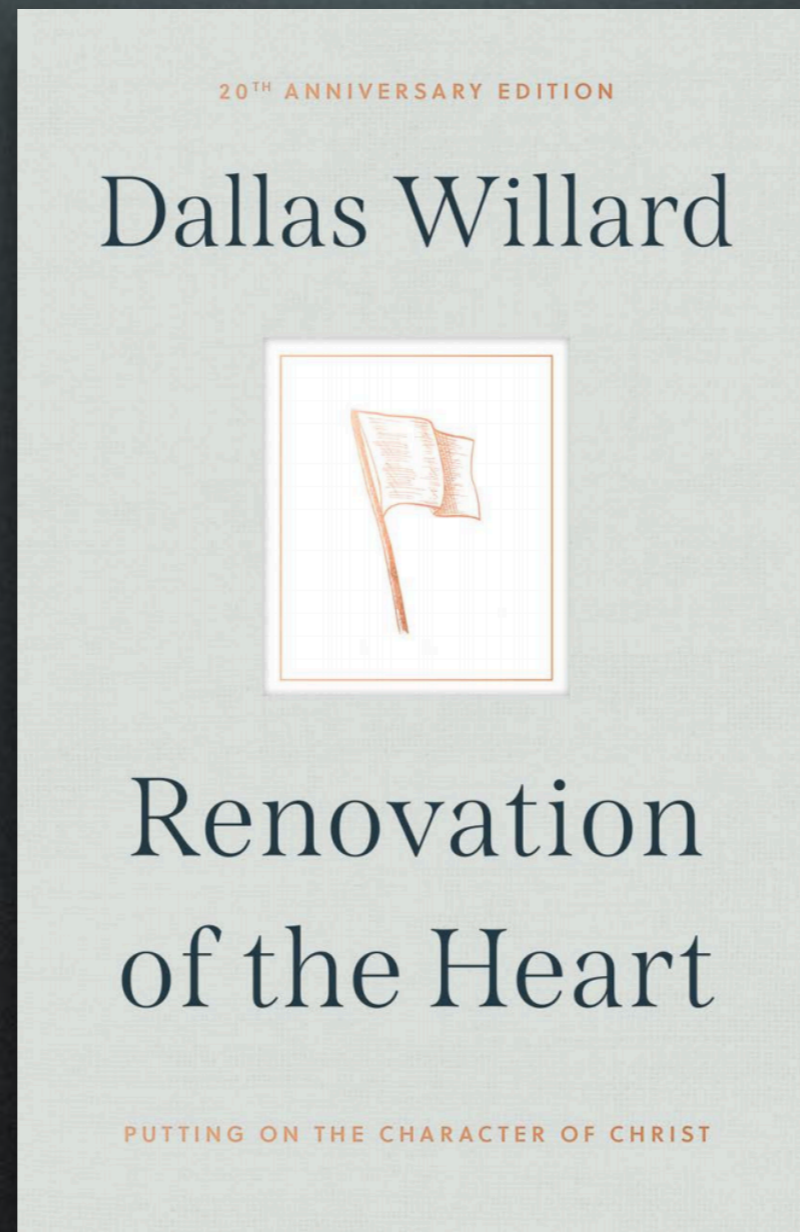


WELCOME to a thirteen week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 8 - Transforming the Will & Character - Chapter 8



