as a process and an outcome?

The background assumption:

*Justification is the entirety of salvation.*

Simply put, that is the problem.







*If you are justified, your sins are forgiven,  
then you are saved and you will be okay after your death.*

This is offered to convert people to Christianity.

Message — A theory of atonement: If you believe that Christ took your beating then you will not have a beating.

Exhortation — “You ought to have Him as your Lord, you ought to obey Him.” But, the “ought” does not follow “is”.

Result — There is no way to move from being saved in this sense to discipleship, then from there to spiritual formation or transformation.



## **IV. Grace** — *To get the complete picture*

Foundational Truth — Salvation by grace through faith.

Usually means — You can not contribute to salvation.

A pervasive passivity enters the scene.

Your faith in Christ is not something you do.

Grace is unmerited favor.

Great teaching by Dietrich Bonhoeffer — “Cheap grace”

Answer? Not make grace expensive, make grace active!

Grace is taught as something that happens in God or on the records up there but not something that becomes a reality in the life of those that who are saved. When the transaction is done, it is done and salvation is complete.

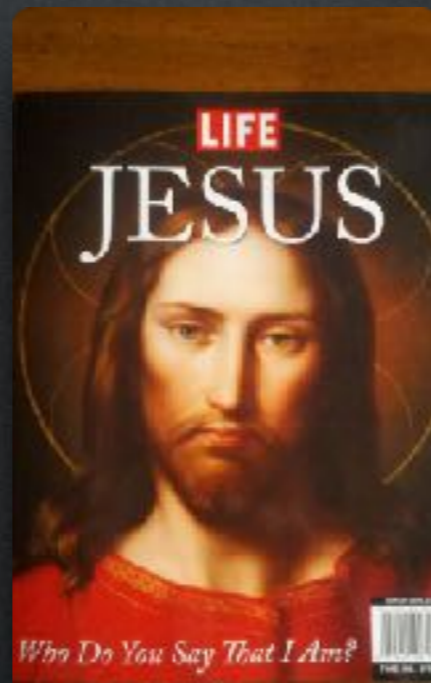
Some still have to service the account — Sacraments, periodic repentance and efforts to do better, re-baptism, behave certain ways or lose salvation.



## Summary of Session 1

**The Problem** — If salvation is the same thing as justification, forgiveness of sins and assurance of Heaven, we can not come to see spiritual formation as a natural part of salvation.

**The Effect** — Omission of spiritual formation into Christlikeness as a serious objective in a “mere justification” salvation produces nominal Christians.





# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A





Whether you are in Southern California or South Africa, The Netherlands or Nigeria, each one of us is a steward of 10,080 minutes every week. If you spend 80 minutes weekly in personal study plus our course discussion, you have 10,000 minutes to flesh it out in your ordinary life. Each session offers life application to help you make every effort to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



**Meditation** — Romans 5:1-5 pondering “Salvation”

## **Application**

- 1.) What does it mean to me to be “saved”?  
Saved from what? Saved to what?
- 2.) Why do I think there are not more professing Christians living like Jesus?
- 3.) What does “grace” mean and where and how does it happen to me?







80:00 + 10K

## Two Videos to Complement Session 1

#1 — [The Divine Conspiracy, Chapter 2, “Gospels of Sin Management” - Webinar Session](#)

Link to a 30-minute teaching & PDF slides on this chapter.

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#2 — “The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”  
[Lecture #5](#) @ 1:10:20-End

Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel  
12-part video series





## Next Week — Session 2

“Christian View of Salvation”

20:25 - 49:45



“*Spiritual Formation as a Natural Part of Salvation*”

Invite others

Register — [info@JesusCollege.com](mailto:info@JesusCollege.com)



May your experience  
and practice of grace  
in your next 10,000  
minutes amaze you  
today, not just  
postmortem,

*Doug*







Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns  
*“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”*

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs  
*“Training to be proficient in willing the good”*



**Jesus College Mission** - To Empower Apprentices of the Master Teacher Jesus as the One, great truth to live a good life found in Him.

**Jesus College Vision** - Equipping Trainers—Parents, Pastors, Professionals, Professors, Politicians—to mentor Senior Apprentices who will make Apprentices of Jesus.

• **Courses** • **Resources** • **Gatherings** • **Relationships**

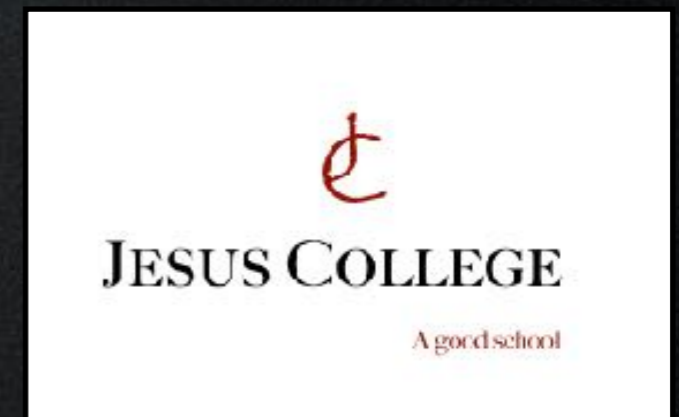
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