

# **Healing the Heart DVD Series Slides**

## **Parts I through VI**

**Dallas Willard**

**at**

**Valley Vineyard Church**

**Reseda, California**

**Oct.–Nov. 2003**

**[www.valleyvineyard.org](http://www.valleyvineyard.org)**

Slides transcribed from DVD by Ray Cowan, December 2007

# **HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #1**

**A Series Of Studies In  
The Reality Of Spiritual Life  
Here And Now**

**This session: HOW OUR HEARTS AND  
LIVES ARE BROKEN AND THE  
PROMISE OF HEALING**

# **Session I:**

## **The Source of Our Brokenness**

**Just one thing:  
Self-will**

# **The Will of individuals and groups to get what they want, regardless of what it does to others or themselves**

**Because of the will and drive to get what we want, we live in a world of disappointment, insufficiency, injury and hurt—mental, emotional, physical and social, with scarred and dysfunctional, pain-filled souls and bodies.**

**Our lives are characterized  
by thoughts and feelings of:**

**DEFICIENCY  
DESERTION  
DREAD  
DEATH**

**We see ourselves FORCED to  
take charge of our life and  
world in whatever way we  
can, resulting in further  
injuries and disappointments  
to ourselves and others.**

**We become incapable of  
doing the good we intend.  
We desperately want to be  
good, but we are prepared  
to do what is not good.  
(Gal. 5:17, Rom. 7:14–19)**

# **The pattern we fall into is one of:**

- ❖ MORAL FAILURE**
- ❖ LACK OF PEACE & JOY**
- ❖ LITTLE OR NO  
PRODUCTIVITY OF  
GOOD**



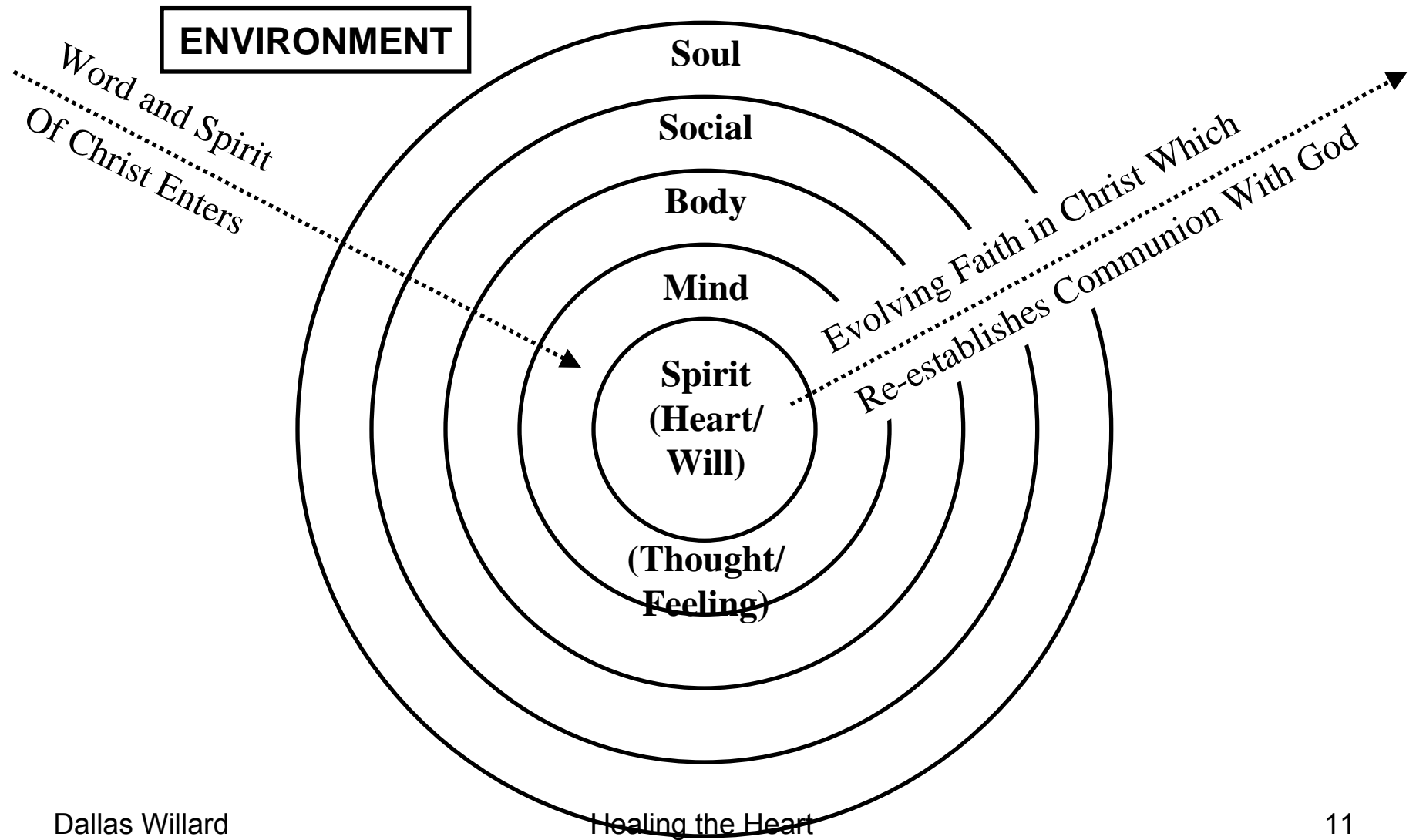
**The biblical diagnosis:  
Gal. 5:17–21,  
Mark 7:20–23  
and many other passages.**

# **The Wizard of Oz and the hidden life. He is me!**

**Shakespeare: “God has given  
you one face, and you make  
yourselves another.”**

# The Whole Person

all of which is to live God—Lk 10:27



**All dimensions of our being,  
from will to soul, are then  
progressively healed, and  
from there healing flows out  
to others, and eventually to  
the whole cosmos.**

