

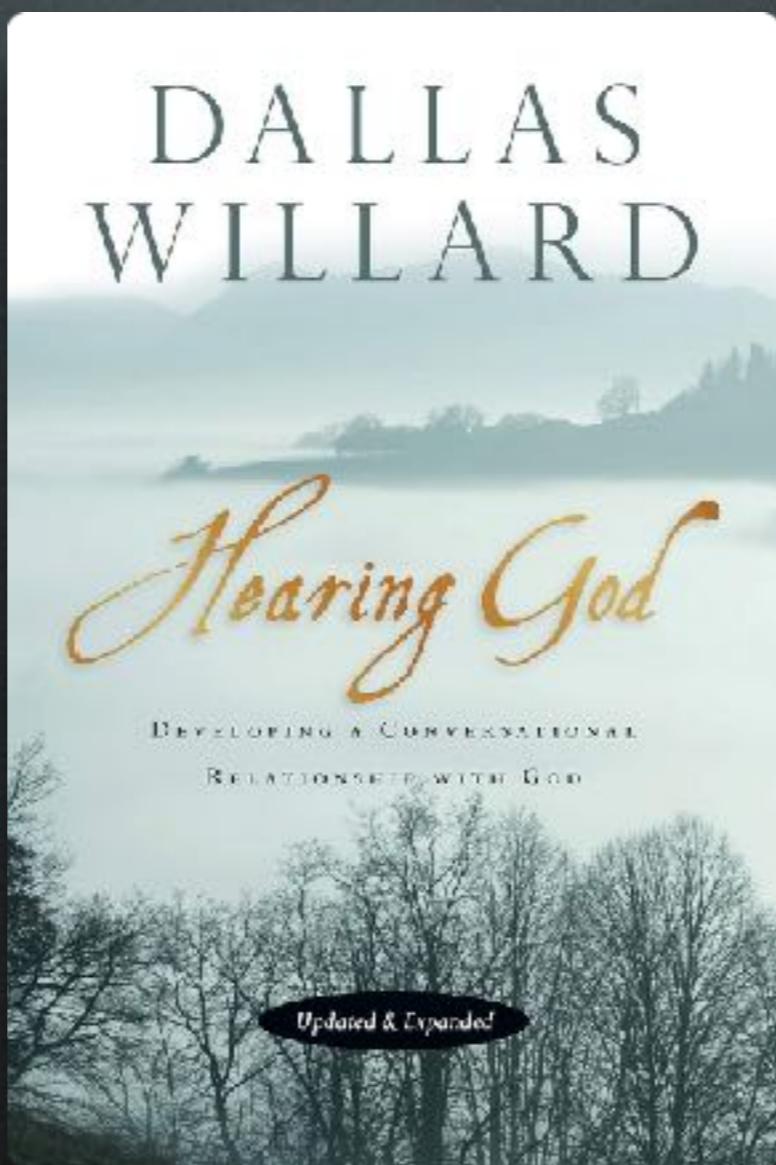
WELCOME to a ten week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



HEARING GOD

Session 10 - “*A Life More Than Guidance*”

