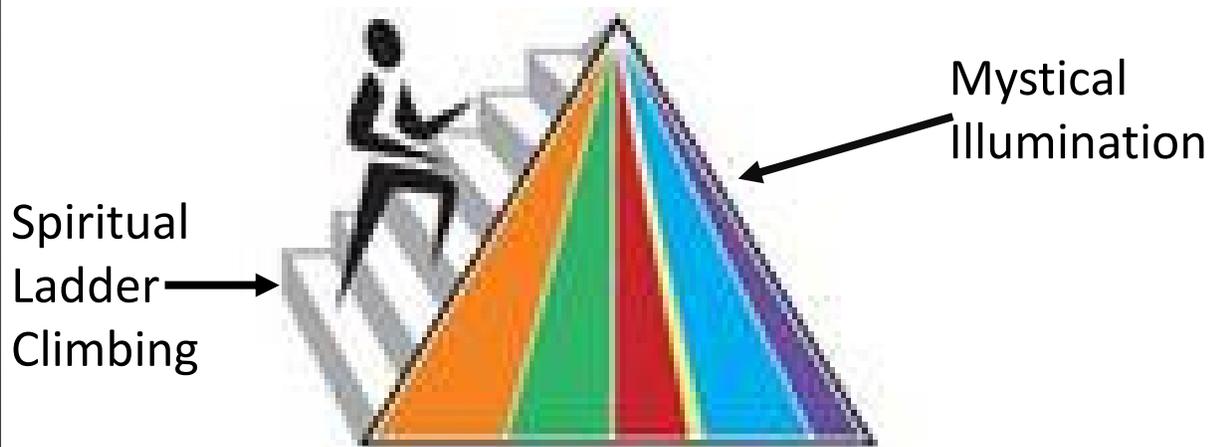


***ISSUES
AND
ANSWERS***

Begin Session Ten

The Encroachment of Eastern Mysticism into the Church

Spiritual ladder climbing and mystical illumination. The INITIATED ONES.



• ***Spiritual Formation – Today***

- *Mindfulness - upcoming*
- *Hindu and Buddhist Contemplative and Spiritual Techniques - upcoming*

Spiritual Formation is defined in differing ways by various Christian personalities. One end of the spectrum includes Eastern meditative values and mystical Scripture usage and on the more conservative end, while still possessing some undesirable subjective elements, it does use more orthodox parameters in its theological language and practical techniques. Ultimately all would say it is to grow, spiritually. Sadly, most of what you will find will be harmful to genuine spiritual growth.

Dallas Willard is considered to be the modern father of Spiritual Formation. Here is what he states is essentially the perspective of Spiritual Formation:

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**A few scripture passages point us to the place in human personality that is the focus of spiritual formation.*

<http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=58>

What is the alarming problem, here?

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While Willard follows up this comment with citing Bible passages, his claim is fundamentally flawed. The human personality is not the focus of our spiritual growth, rather, the new man or the spiritual man.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – The New Spiritual Species

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new (καινή - new as in not having existed previously) creature (κτίσις – creature/institution); the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

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1 Peter 2:9a – The New Spiritual Genetics and Ethnicity

But you are a chosen race (γένος/genos), a royal priesthood, a holy nation (ἔθνος/ethnos), a people for his own possession

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However the conclusive conglomeration of his theological formula still ends up with pollutants that will ultimately damage the believer in their spiritual growth and prevent them from a full spiritual maturation.

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Why?

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Why?

Because when you try to change your personality you are trying to change your human genetics and that is not Christ's aim in our spiritual rebirth.