## **Assignment:**

**Three times daily,  
meditatively work through the  
23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. If you have not  
memorized it, do so. This will  
go well with meditatively  
working through it in a quiet  
place for 10–15 minutes.**

# **HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #II**

**A Series Of Studies In  
The Reality Of Spiritual Life  
Here And Now**

**This session: UNDERSTANDING THE  
WILL AND THE MIND, THE CENTER OF  
BROKENNESS AND OF HEALING**

# **Session II:**

**The Human Life Is Increasingly  
Made Whole By Living  
Increasingly In Interactive  
Relationship With Jesus Christ**

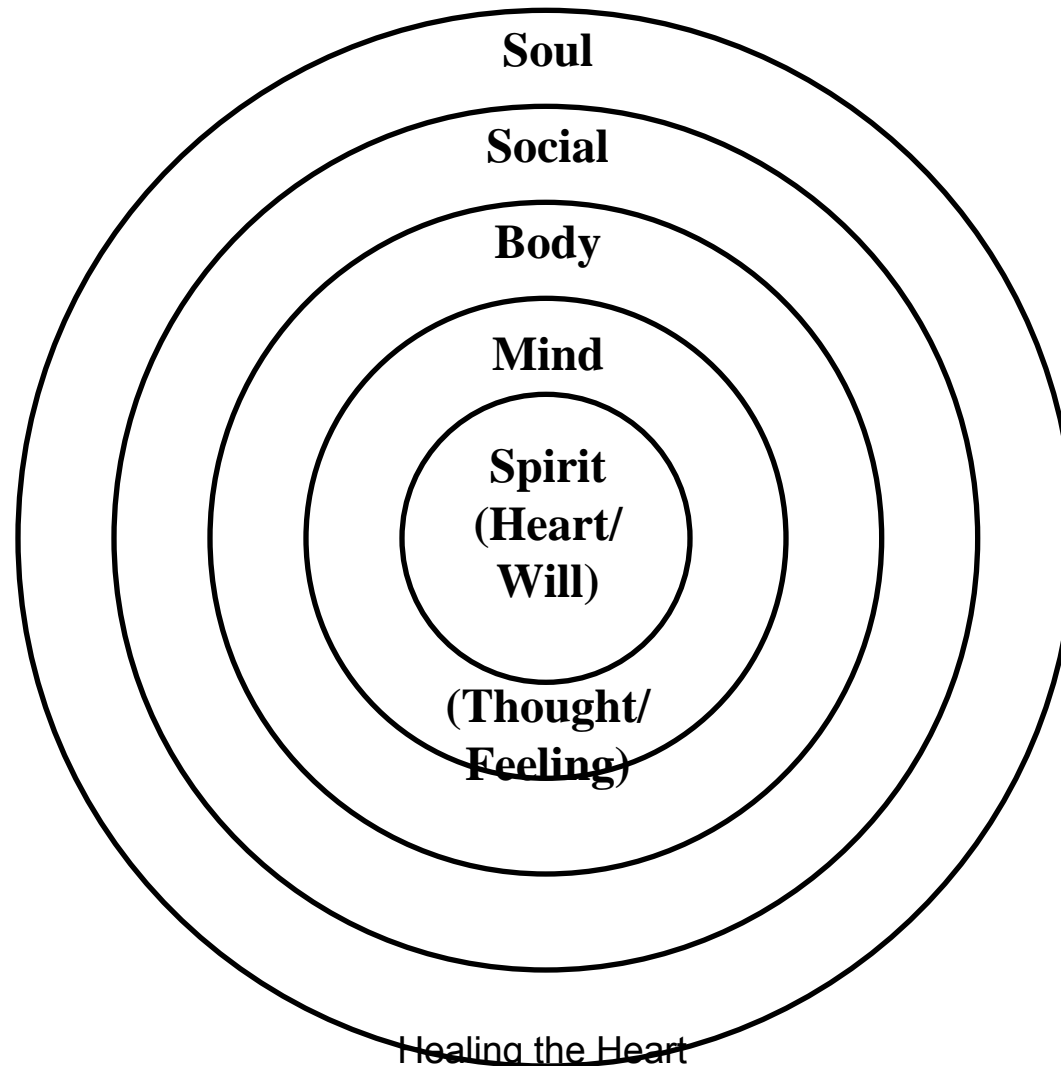
**We Are Studying How To Do That  
—By “Renewing the mind” in Christ.  
(Rom. 12:1–3)**

# **Basic Ideas From Session I**

- 1. The broken character of human existence lies in self-will: Will to have our own way.**
- 2. This results in hopeless conflict, internally and with others and God. (Gal. 5:16–21)**
- 3. Every main dimension of individual and corporate life is permeated with me, me, me.....instead of God, God, God.**



