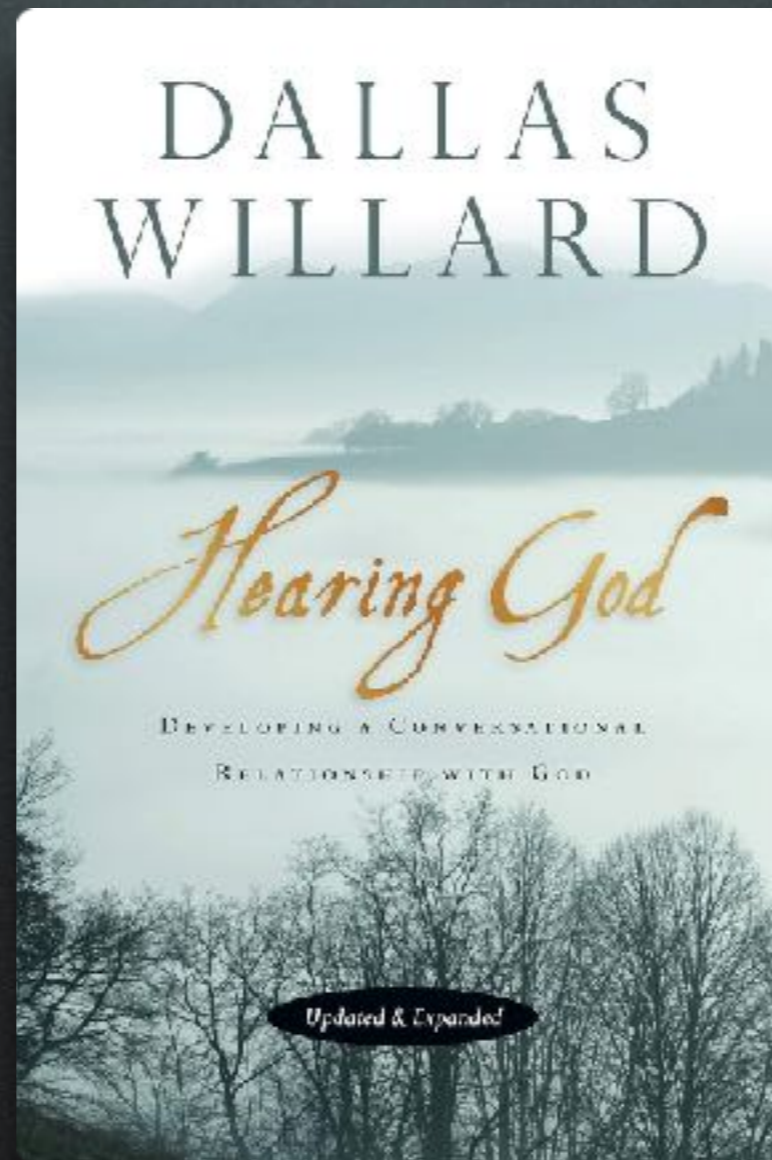


WELCOME to a ten week course from Jesus College



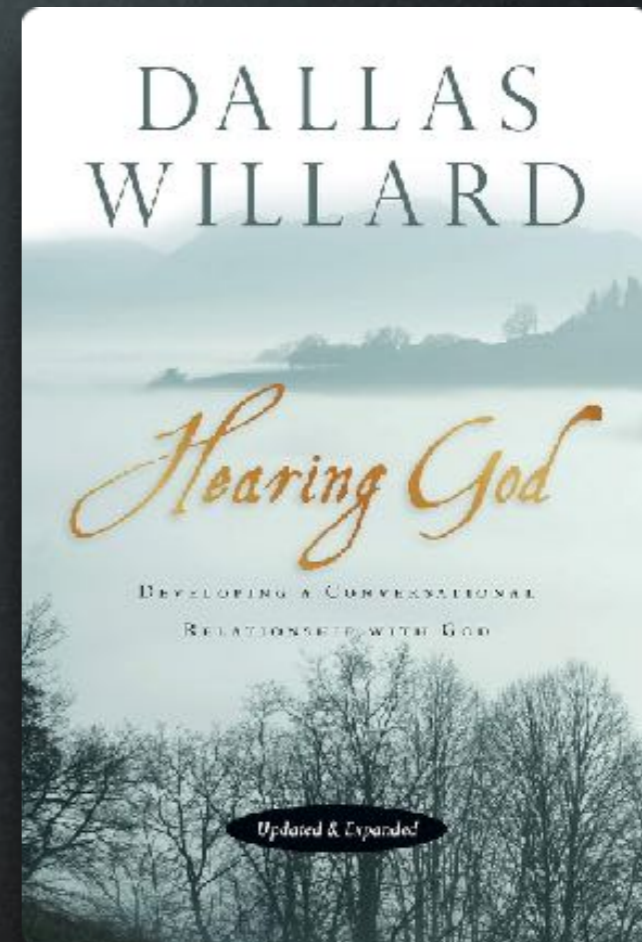
# HEARING GOD

Session 4 - *“Never Alone”* - Chapter 3



## Session 3 Review

As we seek to love the Lord our God with all our being and study the truth of the Bible with sincerity, we normal humans can communicate with God, but that doesn't make us important, right or righteous. On the other hand, genuine humility opens the way for God to work.



# HEARING GOD

## Session 4 - *“Never Alone”* - Chapter 3

*“Loneliness is the leprosy of the modern world.”*  
Mother Theresa



*“All the lonely people.  
Where do they all come from?”*  
The Beatles

*There is a simple, correct answer to this question...*

*The lonely people live apart from God.*

(61)



# HEARING GOD

## Session 4 - *“Never Alone”* - Chapter 3

God is able to penetrate and intertwine Himself within the fibers of the human self in such a way that those who are enveloped in His living companionship will never be alone. (58)

They are living in the presence from which nothing can separate them. The complete and ultimate blessing and highest good, the summum bonum [highest good] of humankind, comes to those with lives absorbed in the Way of Christ - life in the presence of God. (59)



*“I will never leave you  
nor forsake you.”*

*Hebrews 13:5*