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- *Environment*

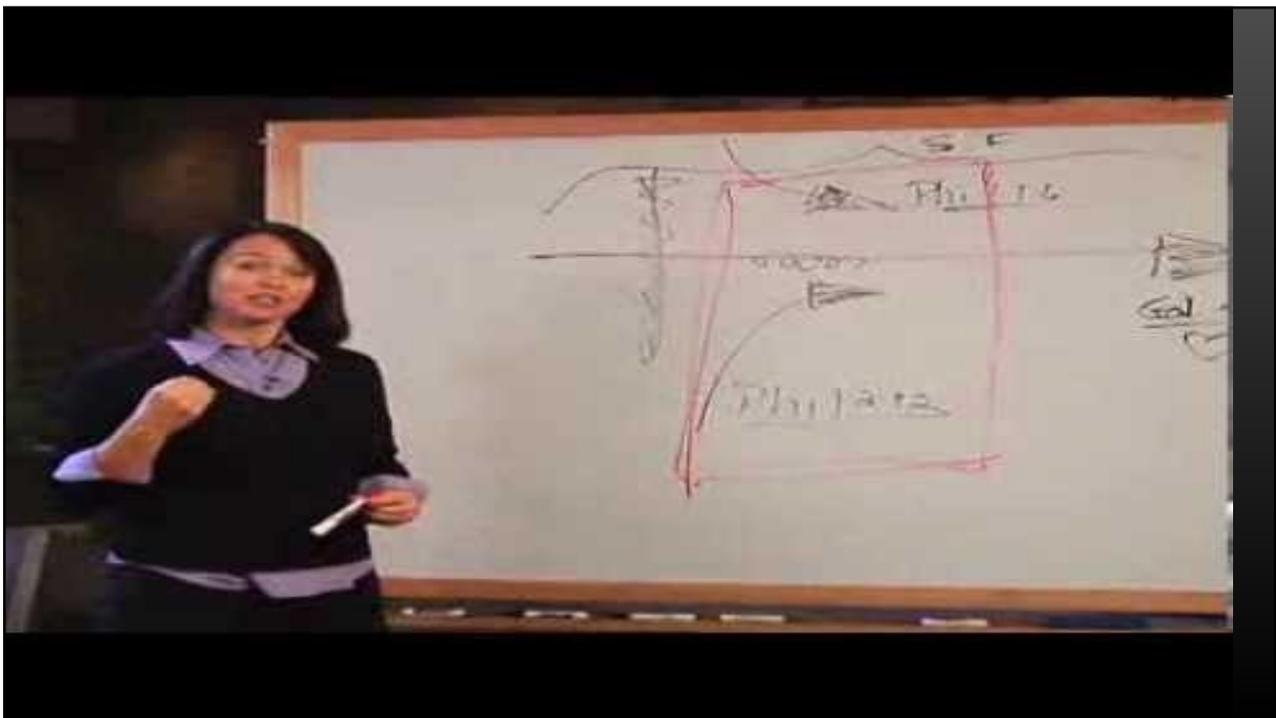
Essentially, what Willard is appealing to is the morphing (he uses the Biblical language of transforming) one's psychological being which is expressed in the personality.

