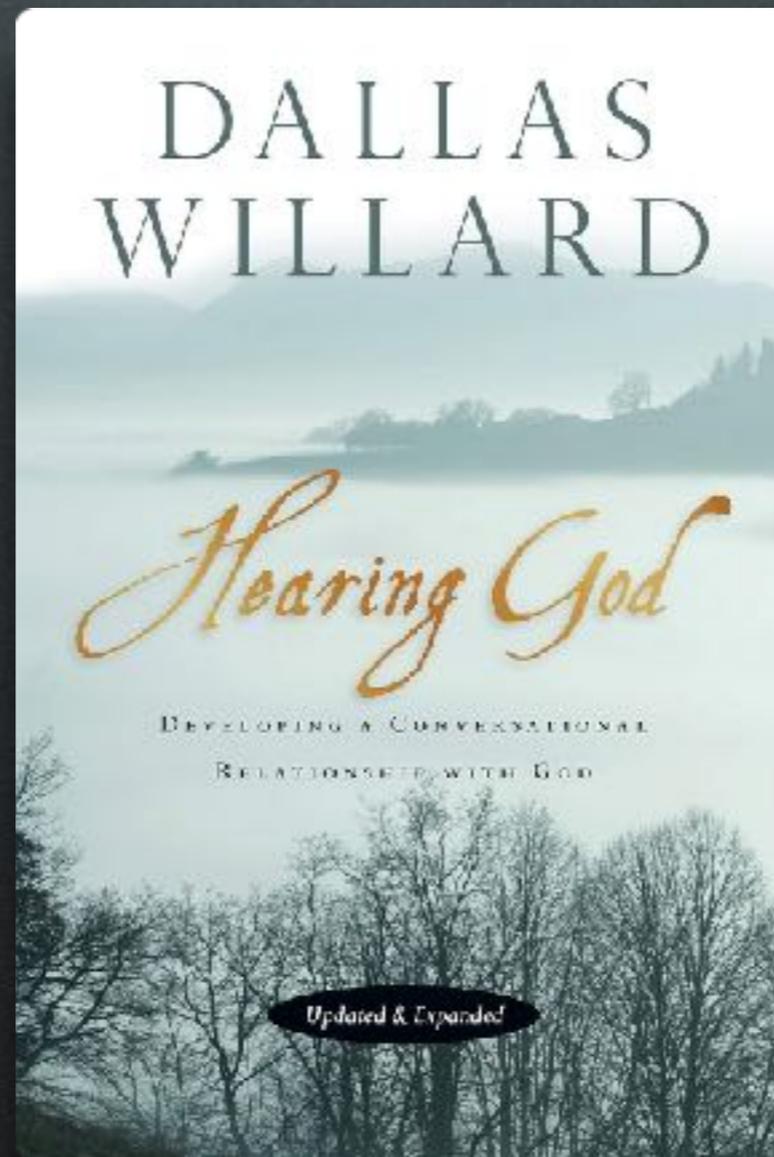


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HEARING GOD

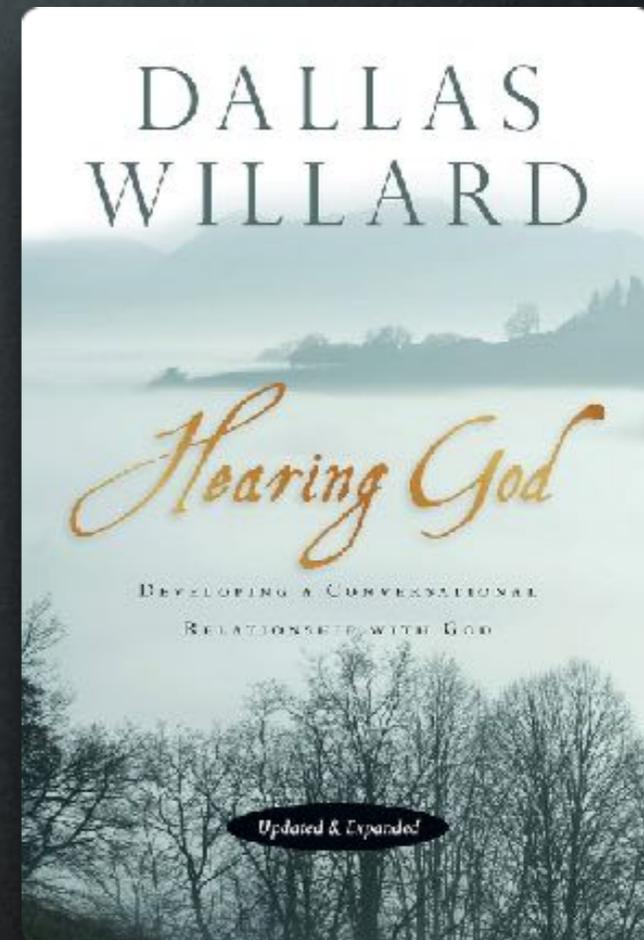
Session 7 - *“The Word of God and
The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6



