



The Power of Relationship to Restore & Renovate Us

“You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You’ll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.” – Isaiah 58:12 (The Message)

- Restoration of our soul comes when we begin our relationship with God through His Son Jesus. Restoration of our heart and mind continues because of this secure attached relationship.
- So much Christian teaching tends to focus on right beliefs and right choices as the key to personal growth but biblical evidence and modern brain science show that our ***character is shaped more by whom we love than what we believe.***
- The Book of Isaiah will help us see how the promise of salvation would come through the Messiah. But in addition to bringing pardon for sin, intimate relationship with Jesus renovates us wholly—mind, will, and emotion.
- This study is about showing how we can train our brains to relate to God based on a joyful, mutual connection with Jesus which will lead to emotional, relational, and spiritual maturity.

**CONTROLLED BY WHAT IS GOOD -
TRANSFORMATION OF OUR CHARACTER**

ISAIAH: THE MASTERPIECE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

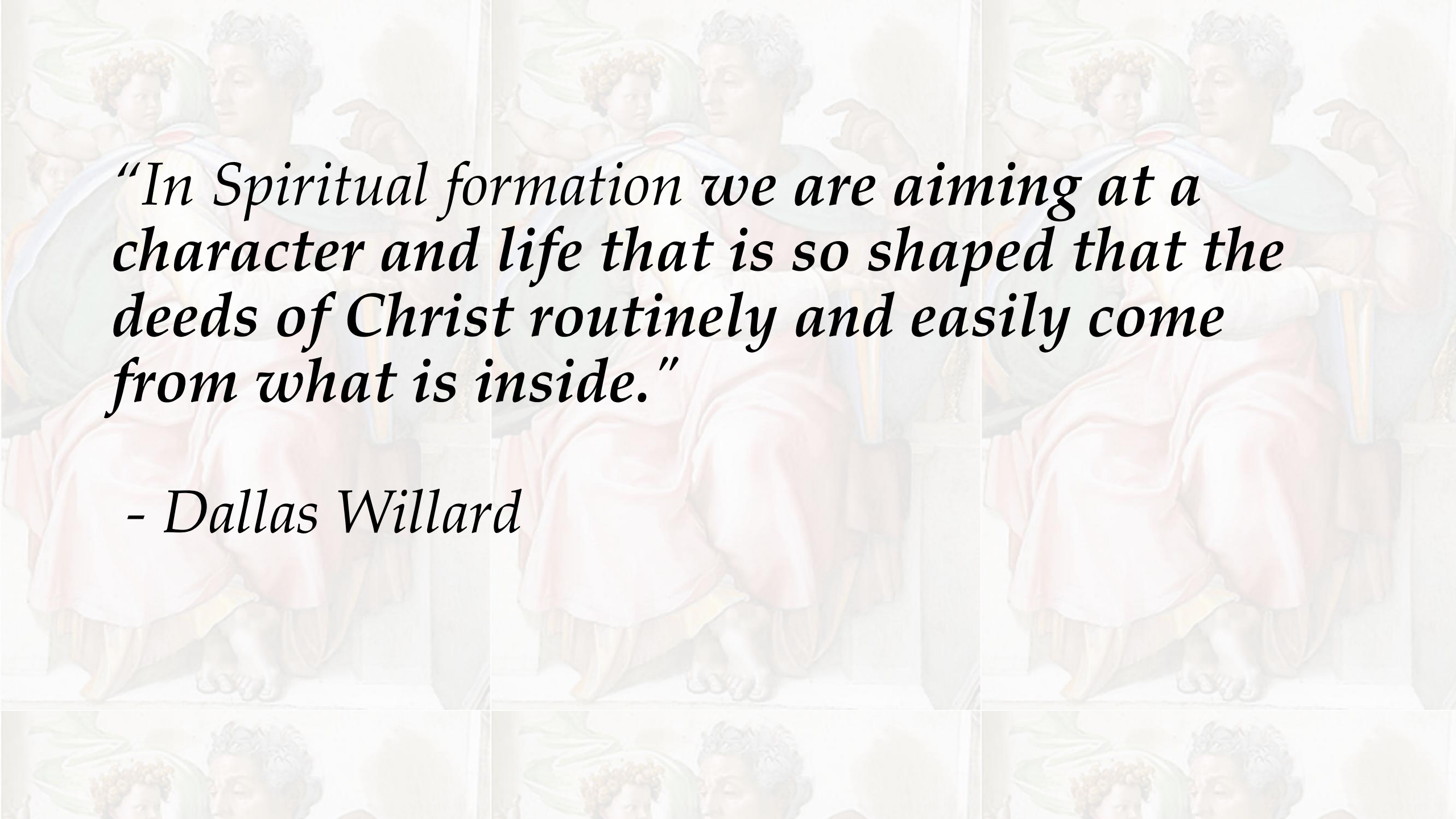
1. **START WITH GOD** → The central theme of the book is God himself, who does all things for his own sake (Isa. 48:11). Isaiah defines everything else by its relation to God, whether it is rightly adjusted to him as the gloriously central figure in all of reality (Isa. 45:22–25).
 1. **LIFT UP HIS NAME** → God is the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 1:4), the One who is high and lifted up.
 2. **CONNECTED TO THE BROKEN** → HE dwells down among the “contrite and lowly” (Isa. 57:15), the Sovereign over the whole world (Isa. 13:1–27:13) whose wrath is fierce (Isa. 9:12, 17, 21; 10:4) but whose cleansing touch atones for sin (Isa. 6:7), whose salvation flows in endless supply (Isa. 12:3), whose gospel is “good news of happiness” (Isa. 52:7), who is moving history toward the blessing of his people (Isa. 43:3–7) and the exclusive worship due him (Isa. 2:2–4).
 3. **ONLY SAVIOR** → He is the only Savior (Isa. 43:10–13), and the whole world will know it (Isa. 49:26).
 4. **REST IN HIS PROMISES** → To rest in the promises of this God is his people’s only strength (Isa. 30:15); to delight themselves in his word is their refreshing feast (Isa. 55:1–2); to serve his cause is their worthy devotion (ch. 62); but to rebel against him is endless death (Isa. 66:24).