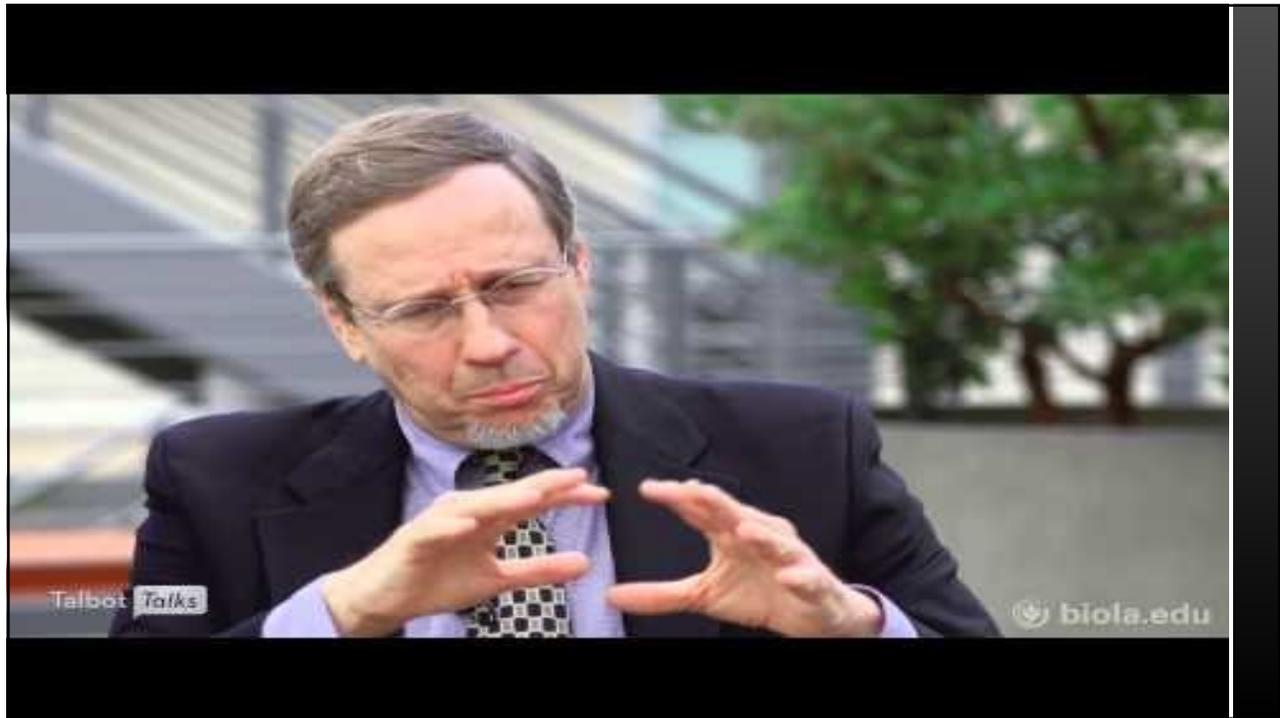
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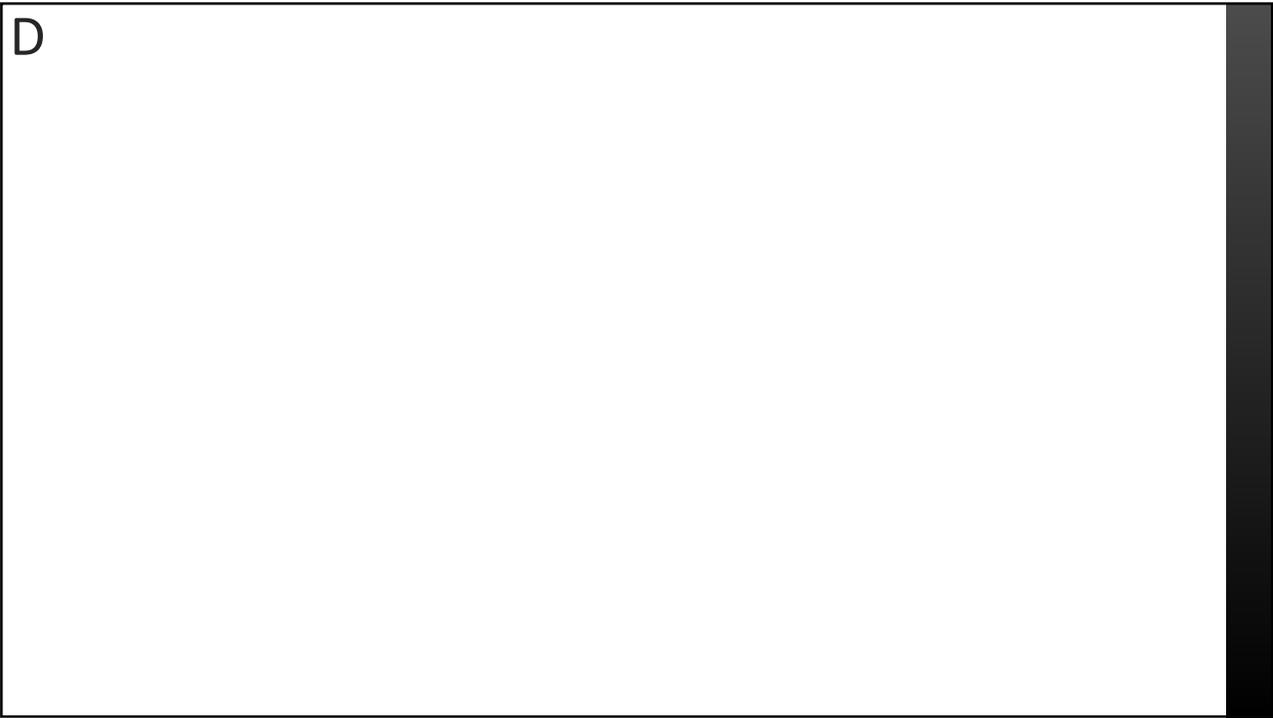
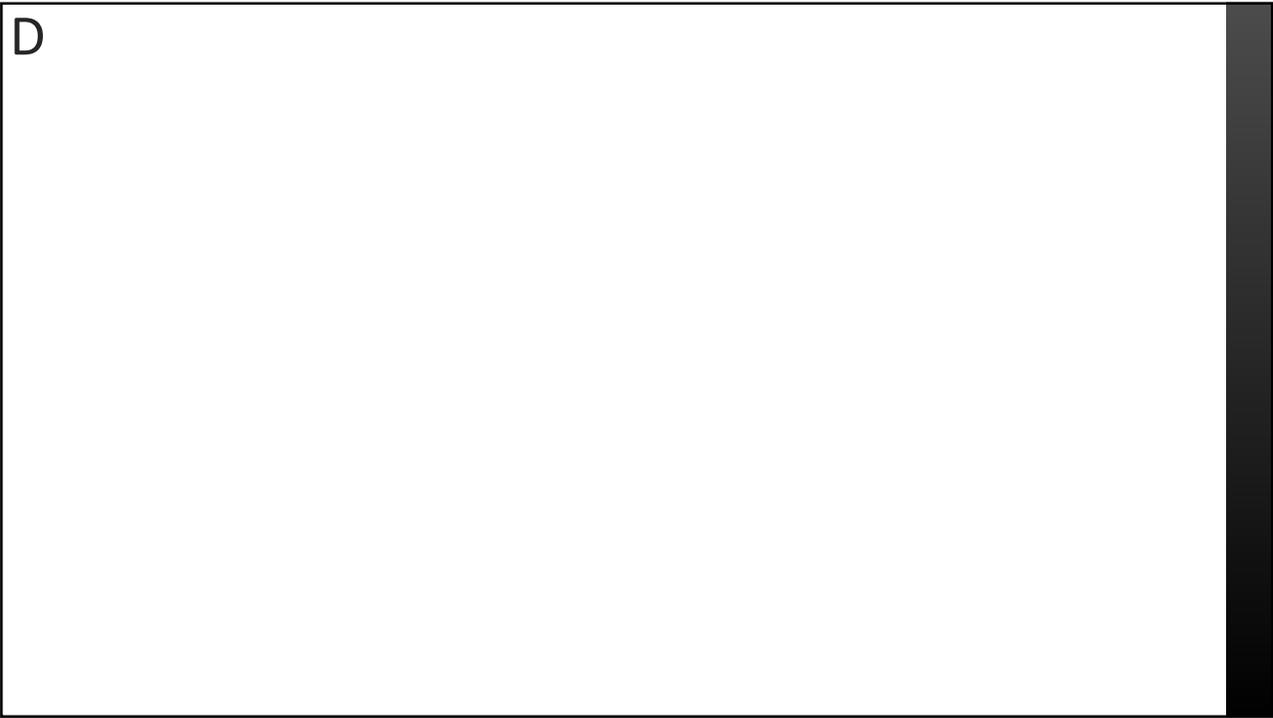
Ultimately, if you buy into this you will be forced to artificially impose upon your personality and psychological expression, what you "should" (or think you should) be doing. This is not the transformation through spiritual maturity the Bible talks but an oppressive curtailing of the personality.