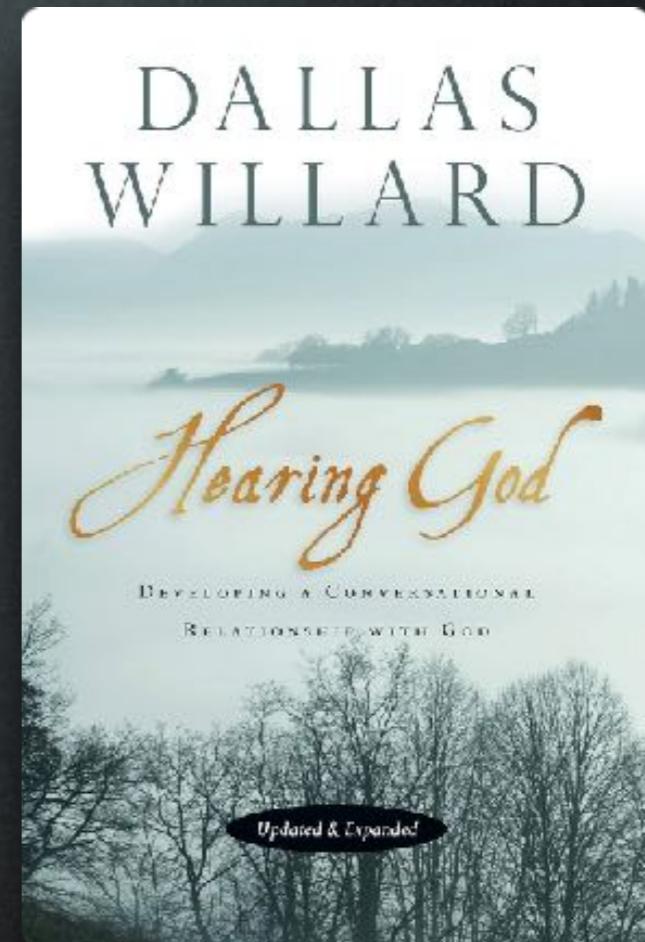
Chapter 9



Session 9 Review

In recognizing the voice of God...

The essentials remain the distinctive quality, spirit and content that we have learned through experience to associate with the personal presence of God. (239)



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Chapter 9

Key Dallas Directives

Faith is not opposed to knowledge;
Faith is opposed to sight.

Grace is not opposed to effort;
Grace is opposed to earning.

“To love the Lord your God with your mind...”

You have done the hard work about thinking carefully
and in depth about hearing God’s voice.
Now, the how-to question...

(254)



How to Hear the Voice of God

Q – How may we come to live confidently and sensibly with God as a conversational presence in our lives?

Q – How much can we count on hearing God?

Q – What does it mean when we don't hear His voice?

Q – What are we to do then?

We come to know the quality, spirit and content of God's voice.

(255)



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Paying Attention to How We Hear

One of Jesus’ deepest teachings:

“Anyone who has ears to hear, listen.” Mark 4:23-25

Both listening and our other ways of perceiving turn out to be fundamental displays of our character, our freedom and our bondages.

(257)

God on Demand: Wanting to Hear God...or Not

Very few human beings really do concretely desire to hear what God has to say to them.

Our failure to hear His voice when we want to is due to the fact that we do not in general want to hear it, that we want it only when we think we need it. (257)

Usually those who want a word from God when they are “in trouble” can not find it...not to receive it just because we believe it is the best way to live. (258)





Listening to God

Dallas writes, “*When I want to hear from God...*

- Ask Him to speak.
- Listen for the voice or thought.
- Devote time to another task that neither engrosses or allows intense focus on the matter at hand.
- Be sure of how great and good God is.
- Look for a thought with God’s quality, spirit & content.
- Consider discussing with others.
- Possibly repeat the process.
- Limit 2 or 3 days to the process.
- Being uncertain doesn’t mean you haven’t heard.

(260-265)



This is Not a Gimmick

We treat [God] like a celestial aspirin that will cure headaches brought on by the steady, willful tendency of our lives away from and even against Him.

We treat Him as a cosmic butler who is to clean up our messes.

To compel Him to serve us, we seek gimmicks and tricks suited only to idols.

(265)

Deciding on Our Own...when God does not

What if God does not send a particularized word?

1st Response — Do not automatically assume we are displeasing to Him. If that is the case:

- Honest examination of our lives
- Counsel with Christian friends and leaders
- Ask the Lord to reveal it to us (265)



What if God does not send a particularized word?

2nd Response – God's will for our part - we should have a great part in determining our path through life. He calls us to responsible citizenship in His Kingdom.

(266)



A child's character cannot be known – even to herself – until she is turned loose to do what she wants.

What we want, what we think, what we decide to do when the word of God does not come or when we have so immersed ourselves in Him that His voice within us is not held in distinction – these show that we are either God's mature children, friends and coworkers, or we are something less.

(267)

What if God does not send a particularized word?

3rd Response – Spiritual hypochondria: Neurotic, faithless, irresponsible seeking of God's will.

- More concerned with being righteous than loving God and others.
- Obsessed with being right as a strategy for being safe.
- Do not have a hearty faith in His gracious goodwill toward us. If so, we need to grow up to Christlikeness.
- We may suspect God is mean...we may be afraid to make a move without dictation from Him.