Session 6 Summary

God spoke to people in the Bible in many ways outside of Him speaking through the Bible. He continues today.

The still, small voice is the preferred and most valuable form of God's Kingdom communication. The more mature the listener, the more ordinary and clear the message.



HEARING GOD

Session 7 - *“The Word of God and The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6

A Review — Hearing this divine but small voice is what lies at the heart of a relationship with God. (155)

The Big Question — *What place do words and God’s Word have in reality?*

The Big Idea — *God reigns as King through His word - intentional & incarnational, in print & imprinted in ordinary humans.*

“Where the word of a king is, there is power.”

Ecclesiastes 8:4



Astonishing Faith in the Power of Words

“There was a certain centurion.” Luke 7:2

Most of what we think we see as the struggle of faith really is the struggle to act as if we had faith when in fact we do not.

(155)

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Session 7 - *“The Word of God and The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6

Words and the Word (156-158)

God created, God rules and God redeems through His word. Both the Son of God and the Bible are the Word of God.

What is essential to a person's word is the meaning given to it by that person - the thought, feeling or action that person associates with it and hopes to convey to others. Through our words we literally give to others a piece of our mind.



The power of the word lies finally in the personality that it conveys.

*“Sticks and stones will break my bones
but names will never hurt me.”*

The school playground can become a chamber of horrors where young souls are left permanently crippled and scarred by malicious or mindless chatter. (157)



“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”
Proverbs 18:21

“By your words - justified and condemned”
Matthew 12:37

HEARING GOD

Session 7 - *“The Word of God and The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6

Words as Spiritual Forces (158-159)

Through His words, Jesus imparted Himself and in some measure conferred on those who received His words the powers of God's sovereign rule.



“If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

John 15:7

The word as a person's speaking is therefore to be understood as a spiritual power. (159)

The Who behind the divine words...

When God speaks, He expresses His mind, His character and His purposes. Thus God is always present with His word. God's rule over all things, including the affairs of humankind, is carried out through His word.

(159)



HEARING GOD

Session 7 - *“The Word of God and The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6

A Kingdom of Words

A kingdom works by the communication of thoughts and intentions through words or other symbols, for a kingdom is a network of personal relationships. (159)

Some of our greatest PROBLEMS in understanding and entering into life in the kingdom of God come from an inadequate appreciation of how that kingdom - like all kingdoms - works by communication, the speaking or use of words for the expression of minds and intentions. (160)

Creation by Words: God's and Others (160-166)

God speaking is simply the expression of His mind.

By the expression of His mind,
He created light.

The Word of God is invisible:
it is the spiritual reality that
produced all that is visible.

2 Corinthians 4:18, 2 Peter 3:5-7



You cannot just think or say,
“Let there be chocolate cake!”

God has given us a creative power.

“Think of a kitten” *“Move my little finger.”*

Creativity like God - A realization of how our own thoughts (inner words) translate themselves into an act of creation is absolutely vital if we are to gain any concrete sense of God’s rule through His word. Only if we have some understanding of what it means for His word to act will we have any grounds for believing that God can have a personal guiding relationship with us.

(163)



The word of God - the thought and mind of God - continues its presence in the created universe, upholding it.

Natural laws are God's thoughts and intentions of how the world should run. (164)

Forever, Lord, Your word stands in heaven.
Your faithfulness continues throughout generations;
You established the earth, and it stands.
They stand this day by Your ordinances,
For all things are Your servants.