## *The Art of Living*



“The Lord is my shepherd...

Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil  
for Thou art with me.”

Psalm 23

*The Emmanuel Emmaus Excursion - Luke 24:27*

## **The Giver and His Gifts** — *A Priestly Kingdom*

The basic idea is that God calls us to a direct and fully self-conscious, personal relationship with Him (as priests) in which we share responsibility with Him (as kings) in the exercise of His authority. (62)

*“You shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.”*  
Exodus 19:6

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”* 1 Peter 2:9



## **The Giver and His Gifts** – *A Priestly Kingdom*

How do we experience the forms of God's presence?

- Blind Faith - Past experiences, faith in the faith of others or abstract reasonings.
- Sensing God's Presence - Come to rely on a very powerful sense, feeling or impression of another.
- The God Who Acts - Extraordinary events or powerful effects. D.L. Moody; "Open Door" Acts 14:27
- Conversational Relationship - Would not a personal God also talk with us? *We are a royal priesthood!*

(62-68)

## 2 Types of Guidance for His Children

FIRST: Mechanical — Like driving a car

SECOND: Personal — 2 Ways: The Word & Work of God

#1 — The WORD of God - Primarily the Bible

*Ananias & Paul - Acts 9:10-16*

...not a matter of theoretical argumentation,  
strong impressions or baffling events.