(267)



The Perfect Will of God

What if no specific word in a matter of great importance?

Resist...

...the tendency to blame the absence on our own wrongness.

...it means we must be off the track and living in something less than God's will.

God who came to us in Jesus Christ will not mumble and tease and trick us regarding any specific matter He wants done.

Whatever lies in His moral will be undertaken in faith is His perfect will...not precise dictation...and it may allow for a number of different alternatives.

(269)

The sincere seeker should move forward with faith in God if no specific word comes after a reasonable period of time.

Approach the choices case-by-case as life lived one day at a time, trusting God. It is not a great and mature faith that merely does what it is told.

Human initiative is not canceled by God redeeming us.

(271)



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A Cosmic Conflict, Firm, Never Beyond Risk, Well With-God (271-276)

The key concept underlying all the themes I have raised in this book is this:

Hearing God’s word will never make sense except when it is set within a larger life of a certain kind.

(274) (137, 147, 192, 286)

We must move ultimately beyond hearing God and into a life greater than our own – that of the Kingdom of God. (275)

God does not exist to solve our problems.

We exist to stand up with God and count for something in His world. (275)

REVIEW – *The word of God does not come just to lead us out of trouble - though it sometimes does this - or to make sure we have it easy and everything goes our way.* (Ch. 8, 235)

Do all things for the glory of God —
I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17





What was the human issue Jesus came to address?



What was the human issue Jesus came to address?

*Jesus came to respond to the universal human need
to know how to live well.*

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

John 10:10

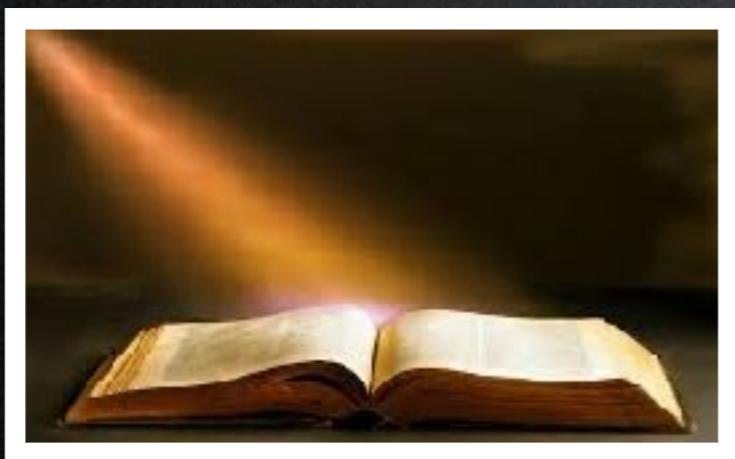
Putting Jesus Christ into a worldwide competition with all known alternatives is the only way we can give our faith a chance to prove His power over the whole of life.

(276)

A Formula for Living with God's Voice (276-278)

Intend, plan & make provision to be morally right and do service to the good then...

- Meditate constantly on God's principles in the Scriptures
- Pay close attention to God's communications in our mind and heart
- Pray constantly and specifically
- Listen carefully and deliberately





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When God does not Speak (279)

- Ask God if a hindrance is in you
- Take counsel from at least two people
- Correct any causes for God’s word not coming
- If you can not find a cause, do what seems best to you





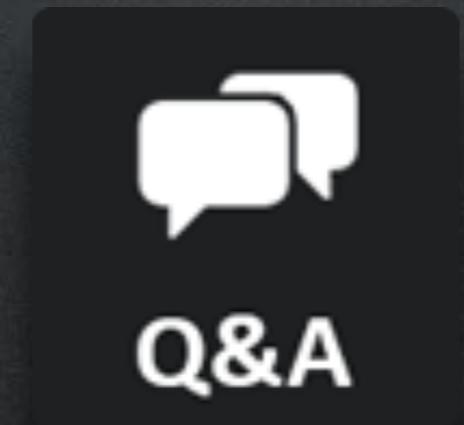
“The shepherd of the sheep...calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...He goes ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice...I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.”

