

How Our Hearts and Lives are Broken and the Promise of Healing

Series: *Healing the Heart and Life by Walking with Jesus Christ Daily*, Session 1

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Transcript

Bill Dwyer 00:01

Well, I want to welcome you here this evening. I'm Bill Dwyer. I'm the pastor of the Valley Vineyard. And we're glad you're here tonight.

Bill Dwyer 00:07

We've been preparing for this time for quite a long time. And we feel like God is going to do some ... some great things here.

Bill Dwyer 00:16

We are very excited that Dallas is here. Dallas has just been a wonderful blessing to us. We've loved his books and all that, but we love him and his wife, more than we love his books, and, or his speaking. And I... he said, "Don't give a big introduction." But I always remember a couple of things.

Bill Dwyer 00:34

One thing is Todd Hunter said, he used to be the director of the vineyard, a good friend of mine, and he said, after he got to know Dallas, he says, You know what? Dallas really impacted me, I... now I know what I want to be like when I grow up, you know, that's what he said, and he's about my age. So we're the baby boomer generation that will never grow up.

Bill Dwyer 00:51

And, and then just for myself, Dallas and Jane both have really, literally saved my life. And I'm so grateful for the ministry of Jesus, through them to me and to our church. Because, you know, the church is built on a foundation of not only the Word but of the prophets and the apostles and, and I really believe Dallas is a prophetic and apostolic man. And just grateful to have known you, Dallas, and it's all yours.

Dallas Willard 01:30

Well, it's wonderful to be here. And I thank you for coming. What I wonder is if we could put up Leroy, that song that we just sang ... the words. And if it's possible, I wish we could sing that every... every week. Because it's just really right on. And the change on the inside is what we're talking about. And what I want to say to you is that this is something that is possible, that it is accessible, that it comes to us from God. And the way to really see change, the way to heal the brokenness of human life, is by changing on the inside. Now, I just add a little bit to the idea here. And that is we have to act in order for that to happen. And what this series is about more than anything else, is what we can do. And we'll get into that tonight, and we'll talk about it. The things that we can do. Change is not passive. Change is active. And there are things that will absolutely work to change you. No matter what the issue is. Let me just begin with this statement that every thing that is

Dallas Willard

promised in the Scriptures about life in God is possible. And it's a good thing. It's not a bad thing. It's a good thing.

Dallas Willard 03:23

And just look at Corinthian... First Corinthians 13 for example. Listen to these words. You don't need to look up you know it. Just listen to them. Love is patient. Love is kind and it is not jealous. Love does not brag. It is not arrogant. It doesn't act like a jerk. That's, you know, that's what he's talking about. You know, if you say it doesn't act unbecomingly word, the old version does not behave itself unseemly. No, it doesn't act like a jerk

Dallas Willard 04:18

Doesn't seek its own. Is not provoked easily. Doesn't keep count of wrongs. Bears all things, believes all things.

Dallas Willard 04:36

Now, what I'm saying to you is, that's for you. That's for me. Now it doesn't say I do it. And if you think you're going to do that you're in real trouble. It says love does it. So now what are we to do? We are to receive love into our lives. And we can do that. Now, we can't do it without God, but we don't have to. We're not waiting on God. He's ready.

Dallas Willard 05:17

So now the question that really comes to us is, would we feel safe being like that? That's an honest shrug. Because the truth of the matter is when we think about these things that are presented in the scriptures, when we really think about them, I think most of us, at least until we get into it very well, aren't really sure we want that. Do I really want to bear all things?

Dallas Willard 06:02

That's a challenge, isn't it? That's a challenge. And we have to have a vision of God that would allow us to be enthusiastic about that. And we have to be able to answer the question, what's going to happen to me if I do that? And that's where the main change on the inside has to occur? Because I question, "what's gonna happen to me?" is the universal human question. And the only answer to it is given through the Scriptures, and the Son of God who came and let it happen to him.

Dallas Willard 06:57

Now, by the way, you know, this is a teaching session. So I may stop, occasionally and give you a chance to think. That okay? And I'm so glad we have a question on an answer. Because, you know, that's really where the work often gets done. I had someone at a conference the other day, who said, let's have a question and answer first. Well, you know, maybe. Maybe you'd really get to it faster if you did it that way.

Dallas Willard 07:32

So now, if you if you do have... because, you know, I'm too old to talk to movements, and multitudes, I just talked to individuals. So I'm here to talk to you, and to try to be of help to you on

this issue of the healing of the heart.

Dallas Willard 07:53

So we're going to.... there's going to be a lot of content here. And actually, I think it may be... I will, maybe I'll bring if I can get my PowerPoint to working. I think I may bring handouts anyway. Because it's harder to get it off the screen. And I'd like for you to be able to take it home with you, and worry about it and think about it. You know. There's... really the thing I'm saying to you is this that all of the wonderful stuff that we see in the scriptures is there for us. We simply have to find the way in. And that's what I'm going to be talking about is finding the way in.

