



Silence & Solitude

Silence & Solitude

Intentional time
alone
in the quiet
to be with
yourself
and God

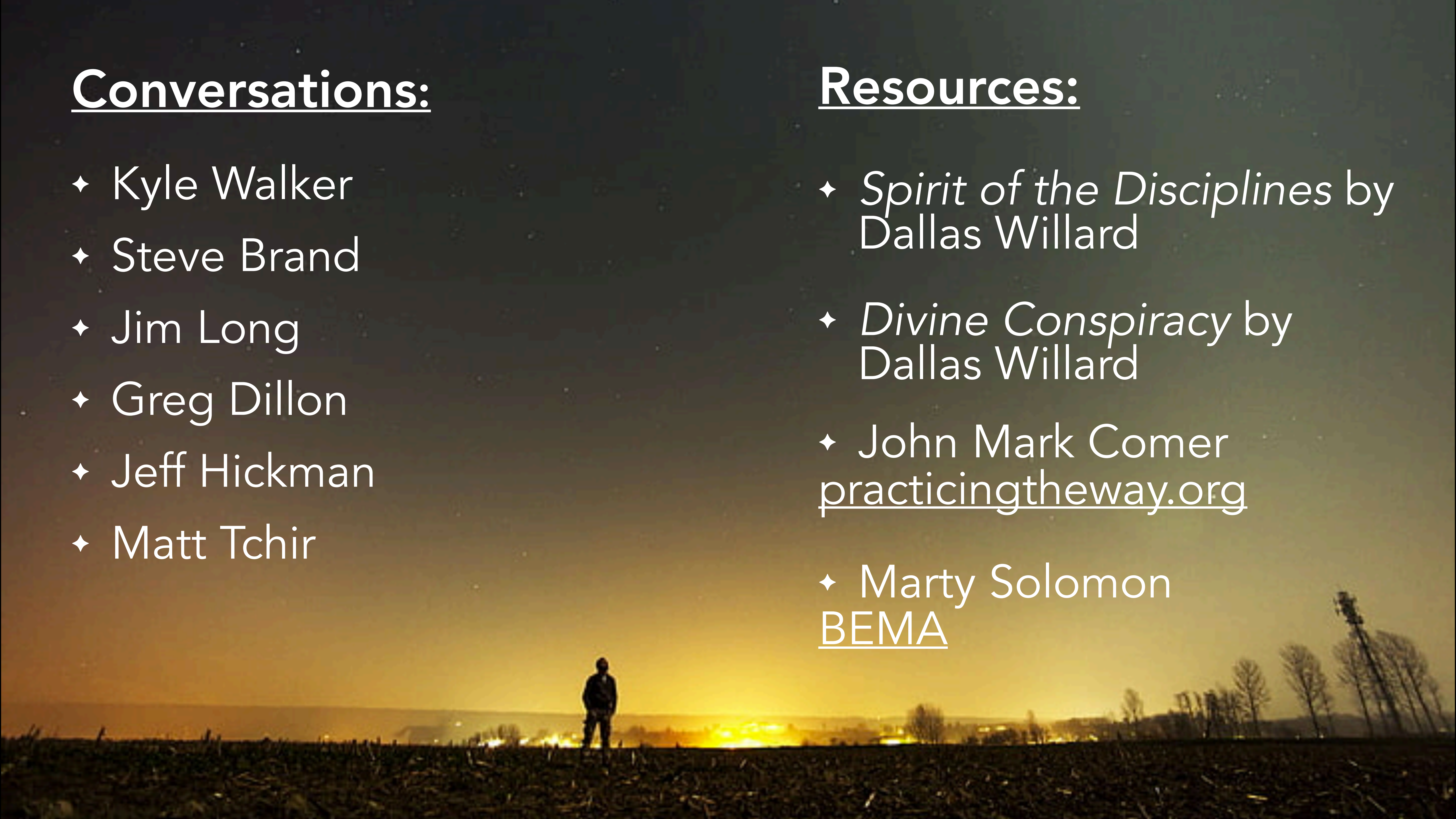


Conversations:

- ♦ Kyle Walker
- ♦ Steve Brand
- ♦ Jim Long
- ♦ Greg Dillon
- ♦ Jeff Hickman
- ♦ Matt Tchir

Resources:

- ♦ *Spirit of the Disciplines* by Dallas Willard
- ♦ *Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard
- ♦ John Mark Comer
practicingtheway.org
- ♦ Marty Solomon
[BEMA](#)



Matthew 4



Matthew 3:16 — 4:4

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."
⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

ἔρημος

| *eremos*

adjective

1. solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited

Jesus and the eremos

♦ Matt 14:13

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

♦ Matt 14:22

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

♦ Mark 1:35

Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

♦ Mark 6:32

So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

♦ Luke 5:16

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

♦ Luke 9:10

Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida.

♦ Luke 9:18

Jesus was praying in private.

♦ John 6:15

Jesus...withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus' disciples and the *eremos*

- ♦ Galatians 1:15-17

¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days.

- ♦ Acts 10:9

⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

A.W. Tozer (20th C. pastor and author)


“If a man wants to be used by God, he cannot spend all of his time with people.”

Will Schwalbe (author)

“The greatest gift you can give anyone is your undivided attention.”

Henri Nouwen (20th C. theologian)


"Solitude is the furnace of transformation. Without solitude we remain victims of our society and continue to be entangled in the illusions of the false self."



God is speaking. Are you listening?

"You are not alone."



A photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense, sun-dappled forest. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small rocks. The trees are tall and thin, with thick green foliage. A large, dark, mossy rock sits on the right side of the path. A black rectangular box with white text is centered over the middle of the image.


"Listen to your wife."



A black and white photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, a wooden fence with vertical slats runs across the bottom. Behind the fence, a grassy area contains a swing set with two swings. The background is filled with many tall, thin trees, their trunks creating a dense pattern. Sunlight filters through the trees, casting shadows on the ground.

"Enough is enough."

- 
- ♦ Micah 6:8 *Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.*
 - ♦ Isaiah 1:17 *Learn to do right, seek justice.*
 - ♦ Proverbs 31:8 *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.*
 - ♦ Galatians 6:2 *Carry each other's burdens*
 - ♦ Matt. 22:39 *Love your neighbor as yourself.*
 - ♦ 1 John 3:8 *Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*



God is speaking. Are you listening?

MAKE

ROOM

Practical ideas from Richard Foster (Celebration of Discipline)

- ♦ Experiment with varied venues for solitude.
- ♦ Take a pre-dawn walk, listening to the awakening sounds of your world (whether city or country).
- ♦ Limit your speaking for one day and see what you learn about yourself and others.
- ♦ Take a one-day silent retreat — or a three-day retreat, a seven-day retreat.
- ♦ Go to the city for a social justice retreat.
- ♦ For one month leave your car radio off and make your morning commute a mini-retreat.
- ♦ Arise at 2:00 A.M., light a single candle as a reminder of the presence of Christ, and for one hour listen to the sounds of the night.

MAKE

ROOM