John 10:2-4, 14, 27

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



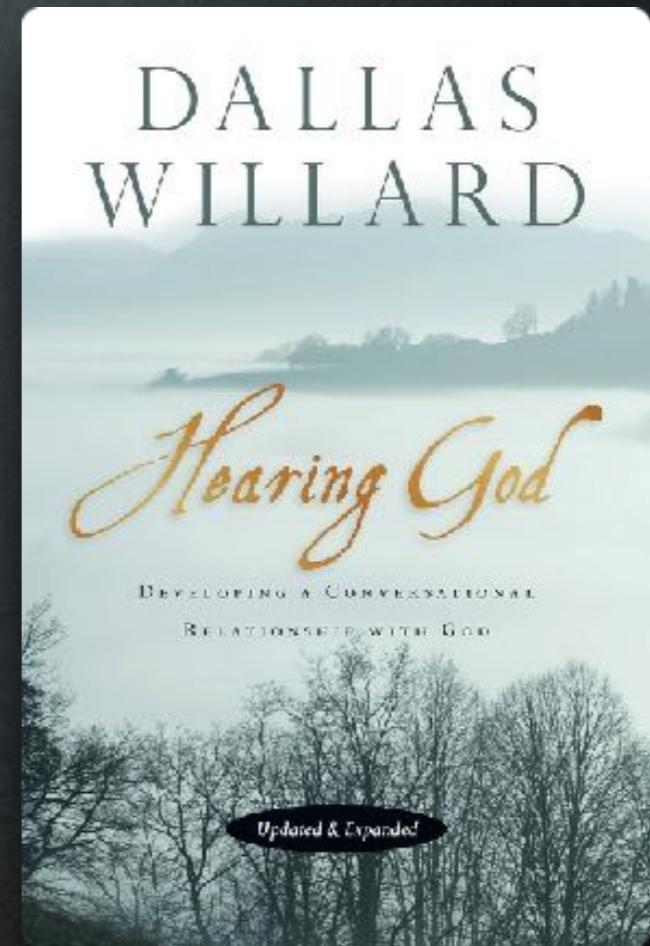
Final Meditation for Eternal Application

Psalm 1; Joshua 1:8, Matthew 6:33

- 1.) What do I think is the human issue Jesus came to address, His VISION for us? (see p. 276 for Dallas' answer)
- 2.) What 2-3 key IDEAS of “Hearing God” have I gained from God through the Word of God and Dallas Willard?
- 3.) What practical MEANS have I discovered in this study - my “daily bread” - to foster a kind of life to hear God?
- 4.) How might I finish this sentence,
“The kind of life I am developing with Jesus today is...”
- 5.) Who is the still, small voice of the Lord bringing to my mind to invite to join me in this kind of life?

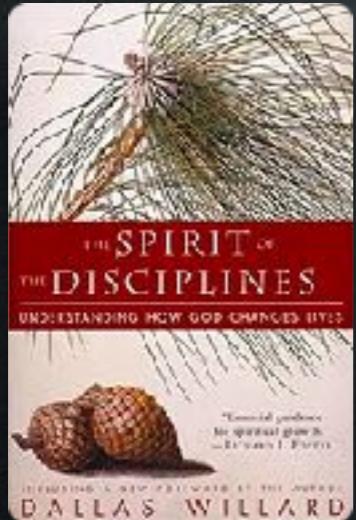
Session 10 Summary

Jesus came to give us life and teach us how to know a good life as a good person through a conversational relationship with the Trinity from whom we would learn how to lead a life like Jesus, greater than our own, in the Kingdom of God.



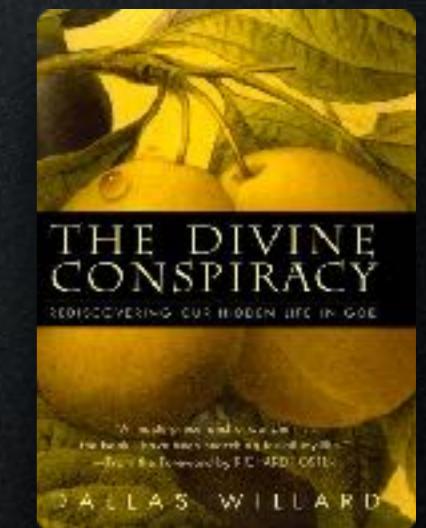
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(11) Tuesdays, March 1 - May 10, 2022



“The Divine Conspiracy”

(31) Thursdays, March 24 - October 10, 2022

8 AM - or - 4 PM (US Pacific = GMT -7 hours)

Information or Registration — info@JesusCollege.com

Co-sponsored by



I trust the last 10 weeks empowered you in a fresh way to hear God today and for the next 10,000 years.

