

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named **Zechariah**, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife **Elizabeth** was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ **Both** of them were **upright** in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.

⁷ But they had **no children**, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were **both well along in years**.

Numerous commentaries Say that they were both **over sixty**. "for old age" and a man of these years, was accounted an old man: and the word for **old** age in Job 30:2 is by "**gemetry - sixty**"

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was **chosen** by **lot**, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go **into the temple** of the Lord and **burn incense.**

10

Once in a Lifetime honor because of the number of priests.

And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an **ANGEL** of the **Lord** appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When **Zechariah** saw him, he was startled and was **Gripped** with **FEAR**

13 But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.



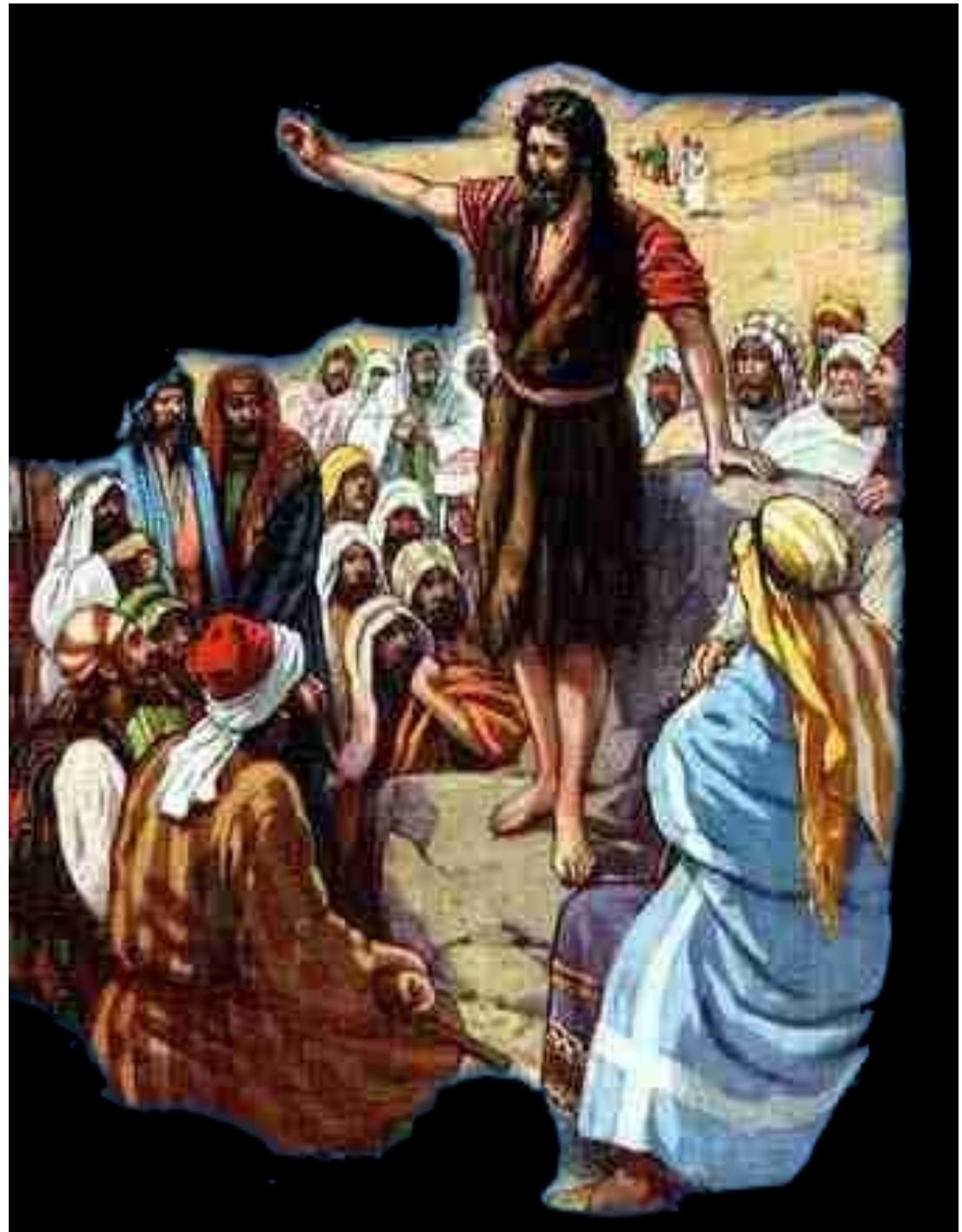
¹⁴ He will be a
JOY and
DELIGHT to
you, and **many** will
rejoice because of his
birth, ¹⁵ for he will be
GREAT in the
sight of the Lord.



He is **NEVER** to
take wine or
other fermented
drink,
↓
and he will be
FILLED
with
the **Holy Spirit**
even from **birth**.



¹⁶ **Many** of the people of Israel will he bring **BACK** to the **Lord** **their God.** ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the **spirit** and **power of Elijah**, to turn the **hearts of the fathers to their children** and the



**disobedient
to the
wisdom of
the
righteous -
to make **ready**
a people
PREPARED
for the
LORD."**



¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, “**How** can I be **sure** of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” ¹⁹ The angel answered, “I am **Gabriel**.

I stand in the presence of God

and I have been sent to speak

to you and to tell you this

good news. ²⁰ And now

you will be **SILENT** and **Not Able to Speak**

until the day this happens,

because you did not believe
my words, which will come
true at their proper time.”

²¹ Meanwhile, the people
were waiting for Zechariah
and wondering why he
stayed so long in the temple.

²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized
he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to
them but remained unable to speak.



23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home.