Dallas Willard 08:45

We have to understand what to do in order for this change on the inside to happen. And so if you look at your first page, there are the the big print. The little prints on the back. You'll see the outline of the series. And so we're going to teach very carefully, I hope, on these topics, and tonight the... the issue is how our hearts and lives are broken and the promise of healing. We want to look at that very thoroughly. Because we have to understand the brokenness.

Dallas Willard 09:29

We use that word a lot today, and it's a good word. But I think sometimes we don't really understand it. And so we're going to spend about the first half of our discussion tonight just talking about that. And then tomorrow or next week, understanding the will and the mind, because you see, the change comes with a change of how are will is set and what's in our mind. So now if we want that change on the inside, we have to take steps with that. And we can do that. And it isn't a killing thing. Actually, I'm going to talk about that some towards the end tonight just to get you started.

Dallas Willard 10:22

But the will is central. And the will is really the heart. And the broken heart is really a broken will. And when something is broken, it's nonfunctional, isn't it? You know, when your kid has a toy and it's broken. What does that mean? It means it don't work!

Dallas Willard 10:42

And that's the story on human life. Something broken. And fundamentally, it's the will, but the will works off the mind. And what's in your mind has a tremendous influence over your will. Partly because your mind works on your feelings, and your feelings is the interface between your will and the world.

Dallas Willard 11:09

That's why when you get up in the morning, and you say to your friend or your family member, "how are you feeling?" You don't say "how are you thinking?" You say, "How are you feeling?" Because you know that that's right, right up front.

Dallas Willard

Dallas Willard 11:30

And so, the next week is the "out of the furnace of feeling: escaping the tyranny of feeling, passion, and emotion." So you remember that Paul says in Galatians 5, they that are Christ's have crucified the passions, the lust, the affections. We have to put them on the cross. That doesn't mean they're dead, you know. People stay alive for a while after they're crucified. But what it does mean is there not running wild, right? Because the guy who's crucified isn't running down the alley.

Dallas Willard 12:15

So now I have to talk about feelings. And then we have to talk about the body. Because our body is intended to be the temple of God. But for the ordinary person who is not healed, the body is running their life. And it's interacting in a social context that I don't want to get started on tonight, because I want to talk about later. But the social context and the body has to be healed. And the body is inside, believe me, it's not just outside, it's inside. And the social world, the relationships to others that we have. So we've talked about the family, especially because the family is so crucial in forming the body, of course, isn't it? I mean, that's where bodies come from, and then forming the social context.

Dallas Willard 13:15

And then just quickly, the next section will be on the restoration of the soul. We're going to look at the 23rd Psalm tonight, you will remember the phrase, "he restoreth my soul." And then the sixth week, we'll be talking about the wholeness of life in the kingdom and power of God. And that's going to be mainly time for questions and answers. We're going to really try to make it workshop. And I hope that if you manage to stick with us to that point, that you will come with your hardest questions, the things that seem most difficult to you.

Dallas Willard 13:54

And I haven't the slightest idea that I have an answer to them. But I wouldn't be up here if I wasn't trusting God. Right. So perhaps God will have an answer. I don't even know yet. Sometimes I don't know it until after I say it. And see, that's how God works. And we may come upon something that nobody has an answer to. And we'll just have to say, this is something we've got to work on. But take notes, keep your questions and I believe we'll find a lot that we can do to make that change me on the inside reality.

Dallas Willard 14:37

Now, so let's start with brokenness. And the source of our brokenness is one simple thing. And, you know, when I say this word, I'm gonna be surprised if many of you don't say, you know, that can't be right. But that's okay. That's okay, we're here.... That's what happens when you really start working on stuff. You don't immediately agree. But let me just say there is one source of human brokenness, and that is self-will. That's where it all comes from.

Dallas Willard 15:16

Now please don't feel guilty or defensive. I...I.... Guilt is one of the least profitable emotions imaginable. Guilt is real. That's a real thing, not just a feeling. But you can't really make progress by

pushing that button. What we want is understanding. Understanding.

Dallas Willard 15:47

And now what I'm saying is that when you look at the human scene, generally, you look back down to history go all the way back to the Garden of Eden. And when you look at all of the calamities that befall people, and you're look into families, which is the primary source of continued human brokenness is the family. Now, that doesn't mean, we're going to get rid of it, because we don't have anything better. But we can improve that. And brokenness comes through the family.

Dallas Willard 16:23

And in the family, what what causes so much grief, is simply self-will. Now self-will is a matter of saying I must have my way, no matter what. That's what self-will is. It's not will, you got to have will, and will is a good thing.

Dallas Willard 16:55

There used to be talk of "breaking the will," as a process of discipline for young people. And it's, it's an unfortunate thing, because very often it meant domination, by a will that was not broken, but needed to be. And so very often that was the father. And the father could become a tyrant. And might try to make it look righteous by saying, "Well, I'm just breaking my children's will."