*Paul redirected from Bithynia to Macedonia - Acts 16:6-9*

*The Gathered Church - "each one" - 1 Corinthians 14:26*



(68-70)

## #2: The WORK of God — Shared Activity (70-73)

“Having the mind of Christ” 1 Corinthians 2:16

Parable of the obedient Servant Luke 17:7-10 (71, 14)

Friends with God:

Shared Understanding + Shared Work =  
Concrete, Commonsense Reality

“You are my friends if you do what I command.” John 15:14

*His intent for us is that we would grow to the point we would do what we want because what we want is part of that shared understanding with God, our friend. (73)*

**As friends...for good...as the Temple of God.**

This union with God consists chiefly in a conversational relationship with God while we are consistently and deeply engaged as His friend and colaborer in the affairs of the Kingdom of the Heavens. (75 & 35)

His direct communication with us, by word and by shared activity, is the most important part. This is because we are to become the temple of God. (76)

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

**God's Friends...for Good...as the Temple of God.**

## **Mistaken Views of How God Speaks to Us (76-82)**

### 1.) A Message a Minute

God is telling you what to do at every turn.

The obedience of Jesus rested in His mature will and understanding of His life before God, not on always being told “Now do this” and “Now do that”. (77)

God speaks ultimately to the mature Christian. (77)

### 2.) It's All in the Bible - Unless it's not in the Bible.

*- Principles not Prescriptions - God giving you a message.*

Not “Bible roulette”, rather *“My sheep hear my voice.”*

### 3.) Whatever Comes is God's Will.

*- And I'm not responsible.*

We become so close to God we don't have to wait to hear His words. We don't have to be asked but are engaged in free-hearted collaboration with Jesus and His friends in the Kingdom. (72)



*“My sheep hear My voice,  
and I know them,  
and they follow Me.”*

*John 10:27*

# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

## **Meditation** — *Isaiah 58:9,11*

### **Application**

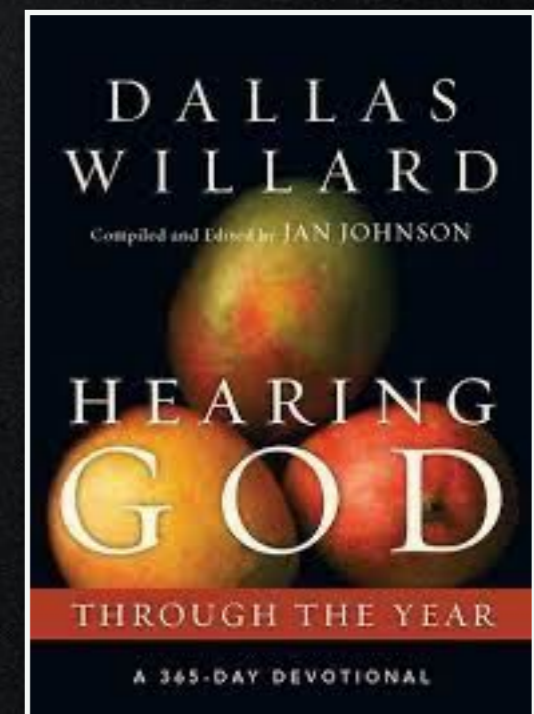
1.) *“Ah, look at all the lonely people.”*

Does a With-God life end loneliness? How?

2.) Where am I in the four forms of being with God?  
Anything to add or remove?

3.) Which of the Three Mistaken views do I struggle with?