Doug



A CELEBRATION of COMPLETION

Yahwehallelujah!

From Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College
to the Apprentices who completed the Course:

“Hearing God”



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This Certifies that

Oladipo Shooyola

Has diligently and devotedly completed in March, 2022, the Course

HEARING GOD

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



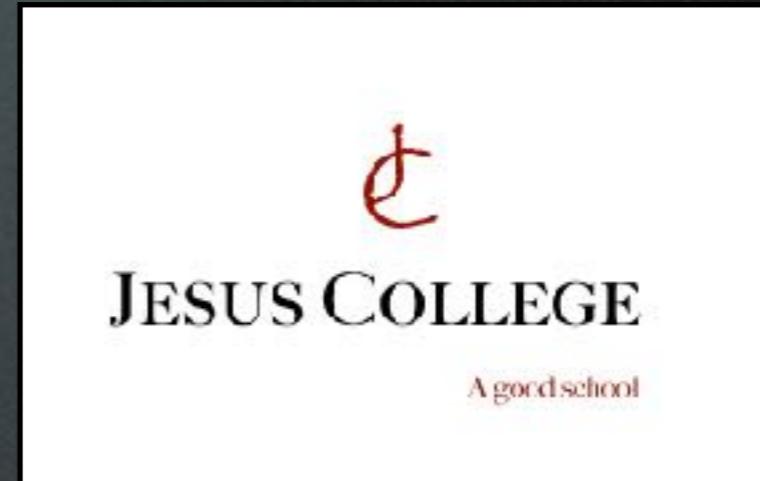
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A good school

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Living in the kingdom now



God Bless you for sharing the
Hearing God journey with us!

Two “Hearing God”
Teachings by Dallas



Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel



#1 – St. Peter’s Anglican Church

4 Sessions + 11 highlight clips

Birmingham, Alabama – August, 2011

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQ7tmLfYg7S9ugPhFtlnry9zKLWx_oQmW

#2 – Renovare Institute

4 Sessions – St. Malo, Colorado – March, 2011

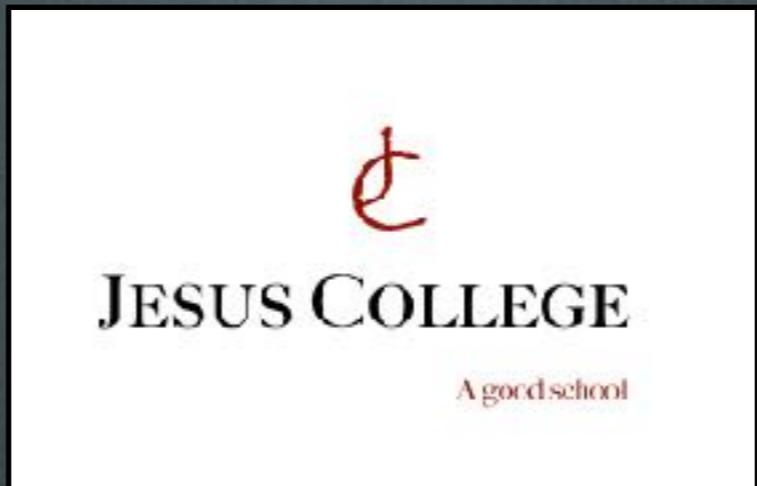
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9BEcpHM2gs&t=4s>

Dallas moves the idea of hearing God from the context of religion into the context of real life with a solid theological foundation. The life that God presents to us in the Bible includes the assumption that God will be speaking to us (Ps. 32, Is. 30), but many people can't identify God speaking to them or think that they don't deserve for Him to speak to them. Now you can learn how to develop a conversational relationship with Him.



THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING

Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



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