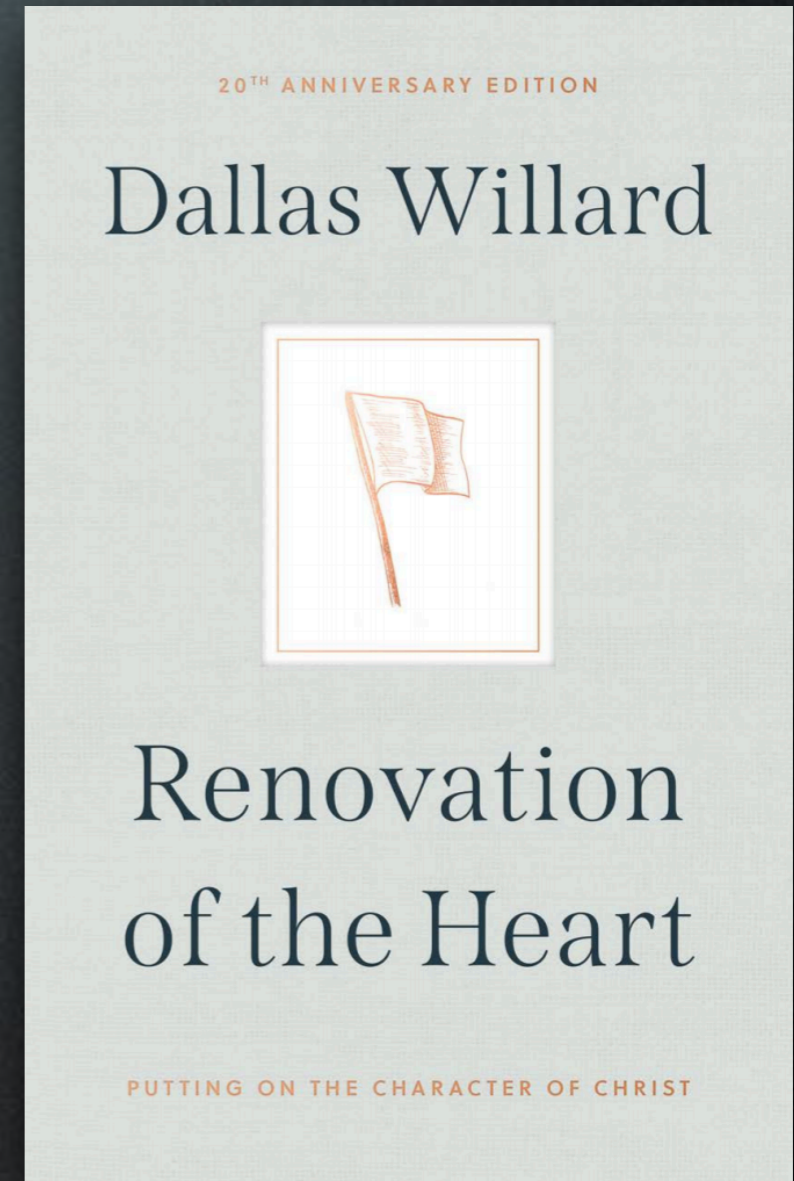
Session 7 Review

Feelings compel us but do not have to master us.

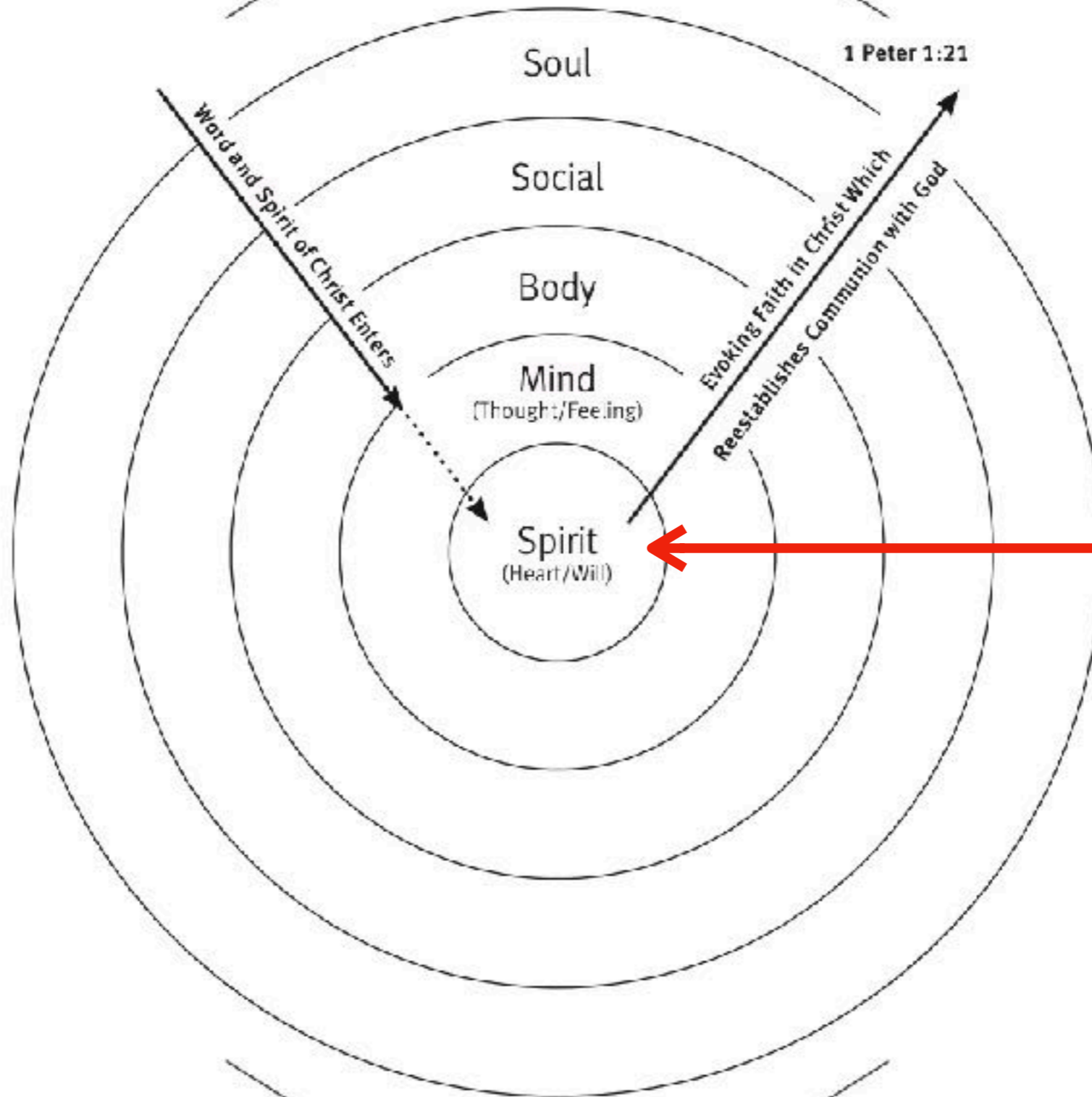
“Those who let God be God get off the conveyor belt of emotion and desire that lead to the buzz saw of sin.”