Psalm 119:89-91

~ ~ ~

“The Mind of Christ” 1 Corinthians 2:16



HEARING GOD

Session 7 - *“The Word of God and The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6

The Word of God as the Son of God (166-169)

The INCARNATION...a move into His own — divine thought in one finite personality. (167)

“And in His name the Gentiles will have hope.” Mt. 12:21

Jesus as the cosmic Messiah: a ruler spanning all geographical and ethnic differences, providing the glue of the universe (Col. 1:17) and upholding all things by the word of His power. (Hebrews 1:3)

He could place the word of God’s Kingdom rule into people’s hearts where it would bring forth fruit a hundredfold. (Matthew 13:23)

A summary of the word and Son of God...

This, then, is the Word of God and the Son of God, united in the ordering of the cosmos.

Key Transition for Us Today...

To understand how the Word of God is related to the family of God, however, we must consider more closely the role of ordinary human words in ordinary human life.

(169)



HEARING GOD

Session 7 - *“The Word of God and The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6

The Power of a Word...of a King

“Monsignor, one cannot sit upon bayonets.”

All governments exist to some degree by consent of the governed. No one can totally rule a people by force alone. Instead, the ruler rules by words, understandings, allegiances and alliances. (169)





Words in the Kingdom of God

There was a certain centurion.

“Only speak word and my servant will be healed.”

“I have not seen such faith, no, not in Israel.”

Matthew 8:6-9

“What was so great about that man’s faith was the ease with which it came out. He recognized Kingdom reality. He knew how it worked. He was a man under authority. “I say a word and people jump.” When he said it, he was a man under authority. That’s the Kingdom.

“Repent, the Kingdom of the Heavens is at hand”.

Jesus is simply saying, ‘Look, trust me’ for the Kingdom was at hand in Him.”

Dallas Willard, *Streams in the Desert* #2 @ 0:16:00



“Only speak word and my servant will be healed.”

What we see here is trust based on experiential knowledge of the power of the words spoken by authorized individuals. In a personal universe (whether our own small arena or God’s cosmos) the word directs actions and events.

We often speak words unaccompanied by faith and authority. Such words do not have the effect on reality that words laden with faith, spoken in the fulfillment of an authoritative role, do have.

The Power of Words With Us (172-175)

Jesus sent Twelve Disciples then Seventy Others

The extended incarnational plan for delivering humanity through the transfer of the Word of God and its power to ordinary people who could then speak for God under His government. *Luke 10:18*

“Hidden from the wise, revealed to the children.” v. 21

Jesus Christ was to be totally in charge of the revelation of the Father to humanity. *Luke 10:22*

Not prophets & kings (v. 24) just plain folks operating with the power of God’s authoritative word. (174)





The Jewish people would no longer be the exclusive people of God, God's official address on earth.

The story of the transfer of the Kingdom from the Jews to the church, is the book of Acts, which begins in Jerusalem and ends in Rome.

Today participation in the Kingdom rule of God through union with Jesus is open worldwide.



(175)

Prayers, Actions and Words (175-177)

“This kind can come out only through prayer.”

Jesus in Mark 9:29

There are degrees of power in speaking the word of God and that prayer is necessary to heighten that power.

Prayer is more basic in the spiritual life than speaking a word. The role of speaking the word has become limited today because of the a widespread lack of understanding of such “speaking” coupled with generally low quality of the life or prayer.

I believe we are called to grow in this capacity to speak with God, in the degree of power appointed by Him for us individually. (176)



“Kingdom Technology* Breakthrough”

A Certain Centurion — Matthew 8

Peter & John with the lame beggar - Acts 3

Peter’s prayer for Dorcas’ resurrection - Acts 9

Paul with the lame man in Lystra - Acts 14

Today...as we grow in our confidence that reality is ultimately a kingdom in which authority, personal relationship and communication (words) are basic to the way things run. We have, of course, much still to learn. (177)

* = *A Websterism — The Kingdom’s power at work.*

HEARING GOD

Session 7 - *“The Word of God and The Rule of God”* - Chapter 6

We are Called into Question (177-179)

= Our use of “Kingdom Technology”

Many fine people are convinced that the biblical mode of life in God’s Kingdom simply cannot be a reality for them. (178)

In a life of participation in God’s kingdom rule, we are not to make things happen but only to be honestly willing and eager to be made able.

If we are to exercise the word and rule of God in ways regarded as spectacular by human beings, Jesus is our model, as always. (179)



Two Final Questions (179)

How does a life in which one speaks the creative word of God differ from a life of voodoo, magic and superstition?