# Infinite Environment

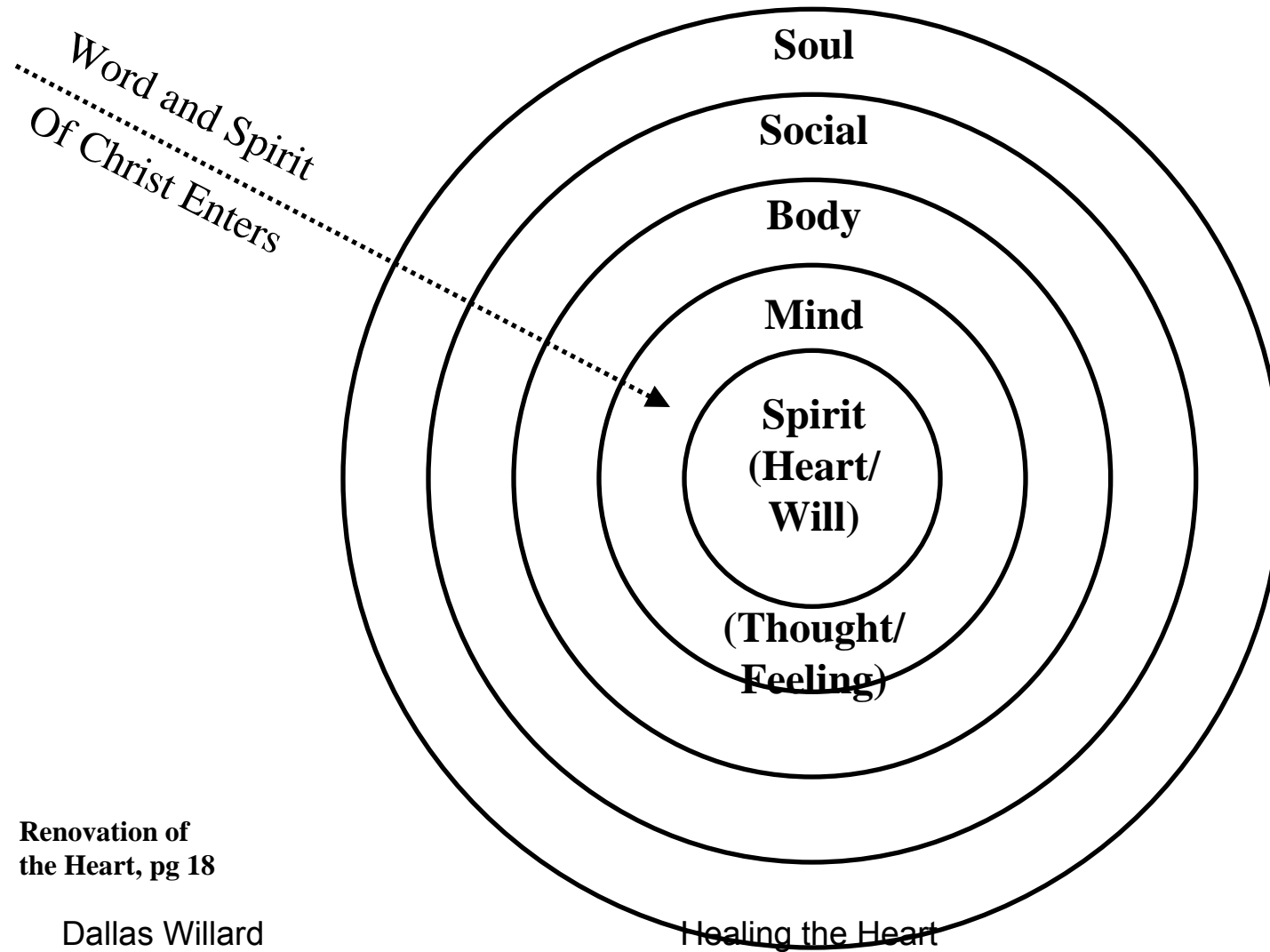


Renovation of  
the Heart, pg 18

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# Infinite Environment

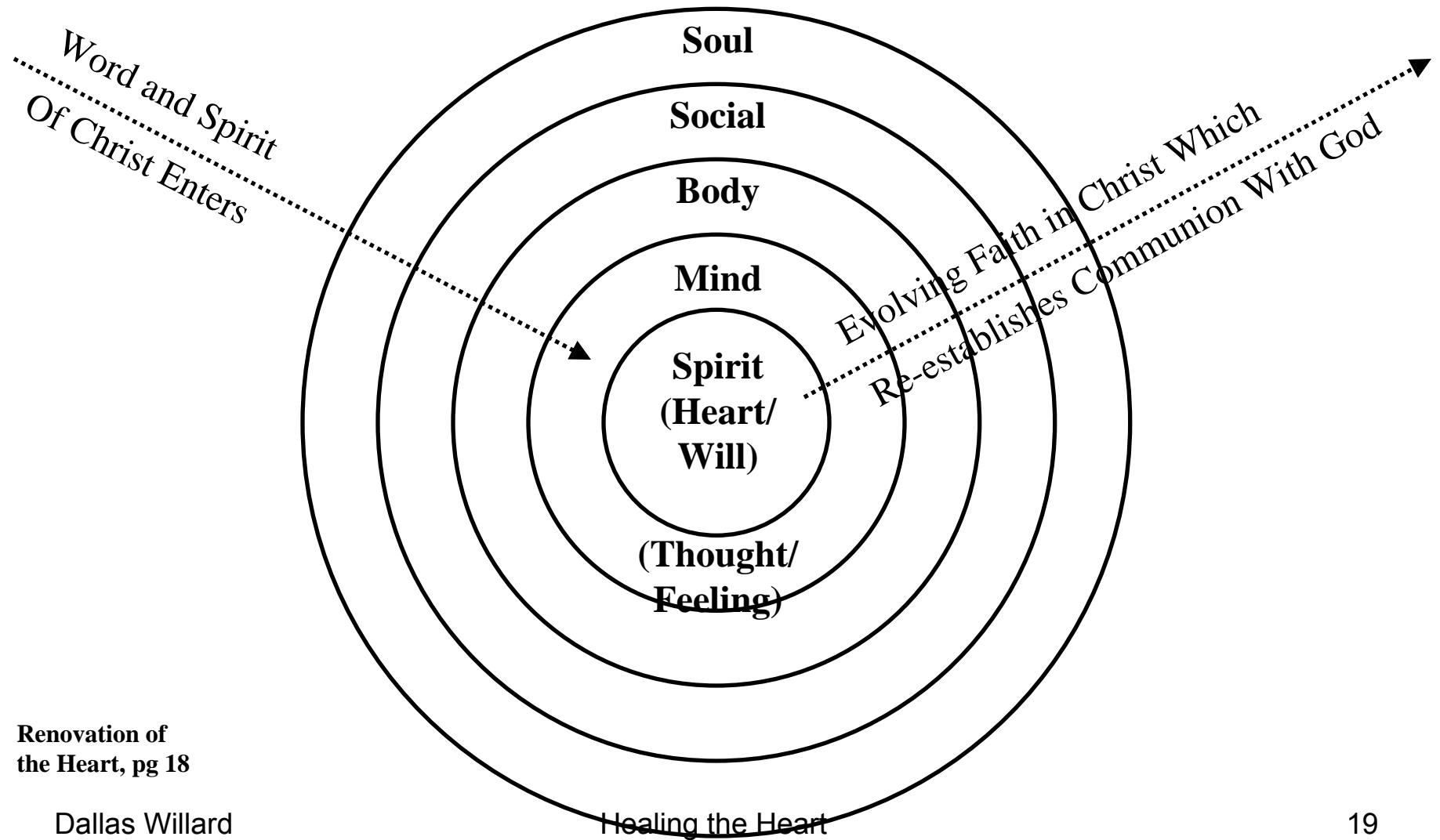


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# **God Constantly Reaches Out To Everyone**

- 1. In Nature (Rom. 10:18, Acts 14:17)**
- 2. In personal approaches. (John 4:23)**
- 3. In the presence of Jesus the anointed one. (John 12:32)**
- 4. In the constant general goodness of God. (Matt. 6:25–34)**

# **Our First Movement Toward Healing Is To Call Out To God In Hope And Trust.**

**“The Lord is kind in all his deeds. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”  
(Ps. 145:18)**

**“Whoever calls upon Him as Lord shall be delivered.” (Ps. 10:13)**

# **God Is Now Re-seated Upon The Throne Of Our Life**

**Now our efforts meet with His Spirit  
and grace to progressively redeem  
every dimension of the self, so that we  
increasingly love God with all our  
heart, soul, mind and strength, and  
our neighbor as ourselves.**

# **God Is Now Re-seated Upon The Throne Of Our Life**

**This is called “working out our  
salvation with fear and trembling;  
because it is God who is at work  
in us.” (Phil. 2:12–13)**

**Not working to our salvation.**

**The thought-life and feelings  
(the “mind”) is the first place of  
our now Spirit-sustained and  
Spirit-directed efforts toward  
internal transformation:**

**“Change me on the inside!!!”\***



# **Our Thought-Life Consists Of What Our Mind Dwells On**

- ❖ Of images, preoccupations, beliefs and ways of thinking.**
- ❖ It must be cleansed “by the washing of water with the word.”  
(Eph. 5:26)**
- ❖ We are transformed by the renewing of the mind. (Rom. 12:2)**

**Our first and most basic freedom, from which all else derives, is the freedom to choose what we will think of, what we will have before our mind.**

**The story of Frank Laubach's great discovery: How to keep God constantly before the mind. Habit.**

# **But:**

- 1. Not everyone has this freedom. Some are in mental bondage, possibly through their feelings, even after the new birth from above. Ministry required here.**
- 2. Not everyone wants a mind filled with God.**
- 3. We have to adopt means and methods to “Retain God in our knowledge.” (Rom. 1:28)**

# Hence:

- 1. Our use of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.**
- 2. The Psalm 1 person. Why this works.**