2021::121

2002::119



Infinite Environment



1 Peter 1:21

Word and Spirit of Christ Enters

Evoking Faith in Christ Which Reestablishes Communion with God

Spirit (Heart/Will)

Mind (Thought/Feeling)

Body

Social

Soul

Infinite Environment

Six Dimensions of Human Nature

“Spirit” (Heart/Will) Dimension

2021::33
2002::38

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 8 - Transforming the Will & Character - Chapter 8

By this point we are beginning to get a glimpse of what those renovated in Christlikeness look like:

- **THOUGHTS:** A thought life centered on God in His goodness and greatness = on Truth

- **FEELINGS:** A rich array of positive feelings that naturally accompany love, joy and peace, along with their foundational conditions of faith and hope.

But such conditions are NOT produced without massive changes in our other dimensions!

2021 Edition::145

2002 Edition::141

How the Mind Depends Upon the Will

CHARACTER - The internal, overall structure of the self that is revealed by our long-run patterns of behavior and from which our actions more or less automatically arise.

- Credit Reports • Resumés • Letters of Reference

“Will” alone can not carry us to change.

But “will” implemented through changing my thoughts and feelings can change a kind of person.



2021::146

2002::142

The purpose of this book...
and our lives.

Our Will & God's Will

Q — What does a will or heart look like that has been transformed into Christlikeness?

“I always do things that are pleasing to Him.”

Jesus of Nazareth, John 8:29

A — Single minded and joyous devotion to God and His will, to what God wants for us — and to service to Him and to others because of Him — is what the will transformed into Christlikeness looks like.

2021::147

2002::143





*“I always do things that are pleasing to Him.”
Jesus of Nazareth, John 8:29*

This outcome becomes our character —
our governing response of
every dimension of our being.

2021::147

2002::143

The Will

My will - comes from nothing else but me! *“Underivative”*

- The ability to originate.
- Who we are as individuals.
- The core of our non-physical being.
- To select what we will think on.
- The Executive Center of the human self (Ch. 2, 24/30)
- Our “consents and non-consents” William James

My Will is NOT the same as my Character.

Character is what we feel and do without thinking.

2021::148-149

2002::143-144

The Will and Human Dignity

Why is God not more obvious?

Why is God divinely conspiratorial?

Human Dignity — Freely chosen character.

The power of Choice!

But, the good is not automatic.

The human will is not only precious, it is a problem.

The Splintered Will

Manipulation - Deception - Seduction - Malice

“Freedom emerged in the forms of arbitrary — perhaps totally irrational — decision and action.”

