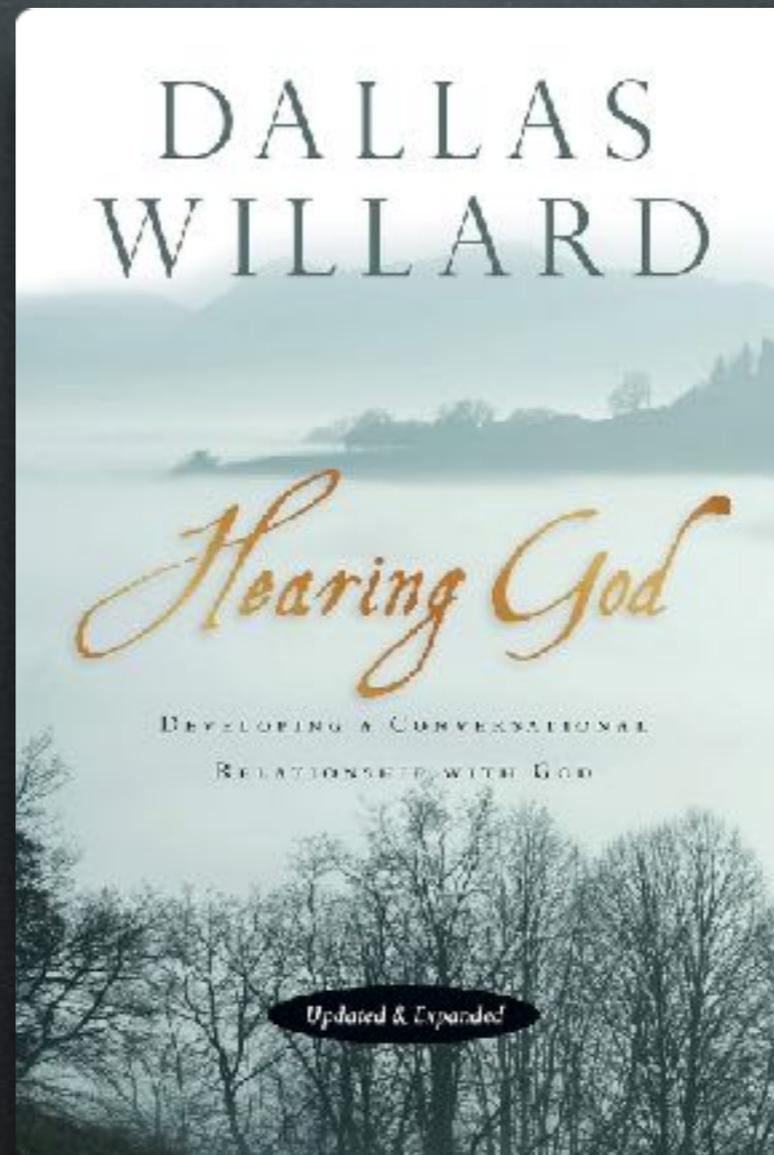


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# HEARING GOD

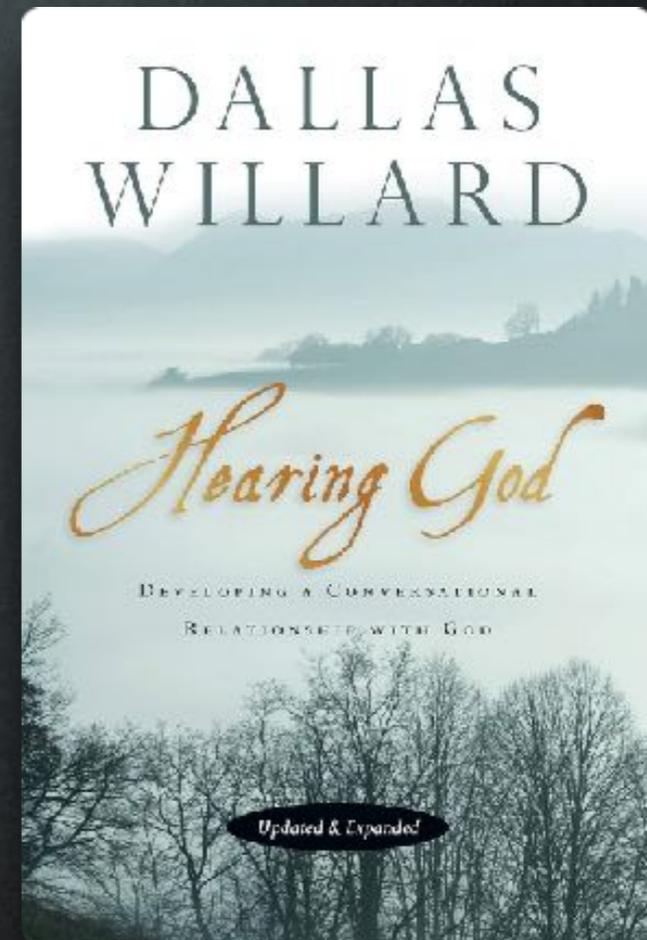
Session 9 - “*Recognizing the Voice of God*”  
Chapter 8



## Session 8 Review

An additional new kind of life is imparted in us by the word of Jesus Christ where His faith becomes our faith.

We set our will on this new life moving beyond communication and communion into union with Christ.





“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

# HEARING GOD

Session 9 - *“Recognizing the Voice of God”*

Chapter 8

When a word or thought comes to us, how do we know whether it is a word from God or not?

(217)

**REVIEW Chapter 3** - *“It all in the Bible”*

[unless it's not.]

*Many of life's circumstances are not dealt with in the Bible.*

(78)

## Voice Recognition

### **In Nature...** (218-219)

The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger,  
but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.

Isaiah 1:3

### **In Experience...** (220-221)

The Holy Spirit's anointing - I John 2:7

Young Samuel - I Samuel 3:3-10

At first we must be told that God is speaking to us.

To confidently distinguish and recognize His voice as His voice, that ability comes only with experience.

## The Three Lights

*Circumstance — Holy Spirit Impressions — The Bible*

First, the Holy Spirit works through Scriptures

*“Without the present illumination of the Holy Spirit,  
the Word of God remains a dead letter.”*

William Law, *The Power of the Spirit*, p. 61

Q: How do we recognize or authenticate God's Voice?

A: Does it confess Jesus as Lord or Son of God?

Open or closed doors of circumstances cannot function independently of the other two lights. (224)