- 3. How this is “Seeking 1<sup>st</sup> the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” (Matt. 6:33)**
- 4. Keeping the person of Jesus constantly in mind. Counting on His presence, invoking Him constantly.**

# **Dealing With Our Resistance To This:**

- 1. Wanting to take a little vacation from God. Am I cornered? Can I still sin if I want to?**
- 2. This God-world is not where I have learned to find my comfort.**
- 3. That will all change in time, as habits of life are transformed.**

**But for a while we have to will and pray to think differently than we now think—even if we don't want to.**

**Our feelings can stop us here and block us off from goodness and wholeness.**

**Here is a huge issue in the spiritual life, which we deal with in our next session.**

# **In The Meantime, Let Us Practice Directing Our Minds Toward God As Best We Can**

**Use the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and  
the words of Jesus in Matt. 6:25–34.  
Paul, Rom. 5:8 etc.**

**Then: “In everything give thanks, for  
this is the will of God for you in Jesus  
Christ.”  
(1 Thess. 5:18)**

# **HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #III**

**A Series Of Studies In  
The Reality Of Spiritual Life  
Here And Now**

**This session: OUT OF THE FURNACE OF  
FEELING. ESCAPING THE TYRANNY  
OF FEELING, PASSION, & EMOTION**



# **Session III:**

## **Putting Sensations, Feelings, And Emotions In Their Proper Order In Christ's Kingdom**

# Transitioning From Thoughts To Feelings

1. **Rejecting mental habits of dwelling on things that hurt us and discourage us.**
2. **“Whatsoever is true, honorable, right, pure, etc., THINK ON THESE THINGS.”**
3. **Paul: “I have learned to be content, whatever my circumstances.” (Phil. 4:11)**
4. **The rich content of verses 12–13.**

# The 3 Main Positive Thoughts:

1. **Who God Is: Loving, all-powerful, Father, King, Shepherd—A SAVIOR WHO DIED.**
2. **Who I am: An Unceasing Spiritual Being with an Eternal Destiny in God's Great Universe.**
3. **The Good Things God has given to me and placed around me.**

**Feelings and emotions are ‘tones’  
that pervade and structure our self  
and world and poise it for a relevant  
range of actions.**

**When we feel “good” our world and life  
flows. When we feel “bad” we  
experience opposition and resistance.  
 (“It’s a real drag.”) When we feel “blah”  
we are stuck, hardly move.**

# WHY WE HAVE FEELINGS—

- THE ROLE OF FEELINGS IS TO MOVE US, TO INCLINE US AND ALLOW US TO WILL.

THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE LEFT TO THOUGHT, THOUGH WITHOUT THOUGHT IT BECOMES DISASTEROUS.

**Generally, in this fallen world,  
the feelings that are present are set  
against God and wholeness of life.  
They are the first face of brokenness.**

**Although feelings are basically good,  
they have become twisted, and  
constantly deepen human brokenness.**

**Some feelings and emotions: Pain,  
hunger, sexual desire,  
weariness, comfort, gratified,  
energetic, left out, loved, loving,  
anger, joy, interested, bored,  
fear, safe, greed, resentment,  
vengefulness, adoration, etc.**

# Feelings Involve Inclinations To Good Or Evil

- ❖ **Stages Toward Sin:**
  - Thought of Sin**
  - Inclination to Sin (Desire)**
  - Willingness to Sin (Action)**
- ❖ **Or Toward Goodness**



**We cannot allow our lives and actions to be dominated by feelings and emotions.**

**They must serve what is good and not define it. They are good servants but horrible masters.**

**If we concede to feelings the rule of our life—living to gratify them—they will corrupt our thinking and thought will become crazy, devoted to rationalizing their acts.**

**“Their god is their belly.” (Phil. 3:19; Rom. 16:18)—THEIR APPETITES**

# **If There Are Feelings/Emotions Which Negatively Dominate Us, Pulling Us Off the Course of Christlikeness:**

- 1. Identify them clearly.**
- 2. Decisively give up their gratification as a ruling aim.**
- 3. Pray specifically to God for relief.**
- 4. Take actions appropriate to denying those feelings.**
- 5. Seek the ministry of others to overcome them.**

# **The Role of Spiritual Disciplines In Mastering And Eliminating Feelings/Emotions. For Example:**

- 1. Fasting**
- 2. Solitude**
- 3. Service**
- 4. Scripture Memorization**

**The “Fruit of the Spirit”  
(Gal. 5:22–23) does not consist in  
feeling or emotion, but in  
character—overall disposition  
toward goodness and good action.**

**But it does contain and convey  
floods of positive feelings which  
stabilize us in goodness.**

# **Note These Points:**

- 1. You cannot deal with feelings “head on”. They will always win.**
- 2. As adults, we are responsible for the feelings we have. No one else is.**
- 3. There is no “sin generating” feeling or emotion that we cannot eliminate, or at least master, by grace and wise action.**

**You cannot change your  
thoughts by changing your  
feelings, but you can change  
your feelings by changing  
your thoughts.**

- **“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Gal. 5:20)**
- **“He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human desire, but for the will of God.” (1 Peter 4:1–2)**
- **Does this represent something that has happened in your life?**



# **Next Week:**

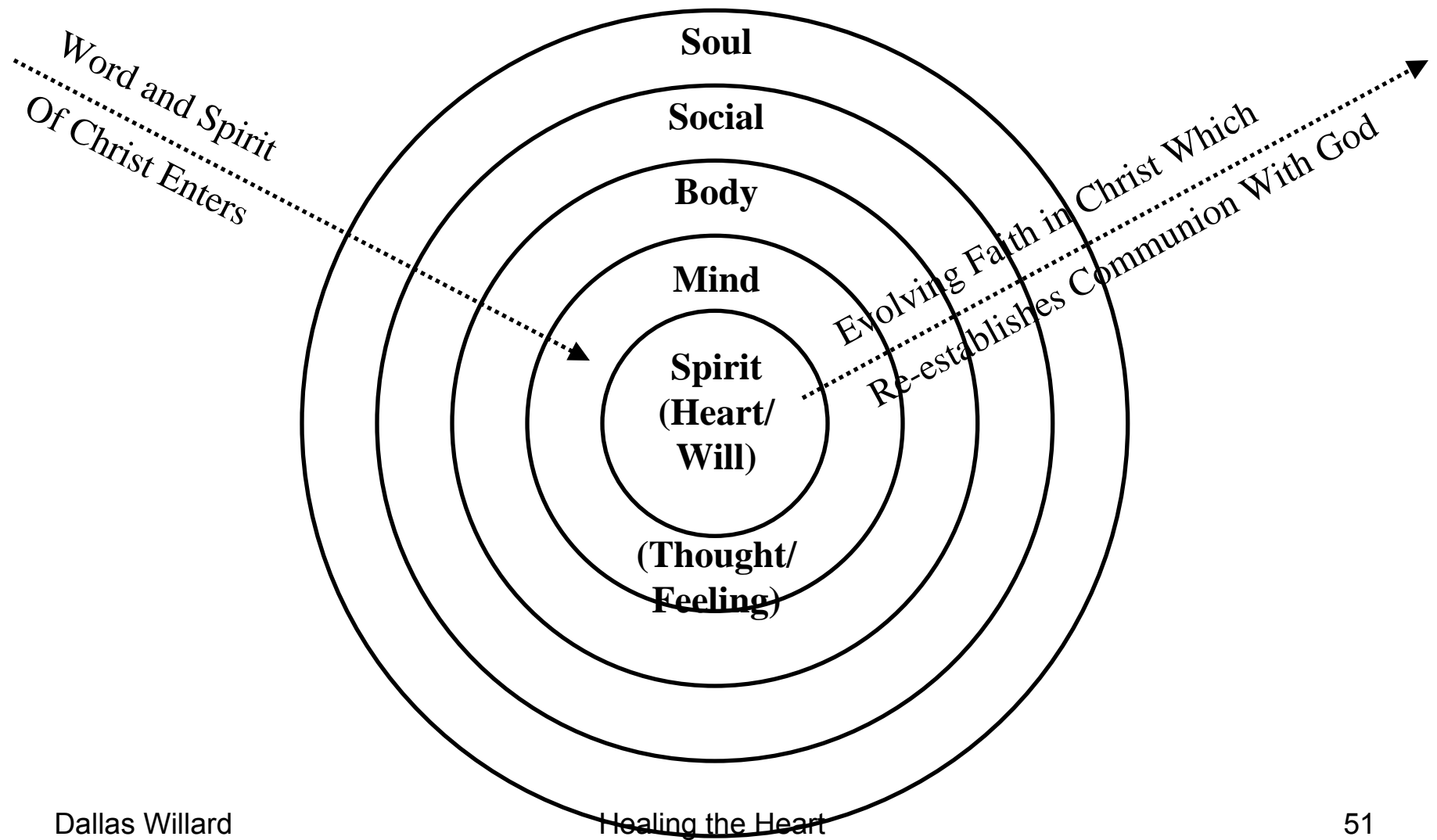
- ❖ **The Broken Body and Its Social World.**
- ❖ **Redeeming the Family.**