2021::150

2002::145-146

Theology & Anthropology — God & Humans

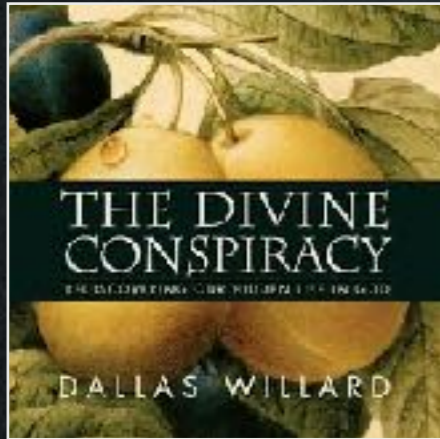
God permits there to be a world such as we live in, where the wills of human beings are often set on what is evil, wrong, or foolish and where even good and wise inclinations are frequently defeated by other components of the persons involved:

“the sin in our members” Romans 7:23

A person (or society) may be baffled and torn by the chaos and evil it finds within itself — as is the “modern liberal” person and society of today.

• Duplicity • • Deceitfulness • • • Darkness

2021::151
2002::147



What “sin in our members” Is

The patterns of wrongdoing that govern human life outside the Kingdom are usually quite weak, even ridiculous.

They are simply our habits...automatic responses of thought, feeling and action. Typically we have acted wrongly before reflecting. That leaves us constantly in the position of having to deal with what we have already done.

Dallas Willard
The Divine Conspiracy, 343



• **Duplicity** • • **Deceitfulness** • • • **Darkness**

Desire  PRIDE  Fear

We conceal and pretend leading to...
deeper deception & darkness leading to...
taking charge of our life and world.

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?

“I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind,
to reward each person according to their conduct,
according to what their deeds deserve.”

Jeremiah 17:9-10

2021::152

2002::147-148

God Hears the Heart

The Heart (Will, Spirit) is precisely what God observes and addresses in human beings – who we are; who we choose and have chosen to be.

What God wants can only come from there.

He seeks godly character in us and for us to fulfill the eternal destiny He has in mind for us.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:13



2021::153

2002::148

Surrender: Willing for God to be God +

Abandonment of all circumstances =

Contentment: steady tone of Gratitude & Joy =

Participation in the Divine Drama

God has done and will do well by us. Romans 8:28

Training to Reign — *Romans 5:17; Revelation 22:5*

Our part is to begin as best as we can!



2021::155-157

2002::150-152



The Path of the Surrendered Will

One thing!

Unentangled from the spiritual inertia of untamed desire.

“In our fallen world, very few people live with a focused will.” Dallas

“PURITY OF HEART IS TO WILL ONE THING.” SOREN KIERKEGAARD

“Seek first the Kingdom of God.” Jesus of Nazareth



2021::157

2002::152

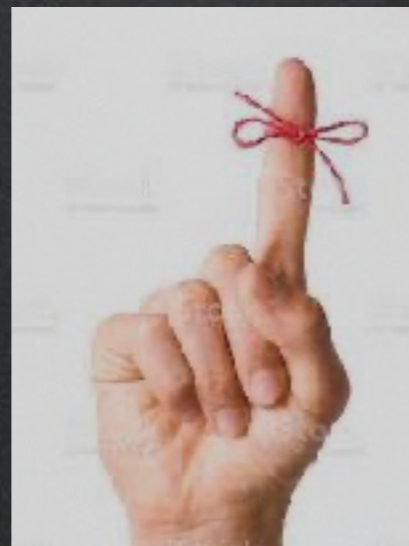
Getting Unentangled...of the Will from Desire

*Let us firmly decide to begin with what God said.
Then to never mislead people, never to do or say things
merely to cause pain or harm.*

Let us decide that today, right now.

Lying and malice are foundational sins...structural evil.

We discover that it is no simple task. Spiritual formation cannot be a matter of just changing the will itself.



2021::160

2002::155

The Role of Spiritual Disciplines

To make room for the Word and the Spirit to cause the duplicity and malice and destructive feelings — normally clothed in layers of habitual self-deception and rationalization — to surface and be dealt with.

