

Sunday: 01/13/2018

Beginning to Think for Christ

*And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. - **Philippians 1:9-11***

Apologetics is a New Testament ministry that uses thinking and reasoning, in reliance on the Holy Spirit, to assist earnest inquirers in relinquishing disbelief and mistrust in God and God's good purposes for humankind. This helps people believe and know the things that are especially related to Jesus Christ: his coming into the world, his life and death, and now his continuing to live in us.

But the way this helping ministry works is by aiding others in removing doubts that hinder their enthusiastic and full participation in the kingdom of the heavens and their discipleship to Christ. We have many clear indications in scripture that we are intended to add to our faith: that we start with faith, but we move on to knowledge; that we are to grow not only in grace, but also in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:5; 3:18).

Reflect:

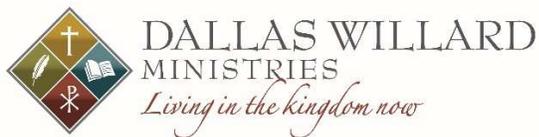
Our life runs along the rails of what we believe, there is no escaping this truth.

(Q) What are some of the things in your ordinary life that you place your confidence in, without even thinking about it? (Example, if you're sitting down, you're probably sitting in such a way that you believe the chair will hold you.) Think of some others.

(Q) How is knowledge something different from belief?

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.*