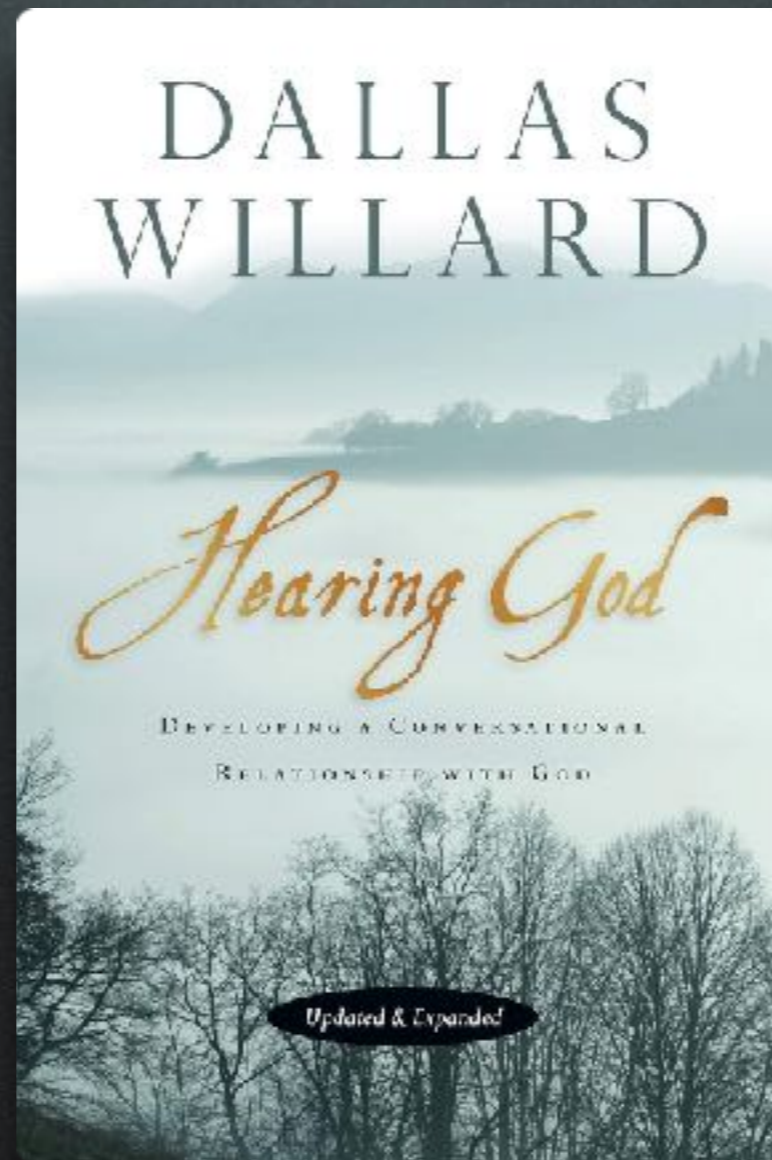


WELCOME to a ten week course from Jesus College



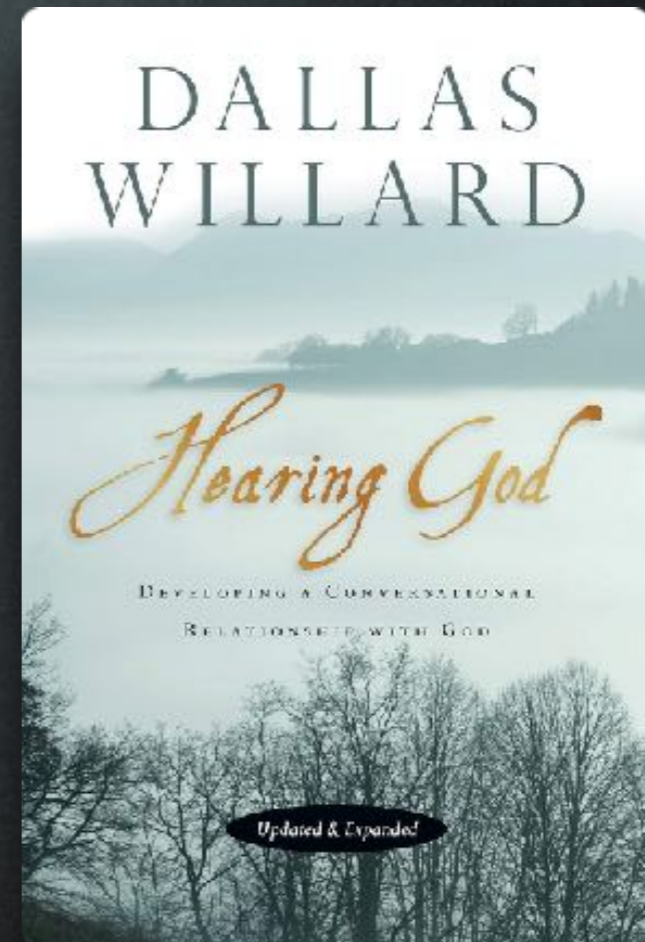
# HEARING GOD

Session 2 - *“A Paradox About Hearing God”* - Chapter 1



## Session 1 Review

You were created for an intimate friendship with God nourished by constant communication shaping you into the kind of person more like Jesus who naturally and lovingly does what the Father wants.



# HEARING GOD

## Session 2 - “A Paradox About Hearing God” - Chapter 1

### Our Hearing Problem

Many sincere Christians [are] on the “outside looking in”. They are not necessarily lacking the experience of hearing God, but they do not understand the language or how their experience works.

*Hearing God, p. 18*



“My sheep hear My voice,  
and I know them,  
and they follow Me.”  
John 10:27

## **Dallas learned personally...**

...by experience in revival meetings interacting with thought and impulse—God moving on his mind and heart to guide his actions.

...to wait upon “the Word of God” to come to him, simply God speaking.

...God speaking through him to others,

...not just him talking or quoting scripture, but when

...a certain “something more” was taking place.



## **The Backstory: Dallas Hearing God**

Chapel Preachers John R. Rice & R.R. Brown

*“There were giants in the land.” The Divine Conspiracy Forward*

After failing his class on Romans, Dallas cheated on the exam when he took the class a second time. He confessed it to his teacher then went to a revival.

At the revival as R.R. Brown prayed over Dallas, he had a deep experience with the vivid presence of God.