Effects on Zechariah

Effects on his Son

today - silence

Silent Retreats



4 Applications

1. Silent **Retreat**

Write

2. Silent on an Individual **Personal** issue

*Most
Common*

To get **PAST** things *or* To **WAIT** for things.

3. **Media** Silence *last weekend with Bishop*

4. Silence on **Talking** about your **SELF**

*Write Learned
Love & Leadership*

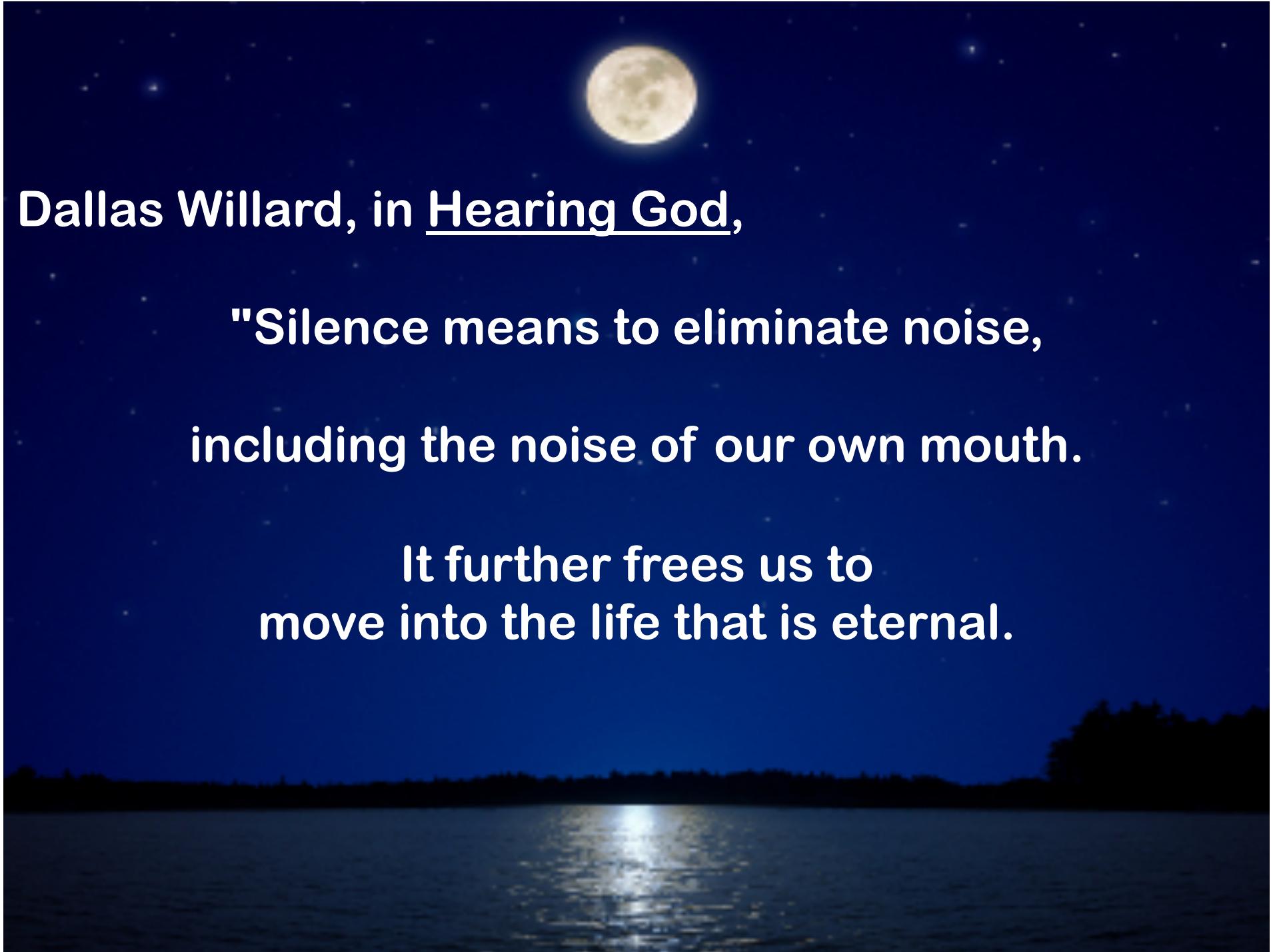
2 quotes

According to Richard Foster,

“LONELINESS is inner EMPTINESS.

SOLITUDE is inner FULFILLMENT,





Dallas Willard, in Hearing God,

**"Silence means to eliminate noise,
including the noise of our own mouth.**

**It further frees us to
move into the life that is eternal.**



Our world is wordy and noisy and pause-less.

**In our world-system there is
no rest for our souls.**



Solitude and silence

allow God to reoccupy

the places in our lives where only HE belongs.”

vs.

Ps. 39:2-4 But when I was

Silent and still, not even saying anything good,

¹ my **Anguish Increased**.

² My **Heart** grew **Hot** within me,

³ and as I **Meditated**,

⁴ the **Fire Burned**;

then I spoke with my tongue:

“Show me, O LORD, my life’s END

and the **Number** of my days;

let me know how **Fleeting** is my life

I Kgs 19:12 still small voice NIV a gentle whisper

Is. 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did **Not Open his Mouth**; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is **SILENT**, so he did **Not Open his Mouth.**



NEXT week Nov. 25-27 Elizabeth & Mary

Group # 1

Seekers



**Is your
life
Medicated?**

Group # 2

Ready **TODAY**
to Give
Everything
to Jesus



**He will
FILL
you**

Group # 3

ALREADY

Sold out to



**I will
Cultivate
a
Quiet heart**