The three lights tend to be limited to guidance, not helping us understand the conversation. (225)

# HEARING GOD

Session 9 - *“Recognizing the Voice of God”*

Chapter 8

## **The Conditions of Responsible Judgment**

**Q** – How are we to understand the role the Three Lights play in hearing God’s voice?

**1st:** Hearing God does not exclude our own judgment.  
We still make the decision.

**2nd:** God’s directive word in conjunction with:

- Responsible study and meditation on the Bible
- Experience of Spirit movements by our heart
- Intelligent alertness to the circumstances

(225-226)

## “Pray & Watch”

Word

“Devote yourselves to prayer,  
being watchful and thankful.”

Ask

Colossians 4:2

Think...Biblically like Jesus

Counsel

Happenings



“Watch and pray so that you will  
not fall into temptation. The spirit  
is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Mark 14:38

God's voice usually does not come to us out of the blue. It enables us to do specific, concrete things that will help us as we seek to know the will of God.

When God speaks and we recognize the voice as His voice, we do so because our familiarity with that voice enables us to recognize it.

(226)



# HEARING GOD

Session 9 - *“Recognizing the Voice of God”*

Chapter 8

## **Three Factors in the Voice of God**

1st: Quality - Tones & Style

*The weight or impact, the power and authority. Matt. 7:29*

2nd: Spirit - Attitudes & Personal Characteristics

*The sweet, calm spirit of Jesus James 3:17*

3rd: Content

*Biblical information of God's nature & Kingdom*

(227-232)

## **The Principles not the Panacea**

The actions, spirit and explicit statements of Jesus.

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.