What does the Bible have to do with what we have discussed?

How does a life in which one speaks the creative word of God differ from a life of voodoo, magic and superstition?

The Christian faith is not superstition. We do not believe that the power concerned resides in the words used or in the rituals taken by themselves. The words work as part of life in the Kingdom of God. They enlist the personal agencies of that Kingdom to achieve the ends. We are under authority, not in control.

Faith, love & hope form the appropriate channel from the supply to the need. (181)

The material universe is subject to the Divine Mind. (182)

God created, rules and redeems through His word. (156)



The Bible and the Word of God (184-188)

What does the Bible have to do with what we have discussed?

The Bible is one of the results of God speaking. While the Bible is the written Word of God, the word of God is not simply the Bible. The Bible is not Jesus Christ who is the Living Word. (185)

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

I encourage people to memorize passages so that it is in their bodies and things come out of that which they have never seen before. (187)

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

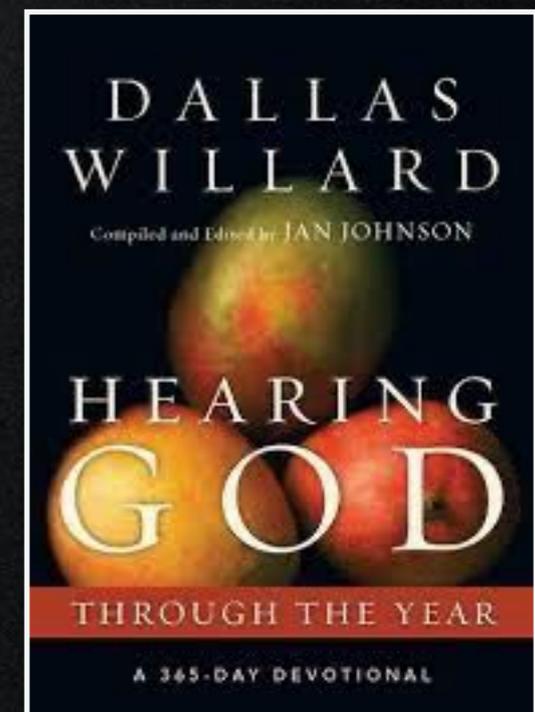
Meditation — *Lectio Divina #4 (164-166)*

Psalm 19:1-6; 119:89-91

Application

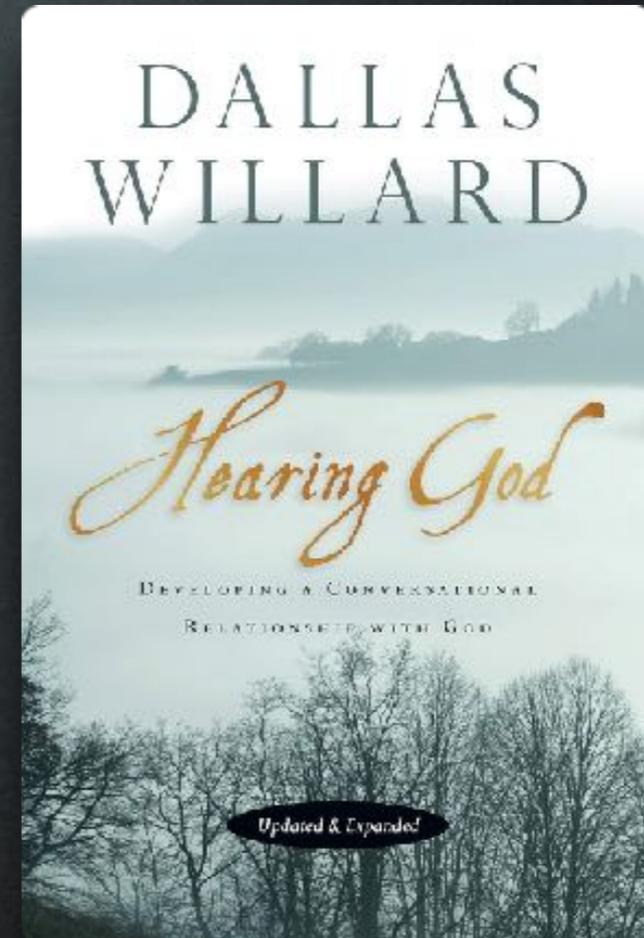
- 1.) How did this chapter encourage me? Challenge me? Inform me?
- 2.) Where do I, or people I know, treat faith in Christ superstitiously?
- 3.) What person needs to hear through my words God's Kingdom power today?