# **HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #IV**

**A Series Of Studies In  
The Reality Of Spiritual Life  
Here And Now**

**This session: THE BROKEN BODY AND  
ITS SOCIAL WORLD. HEALING THE  
FAMILY AND ITS WOUNDS.**

# Our Basic Theme: Bringing Christ into All Dimensions of Our Life



# **To This Point We Have Focused Upon the Will and the Mind (Thought and Feelings)**

- ❖ Worship is intense focusing of a surrendered will, with mind and feelings, on the greatness and goodness of God.**
- ❖ In the midst of worship we stand secure against sin and evil. In the moment, it is the most powerful discipline of all.**
- ❖ We can learn to live there, which is what Paul did: “I have learned to be content no matter what.”**

# **My Portion Is The Lord**

**“Whom have I in heaven but Thee?  
And besides Thee, I desire nothing on  
earth. My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.”**

**(Ps. 73:25–26. See also Ps. 16:5–6,  
119:57 & 65, and 142:5).**

# **Now We Look At The Body And Relations To Others**

- 1. In this life, these always go together. The human body is essentially social, and social relations are essentially bodily.**
- 2. They together create the world that forms us as we enter as infants, an already moving flow of life that takes us into its flow. This is basically a good thing. But not entirely.**

# What Is Our Body?

- ❖ **Potential energy available to us to act with.**
- ❖ **“Made for the Lord.” I Cor. 6:12–20**
- ❖ **To be His temple, indwelt by Him.**
- ❖ **Degraded by sin. Rom. 1:26–27**
- ❖ **Quickened by the redeeming Spirit.  
Rom. 8:11–13**

# **Its Tendencies Embody Our Character And Our Experience:**

- ❖ **This is basically a good thing, a God-created arrangement. We could not live without it.**
- ❖ **But when our character and our experience is not good, then evil acts “automatically” in our body and in our bodies together in society.**
- ❖ **That is why so much of human life seems to be out of control. Strictly, it is.**
- ❖ **“The body body is dead because of sin.” Rom. 8:10**



# Where Sin—Not Sins--Dwells

- ❖ Sin (singular) dwells in our body (its ‘automatic’ responses) and in the ‘automatic’ tendencies of social settings.
- ❖ It is not just that we are *wrong*, we are *wrung*, distorted—*broken!*
- ❖ Far beyond what our unredeemed character and intentions can manage.

# SIN IS IN THE BODY PARTS

- “I am doing the thing I hate.” (Rom. 7:15)
- “I am no longer doing it, but the sin that dwells in me.” (vs. 20)
- “Making me a prisoner of the law of sin that is in my members.” (vs. 23)
- Deliverance through the Spirit that comes to live in my body also. (Rom. 8:11–14)

# Peter's Denials

- ❖ **Jesus is here teaching him and us about the power of sin in us and our world. Luke 22:31–34 & 54–62**
- ❖ ***Sin is much deeper than Sins, and it is sin, not sins, that must be dealt with in the healing of the broken life by walking with Jesus.***

# By Contrast, JESUS

- ❖ “The ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.” (John 14:30)
- ❖ There was nothing in Jesus—remember our circle diagram—which Satan could get ahold of, in his attempt to keep Jesus from the Cross.
- ❖ The great struggle in the garden was a struggle to *get to* the cross, not to avoid it. (Heb. 5:7)
- ❖ Satan’s last chance to stop him.

# **The Two Main Social Sins/Sin**

- ❖ Attack and Withdrawal are the two main forms of sin in social relations, relations to others.**
- ❖ The story of the “Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:30–37) illustrates both, and what should replace these forms of lovelessness—“compassion.”**

# Already In Our Bodies

- ❖ **Normal social relations show our bodies poised to attach and withdraw.**
- ❖ **Think of where contempt and anger and looking to lust and envy and resentment are located. “Body language.” “What we do without thinking.”**
- ❖ **Our “belly” our god (Rom. 16:18), or a source of living water. (John 4:14, 7:38)**

# **Not Getting On The Conveyor Belt To Sin**

- ❖ The people wise in Christ and graced by His presence know what is going on within them and around them.**
- ❖ The old cues to sinning are now cues to avoid it.**
- ❖ For example, contempt, anger, lies, gossip, theft, sex, “pecking order.” All these have forerunners.**
- ❖ We learn how “not to go there.”**

# Preparation For This

- ❖ Assurance that I am not “missing out” by not sinning.
- ❖ Having decided to not sin.  
(Really!!??!!??\*\*)
- ❖ Taking care of my body.
- ❖ Training it in righteousness: “If you through the Spirit do mortify the deed of the body, you shall live.” (Rom. 8:13; see 6:12–14)