Dallas Willard 17:29

And so we have to be careful with that. Will is a good thing. Don't think that the will itself is bad. It's good. God gave it to us. The will is basically our capacity to bring things about, to initiate courses of actions and events that bring things about. And in all areas of life, it's vital. It is our creative aspect. God created us as creators. And that's very important to understand. And all of our life should be a process of continual creation. And I think actually, that's what we're going to be doing for eternity. It's one reason why the universe is so big, so you'll have enough room for you to be creative. And, and it's very big, and it's very good.

Dallas Willard 18:25

But the will of individuals and groups to get what they want, regardless of what it does to others, is what continually destroys life, breaks people up. And it's very... it becomes quite complicated. Because of this, 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.

Dallas Willard 18:53

And one of the saddest things is what happens to children in this world. And it's, it's universal. It takes different forms in different places, but children have to come to terms with the reality of the world they live in. And Jesus, you recall, was very stern about this. He said, "If you offend a little child, it'd be better for you to have a millstone tied around your neck and thrown into the ocean." Thank god, somebody in the universe takes this seriously. You know.

Dallas Willard

Dallas Willard 19:32

And you remember Jesus said in Matthew 18, that, of children, that their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. Now what that means is every little child, including the ones you see in the Sudan, or India or wherever you see suffering children, every one of those is personally cared for by God.

Dallas Willard 19:54

And I just pause so you can think about that, because I want to enlarge on that later about God. Because we want to get beyond the brokenness and begin to see the promise that comes from God.

Dallas Willard 20:10

Here's some wonderful words by Henry Vaughan about being a child. He's talking about "when on some gilded cloud or flower, my gazing soul would dwell an hour, And in those weaker glories spy Some shadow of eternity; Before I taught my tongue to wound My conscience with a sinful sound, Or had the black art to dispense A several sin to every sense, But felt through all this fleshly dress, Bright shoots of everlastingness." Little children. They can escape the brokenness sometimes if they're welcomed, and if they are in the presence of parents, who are not themselves at the mercy of their brokenness and are able to make a place of love, and generosity and beauty for the child. And that's one of the most gorgeous things in all creation is to see a child like that, don't you know?

Dallas Willard 21:17

Jesus wasn't just whistling Dixie when he said, "You have to repent and become like a little child, or you can't enter the kingdom of heaven." And we need to give a lot of thought to that when we're talking about this kind of transformation.

Dallas Willard 21:32

Well, because of how this develops, our lives are characterized by thoughts and feelings of deficiency. I "won't quite do." Of desertion. "No one really cares about me." So I have to do everything I can to manage them. Right? And even that, you think, isn't really going to work.

Dallas Willard 22:15

Dread. Many of our lives are just filled with dread. Dread to see morning come. Dread to think I have to go back to that job. Dread sickness. Dread, financial failure. Dread growing old. And death.

Dallas Willard 22:41

So that... that's how the brokenness spells itself out. It is one of the great gifts of healing that comes from Jesus is his assurance that those who know Him and love His Word will never experience death. And they'll never experience desertion. And that they are sufficient in God, and that there's really nothing to dread. You believe that? Can you...? I mean, now, you know, is that really in there?

Dallas Willard

Dallas Willard 23:24

Because you see, if you, if you really dread nothing, because of your knowledge of God, well, then you're moving out of brokenness. And you say.... you don't think anymore about how deficient you might be. Because you know where your sufficiency is.

Dallas Willard 23:53

And, you know, as Jesus said, "I'm with you always." As God said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." In Hebrews 12, and 13, there's a wonderful discussion about there how we're seeking a city that is not made with hands, a kingdom that can't be shaken. But if you don't have that, and... and, you know it's... we really do want to recognize that just profession of faith in Jesus doesn't bring that. Can we be honest about that? Now, there's no reason why it should. It was never meant to.

Dallas Willard 24:41

See what we're talking... the healing where... the healing of brokenness, overcoming the brokenness, comes from a path of discipleship to Jesus, not just faith in Him. And we have to recognize that we have a form of Christianity today that accepts that and says, "Well, you can have faith in Christ and not change." You can have faith in Christ and not be a disciple. But see, if you don't accept that discipleship, then you certainly will not change. Because the change comes as a process of disciple...

Dallas Willard 25:23

Now...now we use that word a lot. What is a disciple? A disciple is an apprentice. If I'm your disciple, I'm learning from you how to be like you.

Dallas Willard 25:37

And in order to do that, I have to be with you. Right? Do... that's, that's what disciple... it's apprenticeship I like the word "apprenticeship" because it has that practical aspect to it.

Dallas Willard 25:50

We still have that in some of the in some of the trades, don't we? Apprentice.

Dallas Willard 25:56

And now please try to think about your faith in Jesus as confidence in him. And understand that when you have confidence in him, not just something he did or something he said. You have confidence in him, then you believe he's right. And you believe what he does is good. And you want to be in on it! So everything he said, and everything he did, that says, Wow, I want to learn how to do that! How do you do that?

