

Monday: 01/14/2018

Devoting to God Our Natural Abilities

*For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. - **Colossians 1:9-10***

There's nothing wrong with faith. Faith is a confidence or trust in something, which we may or may not know to be true. But one of the things we need to keep in mind about faith is that it may be wrong. Sometimes we trust and have confidence in things that betray us, because they are false.

Faith in itself is not necessarily a good or a bad thing. Now, there is a saving faith, and that's a good thing. But there are damning faiths as well. And there are also the situations where we live neither in knowledge nor in faith; we're just in doubt. These are situations that Jesus dealt with often, and we want to learn to have his spirit in dealing with doubt.

Reflect:

(Q) Take a moment and consider some thing or some person that you have placed your in confidence that has betrayed you.

(Q) Do you feel any resistance to Dallas' statement that, "faith in itself is not necessarily a good or bad thing"? If so, why?

Devotional by: Dallas Willard

Book: *The Allure of Gentleness: Defending the Faith in the Manner of Jesus*



*Dallas Willard Ministries is excited to partner with Jeff Whitebread, who, through his work with Capitol Commission, ministers to those serving in the Pennsylvania State legislature, their staff members, and those in the lobbying community. We believe the thoughts and ideas contained in Dallas' book, *The Allure of Gentleness*, are timely guidance for those who seek to stand for truth in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus himself. Dallas acknowledged he gave up trying to get people to do things, preferring instead to inspire them to think things through on their own and come to a different view of matters. We pray that in making this material available, we can continue in his footsteps, playing our part in helping others catch a vision of life with God, becoming his apprentice, and walking in the easy yoke of Jesus — even when engaging the rough and tumble world of the public arena.*