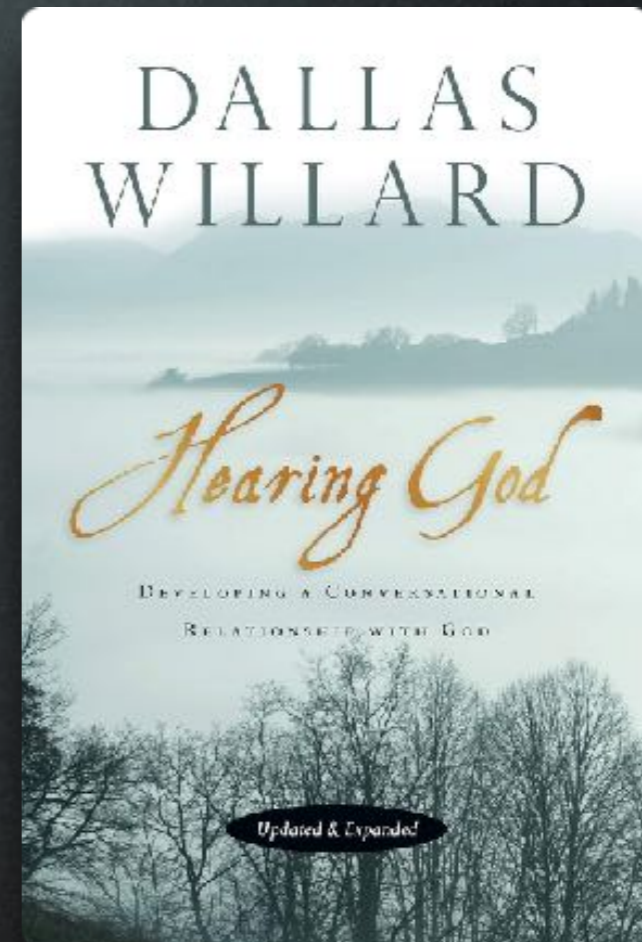
*Converse daily with God* —>





## Session 4 Summary

As God's friends, we hear Him and work with Him in our temple through a collaborative effort in the concrete reality of our everyday life.



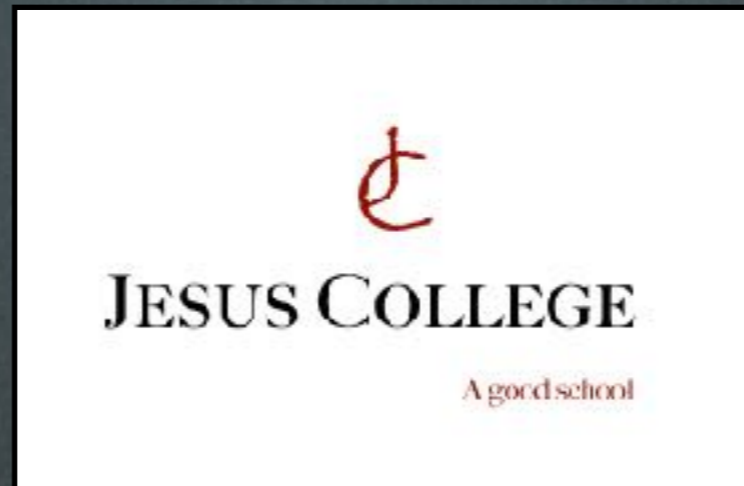
## **Next — Session 5**

### “Our Communicating Cosmos” Chapter 4

“Many may still wonder whether we really do live in a universe where this could happen. Does the human and physical reality of our universe call for it? Does it even allow it? This is the issue to which we must turn now.” (83 - end of chapter 3)

May your friendship  
with Jesus mature as  
you hear God speak and  
you collaborate in His  
Kingdom work in your  
next 10,000 minutes.





Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns  
*“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”*

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

**The Mission of Jesus College** - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

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

**The Storehouse of Jesus College** - Over 435 [FREE downloadable resources & links](#) offering the good life in the person, work, teachings & life of Jesus through “Eyes to See” visual resources and “Ears to Hear” audio resources, plus gatherings live & online provided by JESUS COLLEGE.

**80:00 + 10K**

## **“Hearing God Retreat” with Dallas Willard**

Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel



[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?  
list=PLQ7tmLfYg7S9ugPhFtlnry9zKLWx\\_oQmW](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQ7tmLfYg7S9ugPhFtlnry9zKLWx_oQmW)

Dallas takes the idea of hearing God out of the context of religion and puts it in the context of real life. Then he provides a solid theological foundation for discussing the idea of hearing God. 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. We invite you to learn to hear the voice of the Lord and develop a conversational relationship with Him.

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A. August 5-7, 2011  
4 Retreat Sessions + 11 highlight clips