Dallas Willard 26:33

See, you know, if you're a... if you're an apprentice in plumbing or any of the... the trades, that's changing on the inside also, isn't it? Right?

Dallas Willard**Dallas Willard 26:49**

You're developing a capacity of feeling, a set of ideas, a set of the will. And you can do what needs to be done without thinking about it. Right? Now, that's apprenticeship. That's real learning.

Dallas Willard 27:07

And you change on the inside and your character becomes that of a plumber. Now, as far as it goes, that's pretty good. You need more than that. But that's pretty good. And a good plumber is a good thing. Where is Jorge? A good plumber is a good thing. And his character. And he comes down to things like how far do you tighten the pipe? Well, not too much, not too little, just right. Now who knows how to do that? The person who on the inside is a plumber.

Dallas Willard 27:57

Now, who knows how not to envy? Well, someone who has learned how they have gone through the process with Jesus, and they have learned. Now what is envy? Well, envy is resentment of someone because they have something you don't. That's what envy is. And it's a ... it's actually a siamese twin with covetousness.

Dallas Willard 28:34

So now, could one live without envy? What do you think? Let's take a vote. Could you live without envy? Yes, you could, couldn't you? Yes, you could. But you're going to have to... that's going to have to change... that will change your attitude towards yourself and others. And I'm going to cut this short on this point because we'll maybe have time to talk about it later. But, for example, the person who knows what they have in their life in God's world doesn't feel unhappy because someone else has something good. It's a deprived person who has trembled envy.

Dallas Willard 29:30

So how do you get out of deprivation? That's where the training comes. Now I know I'm going over this and just talking like it's just easy as falling off in the long backward, but it's a process that involves some really difficult moves. Now you'll remember that, for example, Pilate understood that the people who are trying to get Jesus dead was doing it because they envied him. Now you remember he had something they didn't have, which was power with the people. They had authority, but everyone hated them. They loved Jesus. They thought he was wonderful. You'll remember once they sent some people to arrest him, and they came back and said, "Nobody talks like this guy." Nobody talks like him. See? And you... now, what did those folks in authority think? They said [growl] "we're going to kill him! Because he's got something that we want and we can't get." Now see, they were really operating out of deficiency.

Dallas Willard 30:51

So now, this would be screen six if we had a screen. Okay. And it says, "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." See, that's in the situation of deprivation and deficiency and so on and disappointment. We say "I must take charge. I must...." Now that was... see that... remember, that's what Satan said to Eve, isn't it? "You better take charge. Because God

Dallas Willard

is not going to look out for you. In fact, he's going to deprive you of something good." See, that's... that's the general form of temptation. And as we live our lives and as we grow up, and as we, unfortunately, very few children have a really, really the kind of early years that they have some do. And it's a beautiful thing to see. But as they grow up, and they go out into the world, they have to face a dreadful thing called "recess."

Dallas Willard 32:12

Isn't that right? Yeah! And recess is full of bad stuff!

Dallas Willard 32:25

They used to talk about someone who got an "A" for recess, but I thought that was good if you got an "A" for recess, because you know, you have all those, some very young, bullies! And they're just right here, you see. They're taking charge. They're taking charge of you. Right? Now, of course, when I was a kid, they didn't have guns. It was fist. Fisticuffs! You know that word? Then no... no... don't do fisticuffs anymore. Do they? They shoot you!

Dallas Willard 33:07

See, but I mean, it's the same story. It's exactly the same story. Happens in boardrooms, penthouses, government offices. All kinds of places. People taking charge! And that means charge of you. Right?

Dallas Willard 33:31

So Machiavelli long ago had this elaborate discussion. Is it better for the ruler to be hated, or loved? Feared or loved? And his answer was better to be feared. See, that's, that's what this is about. That's a reflection of the world. People taking charge. And it's a, it's a terrible thing that just goes through all of our worldly reality. We live in this broken world. And it results in people who are incapable of doing the good they intend to do. People generally desperately want to be good. I've never met a person who didn't want to be good. Never.

Dallas Willard 34:25

And I've said that in front of audiences, in many parts of the world, and I often say it in front of my classes at USC. I've never met anyone who doesn't want to be good, desperately. But I've also never met anyone who wasn't ready to do evil. And to give you an explanation, why, being a good person, it's necessary for them to do that.

Dallas Willard 34:56

And where does that come from? That comes from self-will. I must have you name it! I must have that. Now, I... remember will is not bad. Self-will means I must have my way, no matter what happens. And that's bad. Because that's putting oneself in the place of God. That's why Paul says covetousness is idolatry. And guess who's the God in that case? C'est moi. I am. And that's why it seems quite a... would be quite a good thing for me to take from someone else what they have, since I want it. Covetousness is a major part of the picture of brokenness.