RESTORED: EMOTIONAL & SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1. **LIVING FOR WHAT IS GOOD** → Living for what is good is what characterizes the emotionally mature person. The emotionally mature person is not the one with a starved, deprived existence, but rather one that reaches out and embraces and furthers all that is good—everything that is good. See Philippians 4:9; I Corinthians 13:1-10. Quote by Dallas Willard.
2. **SELF CONTROL** → Emotional maturity refers primarily to having our feelings, desires, and emotions under the guidance and control of what is good. To be emotionally mature is to be in a position to control what is wanted in terms of what is good.

RESTORED: EMOTIONAL & SPIRITUAL MATURITY

3. WHERE IS THE POWER? → Doing what you don't want to do is the key to emotional maturity. We need to be men who are able to have emotions and feelings and desires under the power of what is good. The emotions, the desires, and the feelings are manifestations of "flesh." Biblically, flesh refers to the natural powers of human beings. You cannot allow flesh to rule your life. See Galatians 5:19-26. The mature person has their mind turned to the world of God and God's presence with them. See Matthew 6:7-13.
1. Feelings → If you try to live by your feelings, you're dead. Feelings aren't bad, but you can't be controlled by them.
 2. Desires → Desires say: "I want that." Desires do not address the issue of what is good.
 3. Will → The work of the will frees you up to make a choice. But life is more than making the right choice.



“In Spiritual formation we are aiming at a character and life that is so shaped that the deeds of Christ routinely and easily come from what is inside.”

- Dallas Willard



ACTION: Journal This

1. What good will you bring to the life of those you come in contact with today?
2. Where do you need more self-control?
3. How will being Christlike become a reality to you?