*“It never left me really. After that, I never had the feeling that God was distant or had a problem hearing me.”*

*“I was in a conversational relationship with Him.”*

*Becoming Dallas Willard*

*p. 70-71*

## 1 Samuel 3:8-9 - The Ministry of Eli<sup>1</sup>

Great Christians of the past like John Calvin and William Law offer what we might call the “Ministry of Eli”.

*If the Spirit of God would speak through the written Word, I could avoid being another “clever letter-learned scribe” through my own efforts from the Bible or elsewhere. (19)*

Many faithful, devout Christians can make no sense of being guided by God...except by force of circumstances.

God’s will is fate or a brutal event, then everything is caused by God.

(20)

1 - p. 46, 103, 124-125, 118-119, 220



*In the most primary of senses  
the word of God is simply God speaking.*

(19)





## Hearing God - Normal but Undisclosed

Today I continue to believe that people are meant to live in an ongoing conversation with God speaking and being spoken to. Adam & Eve, Enoch, and Moses are examples of the normal life God intended for us...an almost universal practice. (20-21)

But, like a UFO citing, people fear being misguided or labeled arrogant for hearing God. Many church leaders discourage the idea that God would speak to the individual. (21-22)

History is rich with hearings. (23-24)



*“Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and He will say, Here I am...  
The Lord will guide you continually.”*  
Isaiah 58:9, 11



## Abiding Includes Conversing

Jesus' reply was that He and His Father would...