And the voice of Satan, like God, usually comes to us through our thoughts and perceptions.

(234-236)

*“But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” John 10:5*



All of the words we are going to receive from God, no matter what may accompany them externally or internally, will ultimately pass through the form of our own thought and perceptions.

(237)



*Couldn't I still be mistaken?*

Yes, of course you could be wrong. God does not intend to make us infallible by His conversational walk with Him. Infallibility in discerning the mind of God simply does not fit the human condition.

(237)





## The Centrality of the Bible

Maintain a close and constant companionship with the Bible. (237)

- God acts toward me in a distinctly personal manner. This is the common testimony. We stand within a “community of the spoken to”. (239)

### **REVIEW: The Bible in Redemption** – Chapter 6&7

The word of God portrayed in the Bible is therefore available to every person through the Bible. (186)

The person who wishes to grow in grace (II Peter 3:18) is by far best advised to make a close and constant companion of *the book* – the Bible. (210)

10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when men curse and insult you, and because you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

12 Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*This completed Plain People Disciples and the World*

13 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law of the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

23 If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

24 Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, in order that your opponent

will not seize you and drag you to court, and then you will be dragged to court.

25 Therefore, do not be anxious for your life, what you will eat, or for your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his stature or span?

28 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his stature or span?

29 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his stature or span?

30 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his stature or span?

31 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his stature or span?

11 You shall not deliver up a son of your father to the judge, and you shall not go into prison, for you shall not be able to get out.

12 Truly I say to you, you shall not come out of there until you have paid the last penny.

13 You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

14 And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

15 And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to go into hell.

16 Add it was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE'; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

17 Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD'; but I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

18 Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

19 But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil.

20 You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH'; but I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.

21 And whoever wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

22 And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two.

23 If you see your brother who has something against you, go and be reconciled to him; for if you do not, you will not see your Father until you are reconciled to your brother.

24 Therefore, do not be anxious for your life, what you will eat, or for your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.

25 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

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33 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his stature or span?

34 Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

35 You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself; you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself.

36 But I say to you, love your enemy, and pray for those who persecute you, in order that you may be the sons of your Father who is in heaven for He sends His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

37 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

38 And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

39 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

40 Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

41 When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men; truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

42 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

43 And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men; truly I say to you, they get their reward in full.

44 But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and by your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

45 And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

46 Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.

47 Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

48 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

49 Give us this day our daily bread.

50 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

51 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

52 Amen.

53 Amen.

54 Amen.

55 Amen.

56 Amen.

57 Amen.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

14 For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

16 And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men; truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face, so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

18 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

19 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.

20 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

21 The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is 'deaf,' your whole body will be full of darkness.

22 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of light.

23 Therefore, if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon.

25 For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or for your body, as to what you shall wear. For life is more than food, and the body than clothing.

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

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*How much religion would he do...*

*How much religion would he do...*

# HEARING GOD

Session 9 - *“Recognizing the Voice of God”*

Chapter 8

## **Four Practical Results in Life ...in the Kingdom of God**

1. Direct daily access to God & His Kingdom for all believers
2. Confidence, comfort and peace
3. Protection from mad religionists and legalism
4. A quality of life like those in Scripture

(240-246)

What we have here are not mere impressions, impulses or feelings. Rather, we have specific and full cognitive or propositional content concerning what is the case, what is to be done and what will happen.

(247)

If God wants us to know something, He will be both able and willing to communicate it to us plainly, as long as we are open and prepared by our experience to hear and obey.

(250)



# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

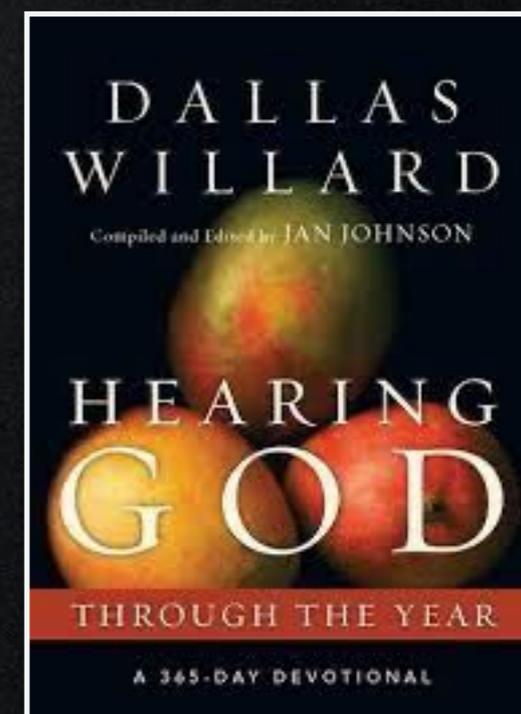
# **Meditation** — *Lectio Divina #6 (247-249)*

*1 Chronicles 14:8-17*

## **Application**

- 1.) What do I think about the three factors that help me recognize God's voice?
- 2.) How can my Bible reading be more "study, meditation, intelligent, alert"?
- 3.) Which of the practical Kingdom Living results am I seeking in my life right now?

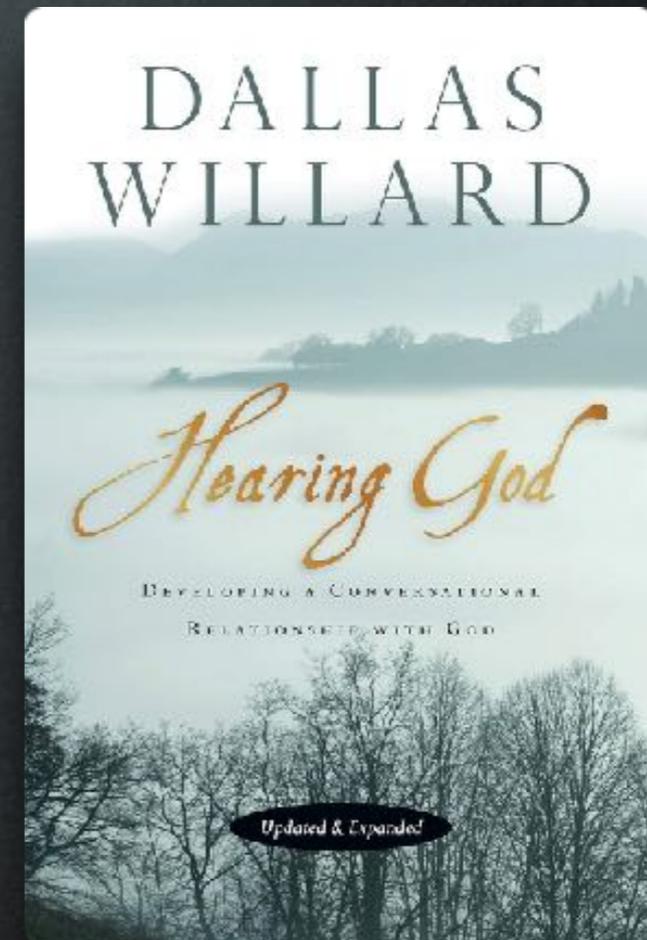
*Converse daily with God —>*

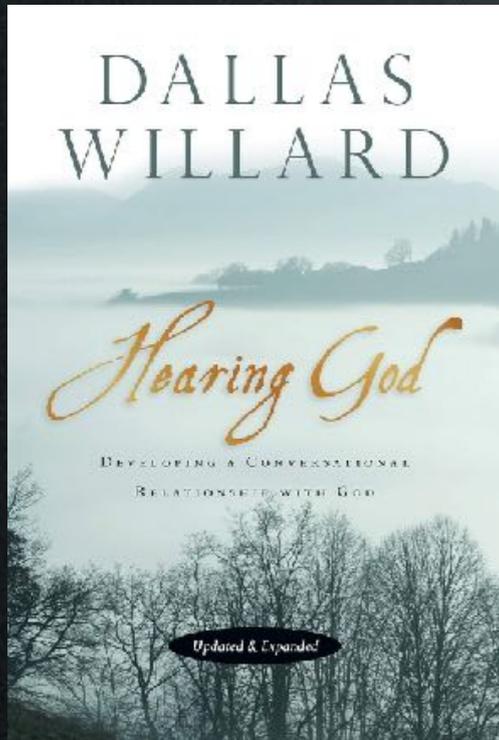


## Session 9 Summary

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)