Δ3 **Disciplines of Disengagement** (Retreat)

solitude, silence, fasting, frugality,
chastity, secrecy, sacrifice, watching

Δ3 **Disciplines of Engagement** (Advance)

prayer, study, meditation, memorization, worship,
celebration, service, fellowship, confession, submission,
simplicity, obedience, generosity, giving, guidance, pilgrimage

2021::160-161

2002::155-156

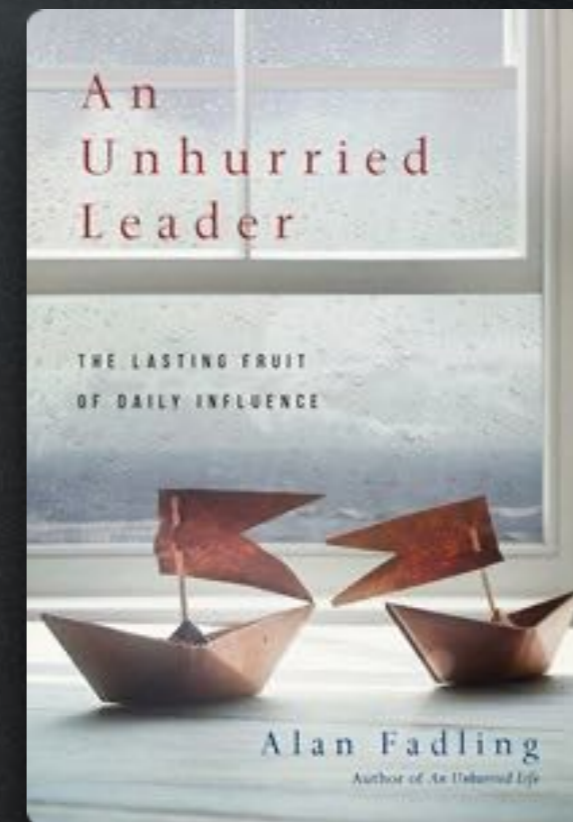
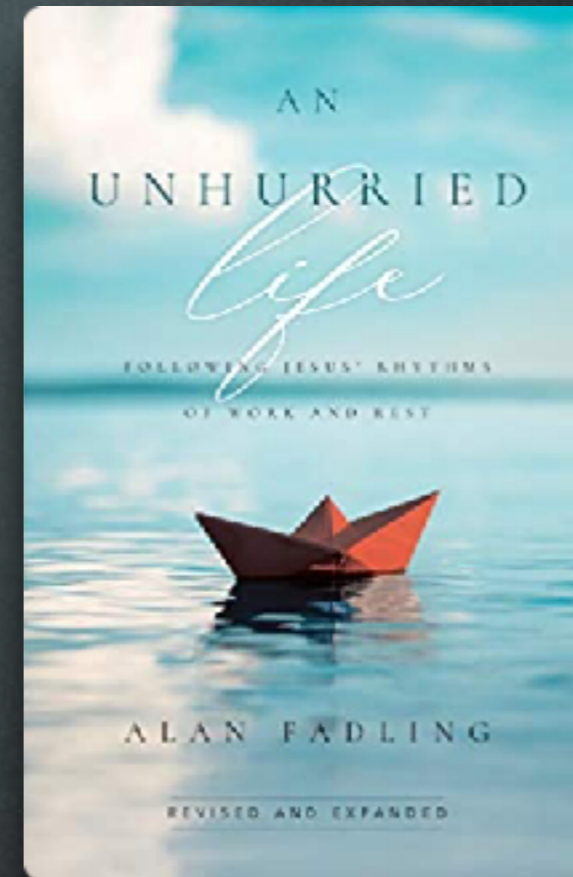
Getting Unentangled thru Spiritual Disciplines

“Our extreme busyness may be revealed as inability to trust God or unwillingness to give others a chance to contribute.”

Dallas Willard

2021::161

2002::156



The Sweet Will of God

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:2*

For the first time we have a will that is fully
functioning, not at war with itself.

We have a clear identity in the eternal Kingdom of God
— an eternity embedded in our own life and in the lives
of those near us.



2021::161
2002::156

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



Disciplines create space for the retraining of our thoughts, feelings and will.

We see ourselves as we truly are, and the games of duplicity are over.

