

## 21H01 Dallas Willard

Hello my friends. I want to thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table for CoffeeTable Heroes.

Today, I would like to talk about one of my Heroes. If you are a Christian, you may know about him a little. Dallas Willard. Even though Dallas died in 2013 and I had never heard about him while he was alive. Dallas has enriched my life and life of my family like very few people will ever do. I love this man of God. He was and is a true Christian Hero.

There are many remarkable things about Dallas but his no nonsense teaching about the Kingdom of God was nothing short of life altering for me. Dallas wrote many books, but *The Divine Conspiracy* is one every follower of Jesus should read or listen too. There are many YouTube videos on this book and audio versions are available for those like me who hate to read.

I want to just share a few things about Dallas that I think made him so remarkable. Dallas was a Bible teacher and professor of Philosophy. Yeah, you heard me. He was a professor of Philosophy at Southern California University from 1965 until his death in 2013. I heard him asked once why he was a professor instead of a pastor. In fact, for a while Dallas Willard was a pastor. But Dallas' response to this questions was truly amazing. He said, as a pastor he had access to the church and Christians but had no access to the university and students, but as a professor he had access to the university and students, as well as the church and Christians. This was the very essence of bi-vocational ministry. As a full time, Professor Dallas had the opportunity to be involved with students and faculty at universities around the world in a way he could never have done as a pastor. Be certain. Dallas was always a fulltime Christian teacher and he was always on mission for God, but he choose to stay engaged with the world of non-believers in an attempt to reach others for Jesus.

Dallas had an amazing inviting nature about him. I felt drawn to him from the very first time I heard him speak even though I had never even heard of him while he was living. I have read and heard so many stories about him I feel like I know him. I heard him say once, "when asked why he was a Christian by students he would answer. Well I need someone to follow and I choose to follow Jesus. Who would you follow? The way he always made statements with questions was truly captivating. He even said the occasional student would quip, "I don't need to follow anyone". Dallas would respond softly, "Good for you, but I would be lost if I didn't have someone to follow".

One of Dallas Willard's friends, JP Moreland once spoke about Dallas as he was preparing for cancer surgery. He said he asked Dallas if he was afraid. Dallas quipped back, "No, I practice what I preach". Dallas completely trusted God. He was not afraid to die, because he knew it was only the beginning. And Dallas died battling this cancer. I'm sure he was ready to go home, as all true followers of Jesus are.

Among the amazing stories that Dallas told was one that I found to be profound. Dallas was relating a time one of his philosophy students describe how he viewed Christianity. He said, Christians think they have a Certificate, Ticket and a Catalog. A Certificate of membership to the club, like church memberships or baptism certificates that makes them think they are members of some exclusive club. A Ticket to get into heaven when they die. And a catalog so they can ask for stuff while they are here on earth. When I first heard this, I wanted to cry. How this student had summed up most Christians view so concisely and accurately. The gospel of me. How sad and selfish we really are, I thought.

Dallas believed strongly that you can only be a Christian if you are a disciple or true follower of King Jesus. Dallas devoted himself to teaching the Gospel of Jesus that the Kingdom of God is available to each of us. Right now. He taught me what living in the kingdom of God now looks like.

I'll put some links on our website to make it easy for you to find out more about this amazing man. A true Christian Hero. Dallas Willard

**Let's Pray. Lord thank you for the life of Dallas Willard. I'm so thankful you helped me to find the teaching from your servant Dallas. Help me to apply his teaching about you to my life and help others to see you more clearly through the amazing teaching of this man. I pray these things in your name Jesus, Amen**

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table for Coffee Table Heroes. Email me if you have any comments.

So, until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

#### LINKS

[Dallas Willard | Home \(dwillard.org\)](http://dwillard.org)

Dallas Willard - The Gospel Jesus Taught and the Atonement <https://youtu.be/tfHlussF5nc>

[Dallas Willard, a Man from Another 'Time Zone' | Christianity Today](#)  
[Making Up There Come Down Here: Life in the Kingdom - YouTube](#)