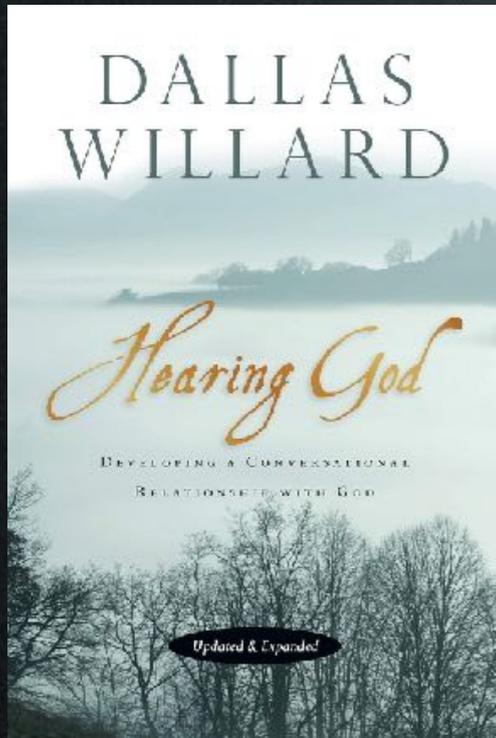
Converse daily with God —>



Session 7 Summary

God reigns in His Kingdom through His speaking. That speaking is reserved to Himself, but it may in some small measure be communicated through those who work in union with Him (186)...in fellowship with the living Word, the Lord Himself. (187)

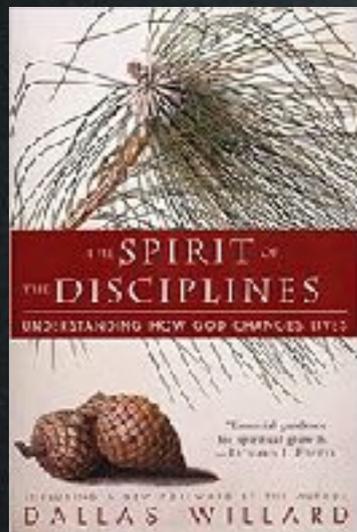




Next — Session 8

“Redemption through the Word of God”
Chapter 7

How does studying the Word of God help us hear God through redemption of whole persons?



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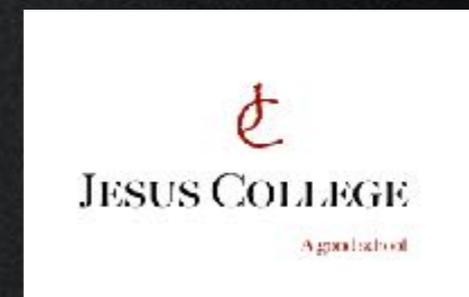
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Two "Hearing God"
Teachings by Dallas



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

#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.

In the your next 10,000 minutes, may you hear an invitation by the word of God through the Son of God to participate in the work of God through your words and work in His Kingdom.

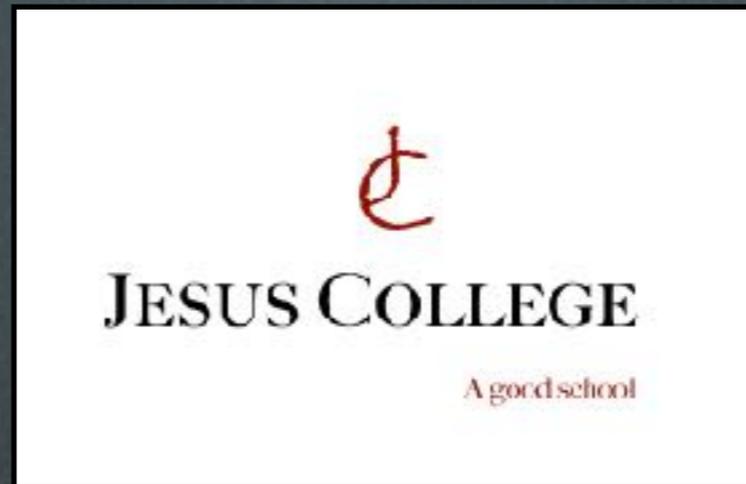
Doug





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