80:00 + 10K

p. 108



80:00 + 10K



Today's Experiment

Identify the issues you are sick and tired of muddling over. (103)

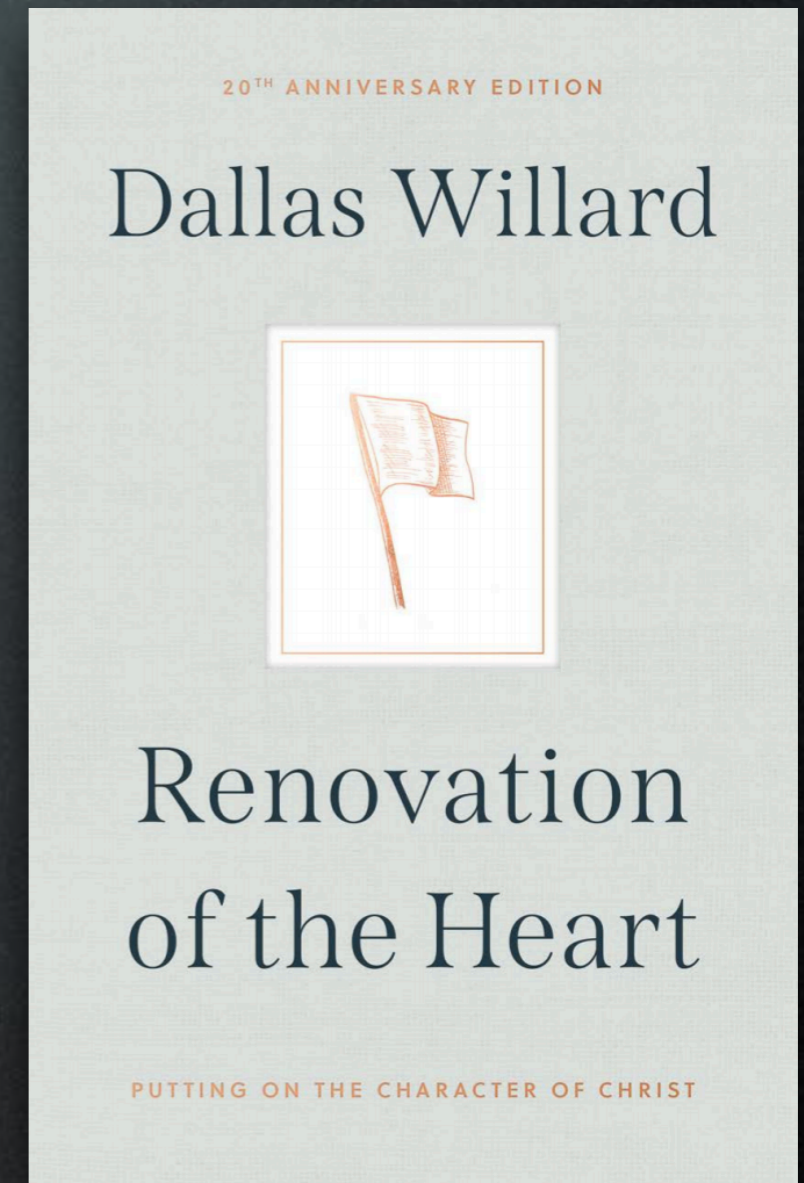
What sort of discipline has God been nudging you toward? (109)



Session 8 Summary

Transforming the will (heart, spirit) and character is also the task of spiritual formation. Thoughts and feelings depend upon the will (choices), and the will depends upon the contents of the mind (thoughts, feelings). They are an interlocking whole.

By God's grace and our decision, we can see our will grow into godly character.



Next — Session 9

“Transforming the Body”