Dallas Willard 35:59

And the pattern we fall into then is one of moral failure, lack of peace and joy, contentment, little or no productivity of good. And the good that we intend to do, escapes our hand. And very rarely do we have anyone who feels like they have succeeded to the extent that they should.

Dallas Willard 36:29

Now the biblical passages on this, I refer here in your notes, to Galatians 5:17 through 21. And to Mark 7. In Mark seven, you'll remember Jesus says, "For from within, out of the heart of men precede evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.

Dallas Willard 37:03

You ever seen anyone like that? Not me, of course. But I've seen people like that, haven't you? And in Galatians, Paul was just a master of understanding these things. And he puts it very clearly here in Galatians. He says, verse 17, "For the flesh sets its desires against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things you please. In other words, the things you want to do, you can't do them. Now, why? Well, because you're broken. Now, of course, something you want a drink of water, you can normally get that. But when you think about your life as a whole, what kind of person do I want to be? Am I the kind of person I want to be? Am I genuinely full of joy and peace? Or am I just hanging on by my toenails?

Dallas Willard 37:03

And you may say, "Well, you don't know my circumstances, or you wouldn't be talking about this." That's, I guess, the nail we need to hit the hardest is that circumstances do not determine joy and peace and happiness and contentment. And then we think about the good we would like to do in life. Everyone wants to do good in their life. And that's as it should be.

Dallas Willard 39:02

It starts very early. A little child wants to create. And then when you come down to the end, we say things like, "Well, I'd like to leave the world a better place." Isn't that true? Wouldn't you like to do that? Yes!

Dallas Willard 39:17

Again, I mean, you have to really have been twisted up to say, "Boy, I really'd like to leave this a worse place. I just want to see this a worse place than when I got here." It's very hard to imagine anyone saying that, isn't it? Yeah. And that reflects the deep reality of who we are.

Dallas Willard 39:39

But because of this brokenness inside that comes from self-will, complicated by our education, by the history of the world that lies back of us. Right, I mean if you're born in Afghanistan, you got a load! Well, actually, you have one in Reseda. It's a different one. You see all of that history, all of that education, the years of practice, how our family has developed, all of that adds in, you see. And...and then we wind up....You know, I was thinking the other day I, for much of my younger life, I

Dallas Willard

just assumed I was going to have to lead a hidden life. I just assumed that I was going to have to hide myself from people.

Dallas Willard 40:43

And you know who the Wizard of Oz is, don't you? It's me! I'm putting out all that smoke, and all those sounds, you see, and I'm here behind the curtain. Could it be you? You see, because of the brokenness, we develop a place to hide. And actually, it's in our bodies.

Dallas Willard 41:15

One of the main things that our bodies allows us to do is to hide from others.

Dallas Willard 41:27

That's a shocking thing. I quote you, Shakespeare, "God has given you one face, and you make yourself another one." So now, that's the picture of human brokenness. And... just very quickly, we want to recognize that God is always reaching out. God is always trying to find the human being in their brokenness. And it's hard for us to believe somehow that he could actually love everyone. But he does.

Dallas Willard 42:11

You know, every few days or weeks, something comes over the news a child is last. Day before yesterday, it was a little toddler that had disappeared. And our natural response is "find him." Find him. And our hearts ache, don't they, when we hear this. And we... we think about that little child. And it makes perfect sense that people would be looking for that little child. If someone was on looking for that little child we'd say, "What's wrong!" And see, once again, the little child brings up a crucial truth about God. That little child is precious.

Dallas Willard 43:12

Now, in God's eyes, we're all toddlers. Okay? That's how God looks at it. That's one reason why we need to repent and become like little children so we can accept that. No matter how I have fixed my face, I'm still a toddler. No matter how I have hidden my vulnerability, I am still a toddler.

Dallas Willard 43:53

And the wonderful truth is that God comes into the world to heal the broken heart and... and you know, I don't think we should conceive of that in a very narrow way. I think God is far more generous than we can begin to imagine. When you look at these wonderful words, in Isaiah 61, "the Spirit of the Lord God is upon me," this is the prophet speaking. And if you would take time to study the context, you'll see the need of blessing that this is addressing. "Because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." In other words, to say now... now's your chance. God is taking people in. And now, when Jesus came, you'll remember in Luke 4, this is where he launched his ministry. He announced he was running for office. Messiah. Of course, he'd already been elected. And now he's coming from God and he uses the same words. And the wonder is he... we must never lose the wonder of verses like John 3:16.

"God so loved the world." God loved the world so much! Full of toddlers. You're it!

Dallas Willard 45:42

God's heart is broken over lost broken human beings. God so loved the world, that He gave His Son to the world. He gave His Son to the world. That those who put their confidence in Him would not lead a futile and failing life. But would receive the very kind of life that God has in him: Eternal life.

Dallas Willard 46:20

Eternal life isn't just long. Isn't just long. Long sort of takes care of itself. Eternal life is the quality of God's life. And we are given the opportunity to receive that. Blind, stumbling, sleepwalking, walking backwards, falling forwards, as we receive this life of God. And then you... and when you watch people receive it, you see... you see how ridiculous it often is the way they come. But that's our situation. I am ridiculous! That's... that's a given. Just accept it.