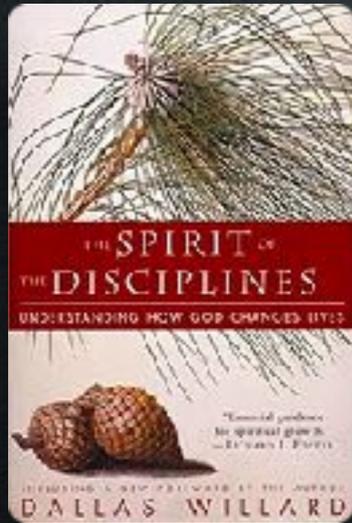


## **Final — Session 10**

### **“A Life More Than Guidance” Chapter 10**

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

# Two New Free Courses

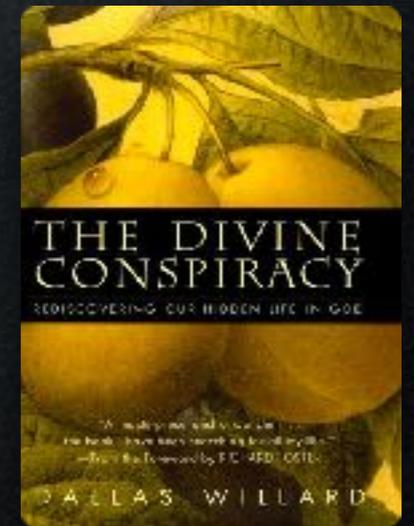


## *“The Spirit of the Disciplines”*

(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-8 hours)

**Information or Registration — [info@JesusCollege.com](mailto:info@JesusCollege.com)**

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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=PLQ7tmLfYg7S9ugPhFt1nry9zKLWx\\_oQmW](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQ7tmLfYg7S9ugPhFt1nry9zKLWx_oQmW)

#2 — Renovare Institute  
4 Sessions — St. Malo, Colorado — March, 2011

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

Dallas move 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.

I trust the last 9 weeks  
(90,000 minutes plus) of  
your life have  
strengthened the  
clarity, confidence and  
conviction with which  
you are hearing the  
still, small voice of God.

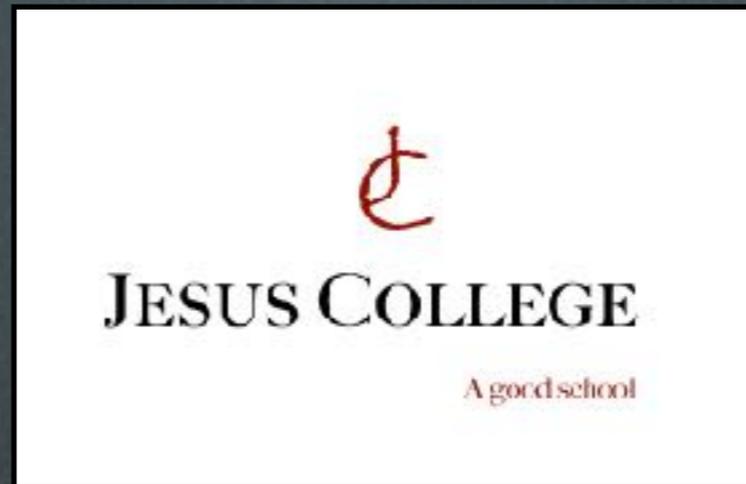
Doug





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KINGDOM LIVING

**Information...Registration** — [JohnC@dwillard.org](mailto:JohnC@dwillard.org)



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*“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”*

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs  
*“Training to be proficient in willing the good”*

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**The Vision of Jesus College** - To equip Trainers (Ministry, Business Leaders, Parents) to mentor Leaders (Senior Apprentices) to disciple Apprentices to Master love.

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