*"Come to them and make our home with them."*

*John 14:22-23*

*"I have called you friends." John 15:15*

The Spirit who inhabits us is not mute. (25)

God is not a mere benefactor, we are friends. (John 15:13)

*"The Kingdom of God is among you." (Luke 17:21)*

Communion and communication with God are  
life changing episodes and daily bread. (27)



## One on One with God

Biblical - Adam, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah,  
Nehemiah, Mary, Peter, John, Paul  
Others - Augustine, Luther, Fox, Wesley, Tozer

Nothing is more central to the practical life of the Christian than confidence in God's individual dealings with each person.

(27)



“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside still waters.”

Psalm 23:1-2

## **The Paradox in Hearing God** (30-31)

On the one hand...Massive testimony to God speaking.

On the other...Little clarity and competence hearing God.

- *Confusion knowing God's will* • *Dreadful errors* •
- *Force a sign from God* • *Despair* • *Skepticism* • *Cynicism* •
- *Mechanical religious routine* • *Religious dictators* •



## **A Solution for Three Problem Areas**

“A clear understanding and a confident, practical orientation toward God’s way of guiding us and communicating with us.”  
(31)

1ST — God communicates with His children in many forms.

2ND — With anxiety about the future, we have wrong motives to hear God.

*I fear many people seek to hear God for safety, comfort, being righteous...and avoid responsibility. God simply will not cooperate.*  
(33)

3RD — Misconceiving the nature of our Heavenly Father.

We miss how authority works in the Kingdom of God.  
We face human troubles when thinking of God wrongly. (34)

## **A Conversational Relationship**

Final determination: Who God is, who are we, and the nature of the relationship between us.

*Our failure to hear God has its deepest roots in a failure to understand, accept and grow into a conversational relationship with God. (35)*



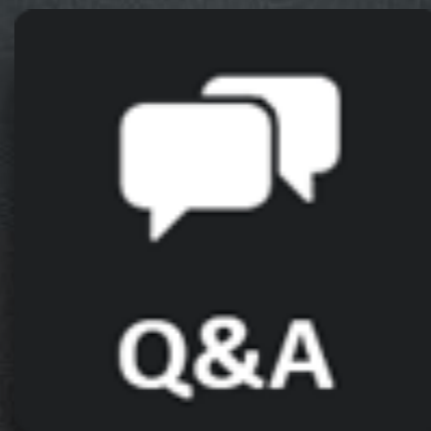
“When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

John 10:4

# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

*When have you heard God?*



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

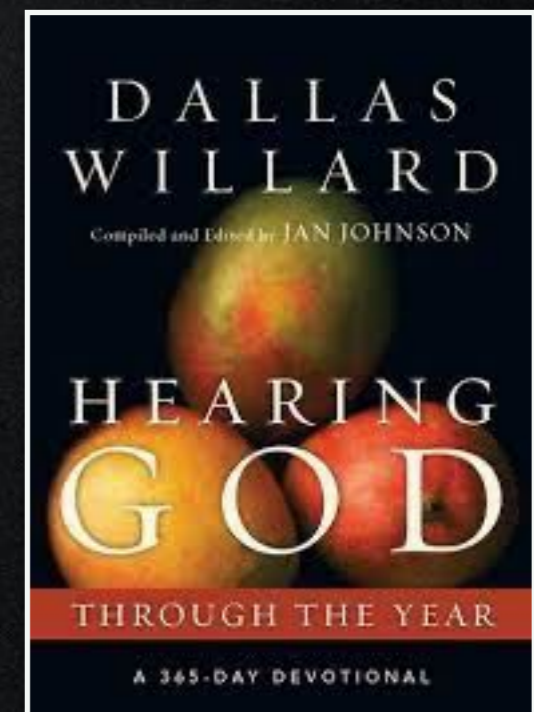
80:00 + 10K

**Meditation** – *Samuel Hearing from God - 1 Samuel 16:1-13*

## **Application**

- 1.) What do I need to think, feel or believe about God to ask Him questions?
- 2.) Can I “leave” like Samuel without knowing all the details? How does faith apply?
- 3.) What would I like most about having a conversational relationship with God?