# **Training The Body:**

- ❖ Means not using it as a pleasure and power source to manage your kingdom/queendom.**
- ❖ Means allowing more than adequate physical rest.**
- ❖ Means having times when you do nothing.**
- ❖ Practicing surrender of it to the Lord:**
  - In worship**
  - In service to others**
  - In simply doing the right thing**

# **In Christian Groups**

- ❖ Totally eliminate attack and withdrawal.**
- ❖ Dare to be really present to others before the Lord.**
  - Don't hurry.**
  - Listen more than you talk.**
  - Expect from the Lord, not people.**
  - “I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” (I Cor. 2:2)**

- ❖ **Christian groups have been said to be the only army that shoots its wounded.**
- ❖ **When one comes among disciples of Jesus—two or three gathered in his name—the only thing they should be completely assured of is that they would not face attacks and distancing.**
- ❖ **This is a great grace, but must be learned from discipleship to Jesus. Consciously chosen and practiced under leadership.**

# **I Corinthians 13**

- ❖ For the next two weeks, please meditate twice daily on I Cor. 13.**
- ❖ The best thing would be to memorize it, and, as you do so, constantly turn it in your mind as you go through the day, drive to work, stand in line, etc.**
- ❖ Or do you have something better to do?**
- ❖ Frank Laubach's "Game with Minutes."**

# **HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #V**

**A Series Of Studies In  
The Reality Of Spiritual Life  
Here And Now**

**This session: THE RESTORATION OF  
THE SOUL. "HE RESTORETH MY  
SOUL."**

# **“The Greatest Of These Is Love”**

- ❖ Love is will to good for all concerned in our presence and action.**
- ❖ Love first comes to us from God in Christ  
Rom. 8:31–39, 1 John 4:19**
- ❖ “Love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7**
- ❖ Then we grow to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourself.**

# **Living In Kingdom Reality**

- ❖ **Grace is God acting in our lives. We know this grace by venturing to act as God does.**
- ❖ **“Be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”  
Eph. 5:1–2**
- ❖ **Transformation of character and expression of power go hand in hand.  
Fruit of the Spirit/Gifts of the Spirit.**

# **The Core of Kingdom Life Is The Surrendered Will**

- ❖ **What I want is not what I live for.**
- ❖ **I do not deny what I want, but it does not rule me.**
- ❖ **Good, under God, rules me.**
- ❖ **“Do not let sin reign in your mortal body...but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”**  
**Rom. 6:12–14, see also Col. 3:3.**
- ❖ **“I die daily.” 1 Cor. 15:31**



# **Surrendered Will Worked Out**

- ❖ **“Surrendered will” does not mean “Will Power,” “Gritted Teeth.”**
- ❖ **The surrendered will turns all dimensions of the person—mind, body, etc.—to love of God and to love what God loves.**
- ❖ **Again: “Bless those who curse you.” as an example.**
- ❖ **Spiritual formation in Christlikeness is not just a matter of changing the will itself.**

# **Now: Restoring The Soul**

- ❖ The soul is the deepest part of you.**
- ❖ It is a stream of life moving within you.**
- ❖ Not under your direct control.**
- ❖ Its primary function is to (1) interface with reality, and (2) bring all dimensions of the self together to form one life.**
- ❖ Broken life is expression of broken soul.**

# The “Lost Soul” or “Dead Soul”

- ❖ **When the will withdraws from God and focuses upon its self, the soul is deprived of sustenance in God. It withers. Dries up.**
- ❖ **The will becomes entangled with duplicity, deceit, falsehood, and carries all dimensions of the self with it.**
- ❖ **A lost person does not know where they are.**

# Sheep Without A Shepherd

## ❖ The tragic human picture:

– Matt. 9:36, 11:28

## ❖ The promise of healing:

– Isa. 61:1

– Matt. 11:29–30

# **“Learn Of Me...Rest To Soul”**

- ❖ Soul rest comes through apprenticeship to Jesus in kingdom living.**
- ❖ The natural consequence of faith in Jesus as “The One.”**
- ❖ In him the kingdom of the heavens is present and available to those who trust him.**

# To Take His Yoke

- ❖ **To take his yoke means to join him in his work. To do what he says and does.**
- ❖ **That is a whole life learning process in which we learn to do everything we do on his behalf and with his strength. Col. 3:17**
- ❖ **It means to abandon OUTCOMES. We are not in charge of results.—“Humble yourself under the hand of God.” 1 Peter 5:5–7**

# Seeking The Kingdom

- ❖ **Putting top priority on learning from Jesus is how we “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” and find everything else needed to be provided. Matt. 6:33**
- ❖ **To seek the kingdom means to look for what God is doing and join him in it.**
- ❖ **Parallel this to the “Psalm 1 man” and to Joshua 1:8.**

# **The Law Of The Lord Restores The Soul**

- ❖ **“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.” Ps. 19:7**
- ❖ **The kingdom of God is God in action, what God is doing. The Law of the Lord tells us what God’s ways are. Law is a revelation of the Kingdom.**
- ❖ **The Law is Grace, God giving us truth to live by.**



# The Law: Precious And Tender

❖ **Knowledge of how to live well is the most valuable thing and most beautiful.**

**Deut. 4:7–8; Ps. 119**

❖ **The tenderness of the Law:**

– **Ex. 23:19: “You shall not boil a kid in the milk of its mother.”**

– **Deut. 24:21: Not gleaning after harvest.**

– **Ruth 2:16: “Handfuls on purpose.”**

# How This Works

- ❖ **Upon our confidence in Christ and sincere intention, we are able to walk in the ways and reality of the kingdom of God upheld by Grace (God acting in our lives)—The Son and the Spirit in our lives make it possible for “the requirements of the law to be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Rom. 8:4**
- ❖ **The broken depths of our soul are reintegrated in a life in union with God: the eternal kind of life.**