Dallas Willard 47:17

And that, that really helps us, now you see, get out of that position, "I have to take charge and make my life work." But that's okay, if it means I have to surrender my life to God and Christ. But if it means I have to make it go, then that's... see that's back to self-will. The submission of my will to God is the first step to abandon my project of running the world. See, I don't run it. God runs it.

Dallas Willard 47:59

See now, remember Jesus's words and you always want to remember that Jesus, when we read the Bible, we want to remember that, that this is a powerfully penetrating understanding of reality. It isn't something religious, okay. It's... it's about reality. And what it is saying we have to understand that way. So Jesus says, if you would save your life, you will lose it. There you are. Now, what was he looking at when he said that? He was looking at the human scene of brokenness. And said, Yeah, you see, those people are losing their lives. They full of illusions, full of obsessive feelings, full of silly certainties. They're losing their life. But he says, if you would give your life to me, if you will lose your life, for my sake and the good news, you will find it.

Dallas Willard 49:23

See that's the healing now. That's the healing we're talking about. And how it works is by walking with Jesus constantly. And you know, we have these wonderful expressions in the Scripture. The 23rd Psalm. "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not lack. I shall not want. I shall not be in want." Wait a minute. Really?

Dallas Willard 50:04

In other words, the Lord is my shepherd. I'm not going to miss out on anything important. Right? See, I'm not going to miss out on anything important. So all those things I thought I'd better take charge of because I'm going to miss out on them otherwise, won't matter. "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures." You know what kind of sheep lies down in a green pasture? A full sheep. A full sheep.

Dallas Willard**Dallas Willard 50:39**

Now don't say a dead one. Because that's different. That's different. They're not exactly lying down. A full sheep lies down. If they're not full, they get up and eat in green pastures. Right?

Dallas Willard 50:56

"He leadeth me beside still waters." What's that about? A sheep won't drink out of water that is rushing and turbulent. So a sheep that but a....if a sheep is thirsty, and it has still water before it, you don't lead it beside it. It's drinking. Right? He leads me beside still waters. That's a sheep that isn't thirsty.

Dallas Willard 51:39

Now actually, I know something about sheep. I used to raise them. And they're wonderful animals. But you don't mess with them when they get their head set on something, right? Because they're so stupid, and they just have one thought. And who are you to mess with that? That's a beautiful picture! That's a beautiful picture! "The Lord is my shepherd. I will not lack." So I can lay down in a green pasture. I can walk right by still water. Hmm? "He restores my soul." And the soul is the deep part of you, you see. "He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his namesake. Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not be afraid."

Dallas Willard 52:54

That's a beautiful thing. Death for many people is a... is the ultimate fear. "Though, I walk through the valley." Now we have to talk more about that. I said something about that a while ago. You see, there's a reason for that. "For thou art with me." So now you're thinking about what's going to happen to you when... you remember that, okay?

Dallas Willard 53:20

Nobody who knows the Lord dies alone. Many people who are afraid of dying alone. You'll never die alone if you know the Lord. Oh, Lazarus sat out there at the gate. But when he died, the angels came and got him. Now Dives, that was another story. It just says he died. And in the grave, he lifted up his eyes in Hades and saw Abraham away off and Lazarus was having dinner with him. See, that's what it means when it says "Lazarus and Abraham's bosom." Now, took me a little while to figure that out as a young person because you know "bosoms." I didn't even know Abraham had one.

Dallas Willard 54:06

I see what he's talking about there, it's like you remember the last supper? John was reclining. That's what Lazarus went to. He probably didn't even know he was dead. Right? I mean he had plenty of stuff to do, rather than think about "Oh, I'm dead." See, it changes all of that. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, leads me beside still waters, restores my soul. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, his rod... his... he's with me; his rod and staff, they comfort me. He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Now, you know, that's very telling because when your enemy is there, you normally don't want to eat. Your stomach is doing something else, right? I mean you...

Dallas Willard

flight and fight is on. No, I'll just... my enemies are right there. "The Lord prepares a table before me." Maybe I even say why don't you have a bite with me? Right? That would be a reasonable thing to do if the Lord is your shepherd. So Jesus taught us to love our enemies, right?

Dallas Willard 55:45

"You anoint me with oil; my cup is running over. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me." Here's goodness. Here's Mercy. "Goodness, and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Forever!"

Dallas Willard 56:19

Now, I have one slide. Can you put that up for me? You see, and... this is going to be central now to the whole course. So try to kind of fix it in your minds. And maybe I'll try to get it on a piece of paper for you next time. These are the essential parts of a human being. And your brokenness and mine lives in every one of those circles. And if the Lord is not my shepherd, I'm going to tell you, there's a lot of real bad stuff in there. The spirit is actually the same thing as the heart or the will. And for the person who's living in human brokenness, the central fact is my will is set to exalt myself.

