

Q&A with Dallas Willard & Richard Foster:
Hearing God is a Life, More So than Guidance
© Dallas Willard Ministries

The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with God himself at the very center of that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.

An overview of the WITH-GOD LIFE, from Genesis to Revelation 0:00 - 22 min

(Refer to the *Life With God Bible* to study in greater detail the way that God is with human history.)

God places human beings in positions of responsibility.

Genesis 1:26 – Adam and Eve had great responsibility and great power

Where is man? He is away from God. That's his choice. God hasn't left him alone.

Human history is extremely short compared to time!

The project is bringing that community of love indwelt by God out for cosmic and eternal purposes.

"To form human character, God mediates his presence..." (Life With God Bible)

INDIVIDUALS: Abraham is the first person called a **friend** of God.

FAMILIES: A different kind of relationship is developing; instead of having just an individual here or there we have a **family**.

- This is God's way of being more fully in the human condition rather than standing over it.
- God makes a covenant with the family.

A NATION: The family grows into a **nation**.

- You see an increasing with-God presence in the world.
- The **tabernacle** becomes part of that with-God sensibility. It gives the focal point for human beings to locate God in relation to themselves.

ALL-INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

- John the Baptist: "rethink what you're doing because the Kingdom of God is *right here*." John establishes the connection between the old prophetic condition and the new one with Jesus.
- Jesus becomes the embodiment of a with-God life.
- A body of people, animated by the presence of the spirit of God, enabling them to live like God. Ephesians 5:1
- God has become **accessible in Jesus** and a **body** has been formed.

God saying to us – I am with you. Are you willing to be with me? That's the great choice.

How are we with him? That's the choice we make, and we learn through discipleship how to live in that.

Q&A with Dallas Willard & Richard Foster:
Hearing God is a Life, More So than Guidance
© Dallas Willard Ministries

LIFE starts at 22 min.

- Bios -physical, biological life
- Zōē – eternal uncreated life; spiritual life
- This is how we can be physically alive and spiritually dead.

Life is a process or activity, defined by how it is directed. What is it directed towards?

Life Eats: If we are not provided what would nourish us for the kind of life that we have, we die.

- The fundamental role of the human spirit is to trust God. When you pull that away you lose the nutrients that are essential to human beings to flourish.
- The human being has in it a kind of life that derives from its capacity to draw on God, as the principal that sustains it, gives its direction power, and keeps the direction right.
- Romans 1 explains the degeneration that comes as the human being withdraws from God, turns back on its own body, and tries to draw on its own body the nutrition that enables it to flourish.

The person who is a disciple of Jesus has **reestablished** the connection to God, through Christ.

The new birth is a birth from above. This life that comes in, is indestructible, which is one of the reasons that the resurrection of Jesus meant so much. The disciples saw that this life can't be destroyed!

Contemporary manifestations: Transformation of character and power to accomplish what is good.

DISCIPLINES

The spiritual disciplines teach you how to live with power and that is communal from the start to the end.

HEARING GOD

God draws and encourages. Satan pushes and condemns.

God explains his communication policy in Numbers (Aaron and Miriam being jealous.) God starts with – my servant Moses, he is humble. “And I talk to him, and he talks to me.” That’s the ideal condition.

Q&A with Dallas Willard & Richard Foster:
Hearing God is a Life, More So than Guidance
© Dallas Willard Ministries

God is with us, to draw us fully into the spiritual world and understand its reality. The physical world doesn't disappear, it's still there, but now we've moved into a mode of life with God, where we're not under the limitations imposed on us by matter.

CRUCIFIXION

Crucifixion with Christ is a good thing, to lead us into the greater life in the Kingdom of God in which we hear and obey the formation of the soul, leading us into an all-inclusive community of loving persons with God at the heart of that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.

We get to be people living now, an eternal kind of life, wherever we are, because we're *really* living from the Kingdom of God.

DEATH

Death is merely a minor transition from this life to greater life. Jesus said you wouldn't experience death. John 8:51 That's a big part of the New Testament! 2 Timothy 1:10 is eternal living! We should really emphasize that because so many folks are deeply troubled by dying and death.

- It will make a difference to the people left here but you're not going to be here but you're not going to be here.
- Your experience as you know it now, especially now living in the Kingdom of God, will be continuous through the event that from this side looks like dying...your experience will go on.
- Probably, you won't even know you've died until later. You've stepped beyond time.