# **Sanctification: ESTABLISHED RELATION TO CHRIST**

- ❖ **Sanctification fully realized means a life established in the ways of God—living from the reality of the kingdom, as we walk with Christ.**
- ❖ **It means effortlessly abiding in (drawing our life from) the vine of which we are the branches. John 15**
- ❖ **It does not mean being weird or righteously mean or being proud of our humility.**
- ❖ **We are with Christ anywhere, anytime and anywho.**

# Easy Yoke, Light Burden!

- ❖ **“His commandments are not burdensome.” 1 John 5:3.**
- ❖ **Why? Because we have been transformed in all dimensions of our self. Our soul now works.**
- ❖ **We are not in charge of outcomes.**
- ❖ **We do not try to please people, but do good to them. Col. 3:22–24**

# **Not About Not Sinning**

- ❖ **As the Law restores our soul in our walk with Christ, less and less of life is a struggle with temptation. Pride-points are “but dung.” Phil. 3:8 — Sins also.**
- ❖ **Sin is slop and seen for what it is.**
- ❖ **What it means to be dead to sin. Rom. 6:2, 7, 11 — Shooting out street lights.**
- ❖ **Grace is for life, not just for guilt. We need it for guilt to get us to life.**

# God's Intent For Us

- ❖ **God's intent for each of us is that we should become the kind of person whom he can empower to do what we want.**
- ❖ **That is our future in this universe.**
- ❖ **“And there shall no longer be any night and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign for ever and ever.” Rev. 22:5**

# **HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #VI**

**A Series Of Studies In  
The Reality Of Spiritual Life  
Here And Now**

**This session: LIVING WHOLENESS OF  
LIFE IN THE KINGDOM AND POWER  
OF GOD**

# **This Final Session:**

- 1. Living Wholeness of Life in the Kingdom and Power of God.**
- 2. PRACTICAL ISSUES, LIKE HOW TO DO IT.**
- 3. Serious Q & A**



# **It Is Our Responsibility To DO IT**

- 1. To put off the old person and put on the new. Eph. 4:22–24; Col. 3:9–10**
- 2. To put on new bowels, new “innards”.  
Col. 3:12**
- 3. To “abide in the vine,” draw our life from Christ and his kingdom. John 15:4**
- 4. “Mortify our members which are of the earth.” Col. 3:5–7**

# **We Really Can Do This**

- ❖ It is the reality and power of this type of life in individuals that initially moved across the earth from Jesus through his followers.**
- ❖ Individuals through history and up to today have continued to have this life.**
- ❖ The institutions and traditions of Christianity have always testified to it.**

# Note Carefully:

1. **These scriptural directives are all the same in this sense: If you do one, you will find you have the others.**
2. **There is no question of *earning anything*, but only of receiving and living from “the life from above.” John 3**
3. **There is no question of perfection, or of being “beyond temptation,” just of doing much, much better.**

# For You Individually

- 1. Explicitly take your place and identity as a disciple of Jesus. Tell him, yourself, and others. Spend some time doing this.**
- 2. Consider what you would like to learn from him to do as a child in his kingdom. Be quite specific, but start with a few things.**

# For You Individually

3. **Be sure you *want* to change in these respects, in your heart of hearts.**
4. **Begin to learn why you have trouble with the things listed, and what you could do to change inwardly with respect to them. Study these matters with Christ.**

# **For Example:**

- 1. Is control of your tongue a problem: “No unwholesome word...from your mouth, but only such as is good for edification.” Eph 4:29; “Swift to hear, slow to speak.” James 1:19 and 3:1–12.**
- 2. Looking to lust. Eph. 4:19–22; Col. 3:5; Matt. 5:28. Or covetousness. These are closely allied to:**
- 3. Living in disappointment and dissatisfaction, and thus being vulnerable to temptation of all kinds. Las Vegas?**

# **Or: On The Positive Side**

- 1. Confidence in praying.**
- 2. Confidence in speaking for Christ.**
- 3. Confidence in hearing God's voice.**

**THESE CAN ALL BE LEARNED IN  
THE SCHOOL OF JESUS CHRIST—  
GO THERE; DWELL THERE DAILY.**

# THE REALLY HARD PART

- ❖ **Suppose you were someone who meditated on the law of God day and night, or prayed without ceasing—**
- ❖ **It is probably not really attractive to you. Is it not hard to imagine what that would be like for me to do that and be me?**
- ❖ **Saying “yes” to God about this. “I really want this, though I fear it.”**



# **What Can Our Churches, Groups of Disciples, Do?**

- ❖ Decide that they want to be whole in Christlikeness and to focus their efforts on that objective and on helping others toward it.**
- ❖ That is, take care that this is the clear objective of everything they do.**
- ❖ Their aim is not self-perpetuation, or making people “like us,” except insofar as that means “Like Jesus” in real life.**

# The Great Commission

- ❖ **“I have been given say over everything.”**
- ❖ **“So make disciples to me as you go among all kinds of people.”**
- ❖ **“Submerge them in the Trinitarian reality among disciples.”**
- ❖ **“Teach them how to do everything I said.”**
- ❖ **“I’m with you every minute.”**
- ❖ **Matt. 28:18–20**

# **It Will Be A Wrenching Experience**

- ❖ **Most groups simply are not about this. We don't say this to condemn. It is simply a fact. Look at what they devote time and attention to.**
- ❖ **Similarly for individuals. They do not seek *first* God's reign and his kind of rightness in their life.**
- ❖ **This not to condemn, but to enable us to begin to deal with the issues, individual and corporate.**
- ❖ **Please tell me if I am wrong.**