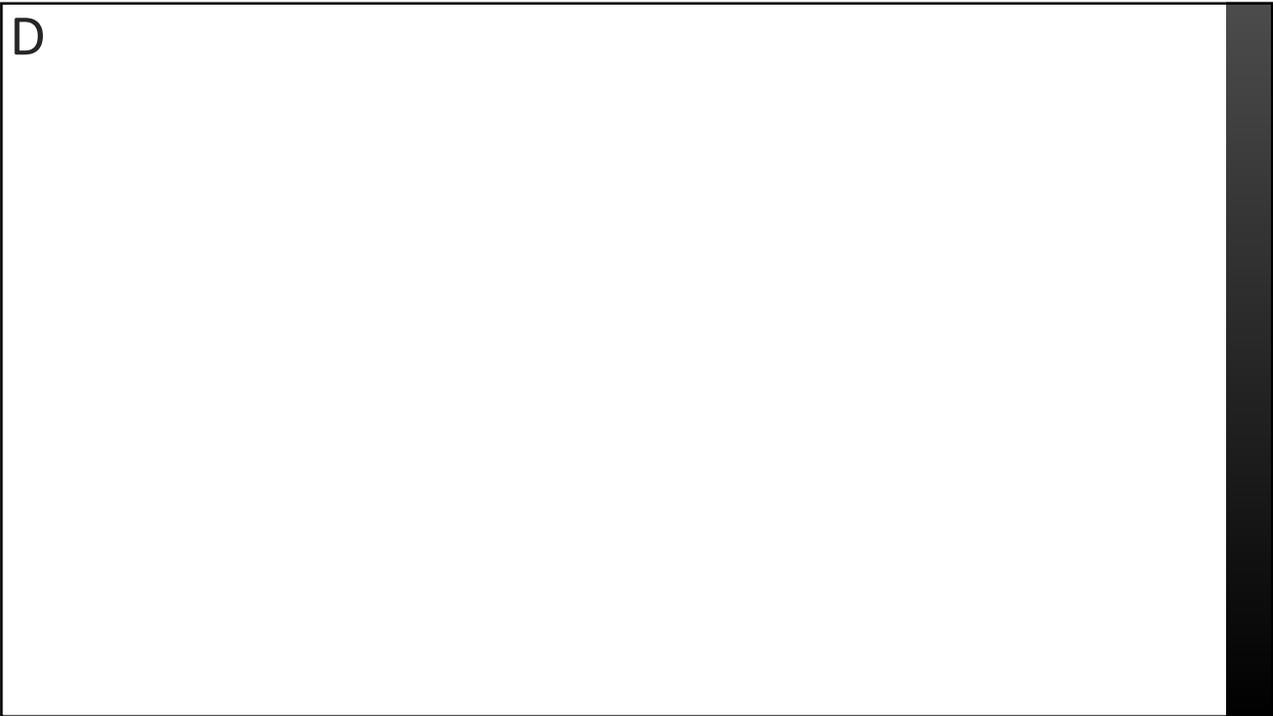
As we look at the video material, I encourage you to consider your own responses. I will be pausing it at points to comment.