*Converse daily with God —>*





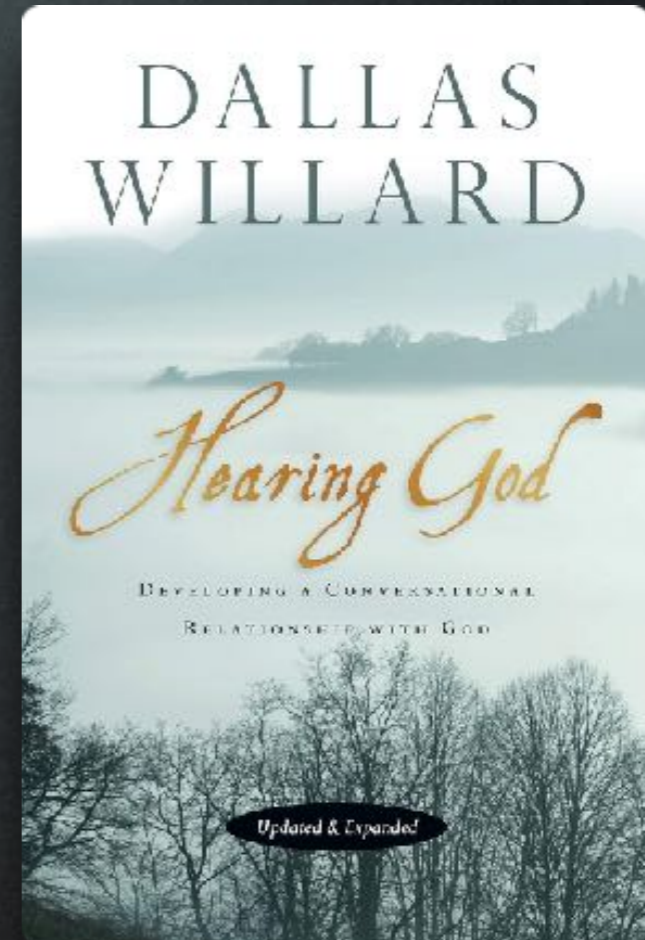
**A testimony from a participant in today's session 2,**

*“This is revolutionary to what I have heard throughout my life...it makes so much more sense what it means to have a personal relationship.”*

## Session 2 Summary

It's a paradox: believers know abiding saints converse with God in many forms but they (we) lack the confidence because of wrong motives and views of God.

*We desperately need the ministry of Eli.*



## **Next — Session 3**

“Guidelines for Hearing God”  
Chapter 2

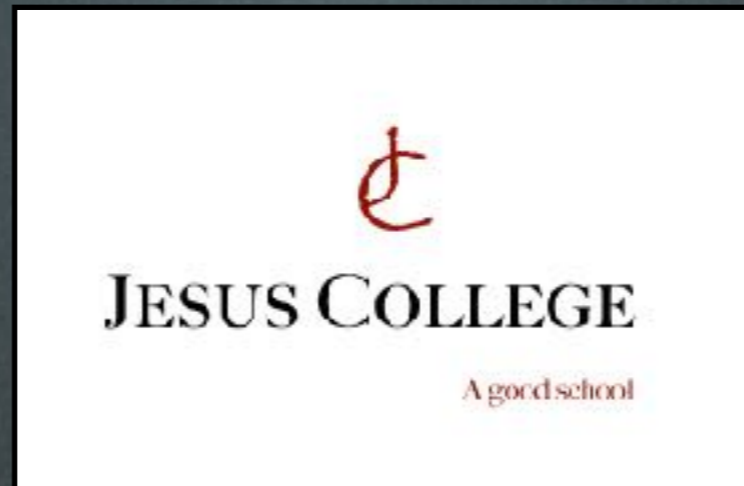
Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Know others who might join our Course?  
Register — [info@JesusCollege.com](mailto:info@JesusCollege.com)

Think rightly this week:  
Our Heavenly Father  
and Jesus want to speak  
to you, hear from you,  
and be at home with you.

*Doug*





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

# THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



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