Chapter 9

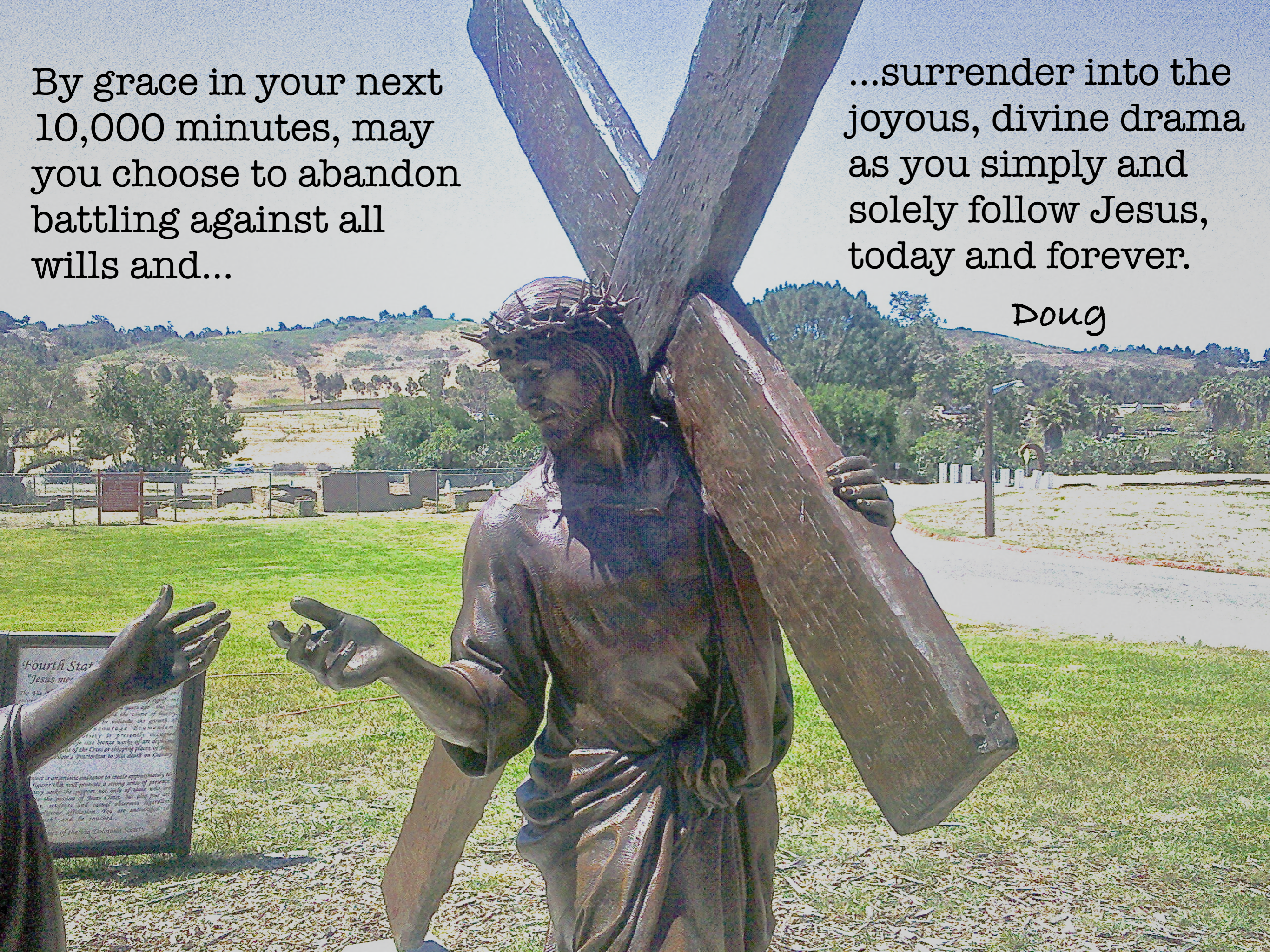
Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice

Chapters 37-41

By grace in your next
10,000 minutes, may
you choose to abandon
battling against all
wills and...

...surrender into the
joyous, divine drama
as you simply and
solely follow Jesus,
today and forever.

Doug



Fourth Star
Jesus Christ
The 19th century artist, Augustus St. Gaudens, created this bronze sculpture of Jesus Christ carrying the cross. The sculpture is a masterpiece of art and is a symbol of the Christian faith. It is located in the grounds of the St. Ignace Church in New York City. The sculpture is made of bronze and is a masterpiece of art. It is a symbol of the Christian faith and is a masterpiece of art. It is located in the grounds of the St. Ignace Church in New York City.

THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



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

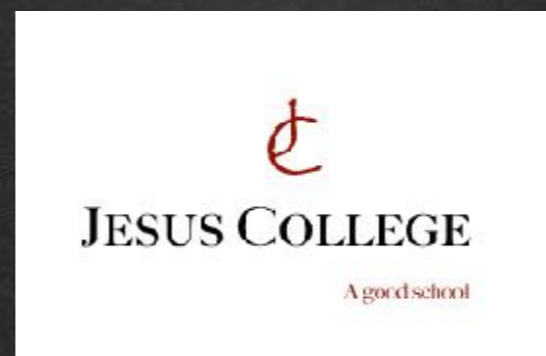
Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

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The Vision of Jesus College - To equip trainers (parents, pastors, professors, professionals, politicians) to mentor leaders (senior apprentices) to disciple apprentices to Master love.

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