Dallas Willard 57:37

And I think it's a rather... it is a pathetic condition. I think, really, you have to understand that a person who comes into this world and sees everything that's going on, and it's a tough scene, it's enough to scare the wits... wits out of you. And to make you say, "Hey, I've got to get into control of this thing. I'm riding the tiger." And so the effort is to make oneself invulnerable.

Dallas Willard 58:09

And that's what's in there. Then the mind is full of all sorts of bad stuff. What's going to happen to me? Terrible things are going to happen to me! Look around, you'll see people dying! People killing one another. People wishing they could die. Bad stuff. People losing their business, being deserted by their lovers, their children, by their friends and winding up alone. Thinking about that, see? What's going to happen to me?

Dallas Willard 58:52

And then of course, the feelings go with the mind too. You have thoughts and feelings and they make up the mind. And the will has to work off of those. So if your feelings and your thoughts are in a mess, your will's in trouble. You can only will what you know and what you have a feeling toward. So if you know the wrong things, and your feelings are messed up, your will is what the Scripture calls "dead in trespasses and sin." Your... so then your body is going to be all set to do the wrong things. That's why you do the wrong thing before you think about it because it's in your body.

Dallas Willard 59:44

And your social situation is going to be one that is governed by the processes of attack and withdrawal. Attack and withdrawal are the true... two primary forms of social relations in broken humanity. It's called Do unto others before they do unto you.

Dallas Willard

Dallas Willard 1:00:09

And then your soul is going to be so disconnected and broken, that your body, your mind, and your feelings have no coherence. They don't work together. The soul is primarily what integrates all the aspects of your life and makes it one person. But who is really one person? The normal, broken person is running in all sorts of different directions. Their feelings don't match their thoughts and their thoughts don't match their will and their body's running some other direction. And maybe it has affected their very physiology, maybe it hasn't. Other things are at work there. So that's a broken soul.

Dallas Willard 1:01:02

Now the soul is the deepest part of you. It's the part that makes the whole thing work. And when it's broken, the whole thing doesn't work. Now, then, the Good Shepherd comes. And we give ourselves to Him. We begin to trust him. And there begins to be recovery.

Dallas Willard 1:01:31

So now, go back to our song, change me on the inside. This is the inside folks. This is it. This is the inside. God wants to change us on the inside. And I believe, in fact, it is always the case that his is the initiative. But then it's for us to respond.

Dallas Willard 1:02:00

And so let me try to give you this in just a very simple way of putting it. The real issue for us is what shall we do to meet the grace of God for healing and wholeness in every aspect of this? That's the question. Now we know about going to church, hearing sermons, we know about giving, maybe witnessing, and a few other things. Now, let me just tell you as brutally as I can. What is normally recommended is not enough. It is not enough. Attending rip snorting services will not change your life. They won't do it. The best of preachers preaching at you will not change your life.

Dallas Willard 1:03:08

If you have received the Spirit of God and the birth from above, then you are now related to Jesus Christ in trust, confidence, expectation and hope on your side. And in supplying, teaching, guiding through your experiences on his side. That's what is called a "personal relation." You have a personal relation. And that's why you're going to be saved in the sense of going to heaven when you die. So when you go up there, they're not going to check the computer to see if all your sins are paid for. That's not what they're gonna do.

Dallas Willard 1:04:01

The question is going to be "Are you a friend of Jesus?" Not just is he a friend of you? He's a friend of everybody. Are you his friend? Have you drawn close to him so that the transformation that has gone on in your insides here has remarkably changed you and you no longer have to struggle with the outside. You have cleaned the inside of the cup. The outside got clean, got clean in the process. The inside you have cleaned. And Jesus comes and says if you're like that, then you don't have a thing to worry about. This world is a perfectly safe place for you to be. That's why he says don't worry about tomorrow. Don't worry about what you're going to eat and drink and all that stuff. Why? Because your father is looking out after you.



Dallas Willard 1:05:10

Remember, the Lord is my shepherd. The Lord is my shepherd. That's why Jesus says, "Don't worry." Or Paul says, "Don't be anxious for anything." See, that's the only thing that allows the bad stuff that is in those circles of your being, to begin to move out. And as you do that, you will have a character that can bear the power of God. See, the universe is full of power.

Dallas Willard 1:05:56

For most of human history, we didn't know much about that. And from the way it's used today, you might think it would be better if we didn't know anything about it today. Because you see, the character has not advanced with the power.

Dallas Willard 1:06:15

So when we come to deal with this brokenness in our lives, and receive the healing that comes from the Good Shepherd, Jesus Himself, we have to recognize that the first issue is character. And that's what happens as you transform your mind, for example. You know, we have this saying in English, "it's unthinkable!" Right? Now what that means is that a person who has good sense won't even have that thought.

Dallas Willard 1:06:53

There's a sign at Heathrow Airport that says, "don't even think of parking here." Don't even think of it. Well see, if you don't think of it, you probably won't park there! Right? So you have to work on the mind. Right? And what you think... can think of actually turns out to be very deeply indicative of your character.

Dallas Willard 1:07:25

See, when it comes to sin, you have the thought. Well, that's not a sin. It's not even a temptation. Temptation means you're... you have an inclination. You don't do it, perhaps. But then why don't you do it? Would you do it if you could get away with it? And things of that sort, you see. Again, those are character issues.

Dallas Willard 1:08:02

Now you see, if you want to stay out of sin, the first thing you do is stay out of temptation. Don't try to stay out of sin, just stay on temptation and that will take care of itself. Right? And it's even better, be the kind of person who doesn't even think of it. See, and we can do that. We can become that. Because our thoughts are a reflection of the experience that we're having, as we go through life. And one of the things that used to make it possible for young people to have a childhood was there's a lot of stuff they wouldn't see, until they were much older. And not seeing it, they couldn't even think of it. Right? That's called innocence.

Dallas Willard 1:08:57

Now, God help us or God help the poor child, because there's almost nothing they can't see, in some form. We call that "freedom" in the United States.

Dallas Willard

Dallas Willard 1:09:14

So we want to understand that we work on the inside in that way. That all dimensions of our being, from our will to our soul, is progressively healed. As we make an effort that is met by the Spirit of God. And together we change. And, you know, what happens is you find that there are certain things you can't even think of. Now, probably there's some things you can think of still, because we're in process. Aren't we? That's okay! But it's not a good thing.

Dallas Willard 1:10:02

I mean, you didn't sin because you thought how nice it would be if that person over there were dead. How many problems that would solve? So that's not a sin! Now, if you sort of put yourself into "I wish he were dead." You know, you didn't just think about how many problems that would solve. You put your will back out of it in a... in a way. And so, see, that's the path. Now, we want to stay off that path. We don't even get on it.

Dallas Willard 1:10:43

Okay, so, now that's where choice comes in, folks. Because you know, we can talk forever about change, without really wanting it. And when we talk next week about the mind, we're going to be talking about how our ego gets identified with how we think about things.

Dallas Willard 1:11:00

And that's where people are wedded to their opinions, as we say. But you know, that's all of us. We have to be redeemed and delivered from our own opinions. And, you know, I just might not be very enthusiastic about that.

Dallas Willard 1:11:30

So, all of a sudden, you see, things that may seem a little trivial, begin to look very deep.

Dallas Willard 1:11:37

Now, I want to give you an assignment, and ask you please, to do this, because this will help you change on the inside. And the assignment is very simple. I want to ask you to work through the Lord's... the..., the 23rd Psalm. I'll get it right here. The Lord is my prayer. Something like that. That's good, too! That's good, too! But I want to ask you please to work thoughtfully and prayerfully, through the 23rd Psalm three times every day. And let it be a part... part of your furniture. And... and... and actually, if you do this meditatively...meditatively, you will have memorized it pretty well, by the time the week is over.

Dallas Willard 1:12:31

But I want to ask you, please, to covenant with me that you will do this three times a day. Find 10 minutes, 15 minutes. If you find yourself drawn into it, you may want to spend an hour because you can do that. The same way with the Lord's Prayer. You... you get drawn into the phrasing, and you begin to think and meditate and time flies.

Dallas Willard

Dallas Willard 1:12:57

So try to find a quiet moment, if possible, in the morning and around noon. And a good way to go to bed is with the 23rd Psalm.

Dallas Willard 1:13:14

Now, there are very few mornings where I don't work through the 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer three or four times before I get up. I'm one of these people that when I wake up, I'm fully awake, right? And so I can do that. And you... some... some of you may not be like that. And so get someone to slap you. And then you start in "the Lord is my shepherd...."

Dallas Willard 1:13:53

Because the first stage in this process is the transformation of our thought life under the direction of the Spirit of God, but the Spirit of God will not memorize that Psalm for you. And the Spirit of God will not meditate on it for.... You have to do that! Now when you do it, you're going to experience incredible blessing. Don't make a job out of it, okay. Enjoy it. If you need to sit with a cup of coffee or whatever, go out on the porch, whatever you might do, enjoy it. That... it isn't true that "no pain, no gain." That's a false teaching. You have a lot of pain and no gain, a lot of gain and no pain. So you know, do it in a way that you really enjoy it. That you'll love it and just let that roll over you. And you will have... you will experience a strong element of inward translation because when you go through the rest of the day, you're gonna go through it in green pastures by still waters.

Dallas Willard 1:15:07

Let's pray just a moment. Let's stand together and pray.

Dallas Willard 1:15:12

Father, we just are thrilled that you are you. Thank God for God. Please help us in ways that will be practical and meaningful. To take steps towards the healing of our lives. The healing of our hearts. Please do that this week. Fill us with Your goodness in this way. We pray to honor Jesus and His Kingdom. Amen.