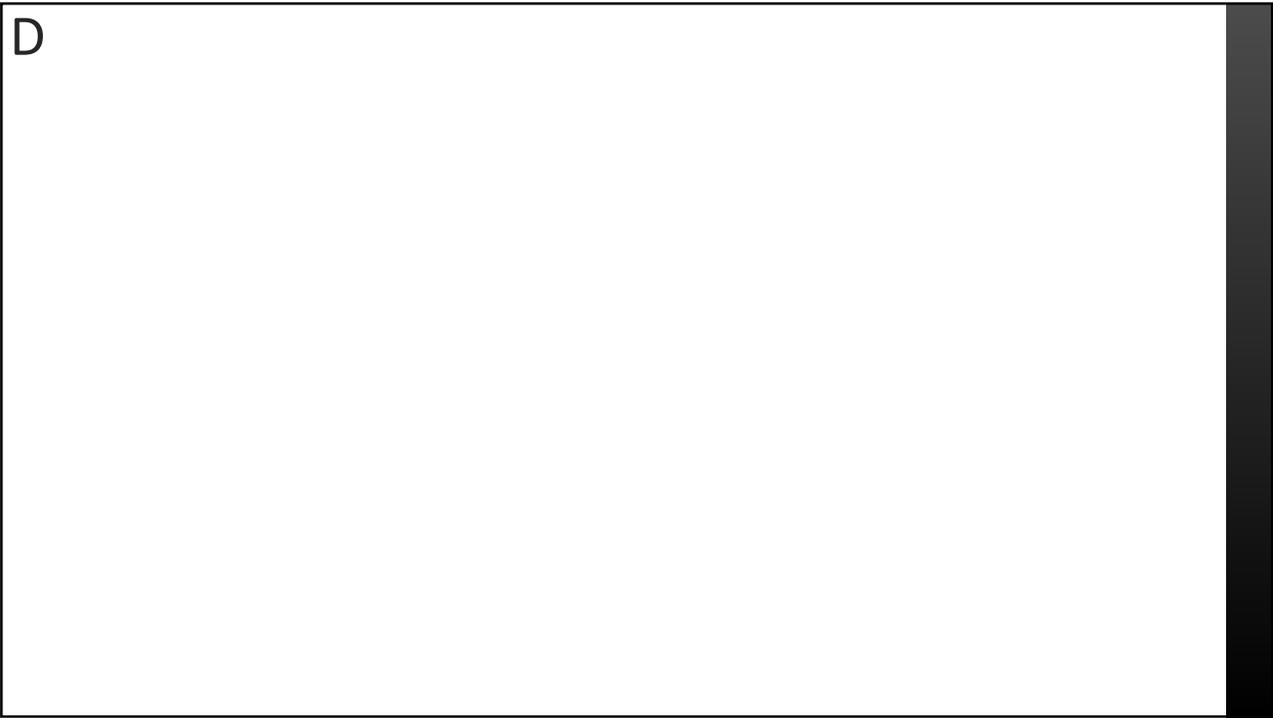
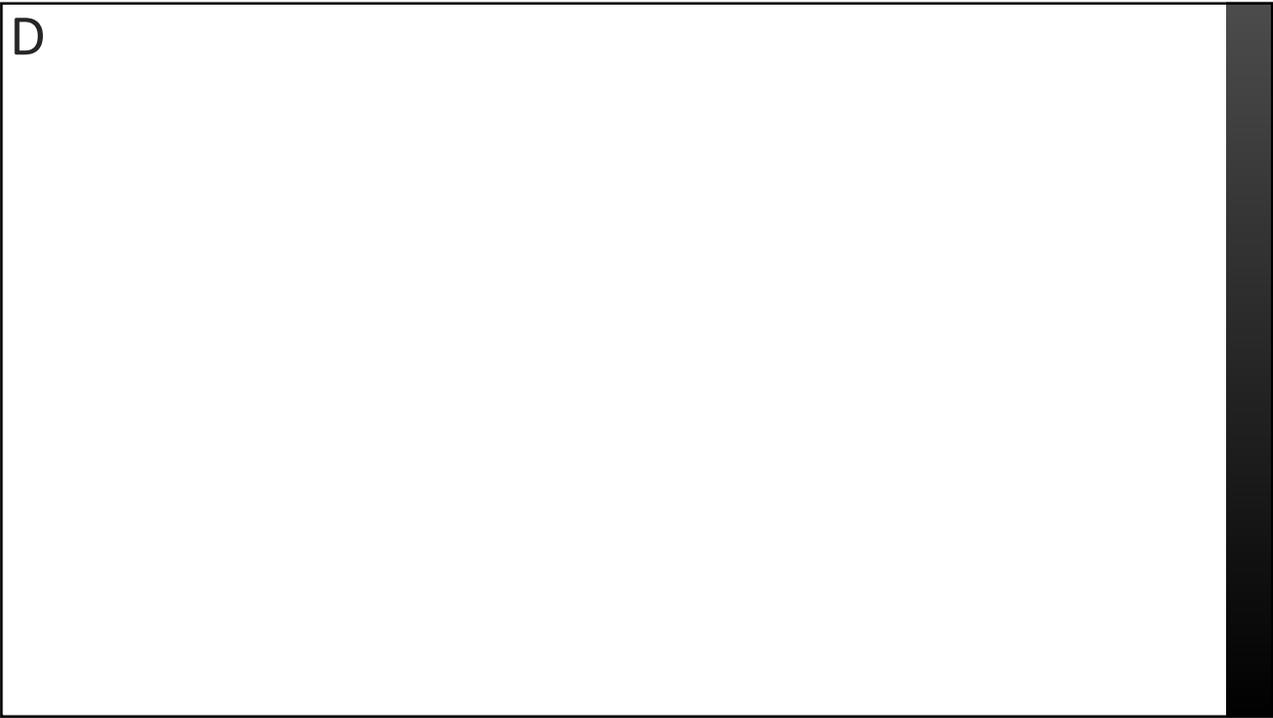


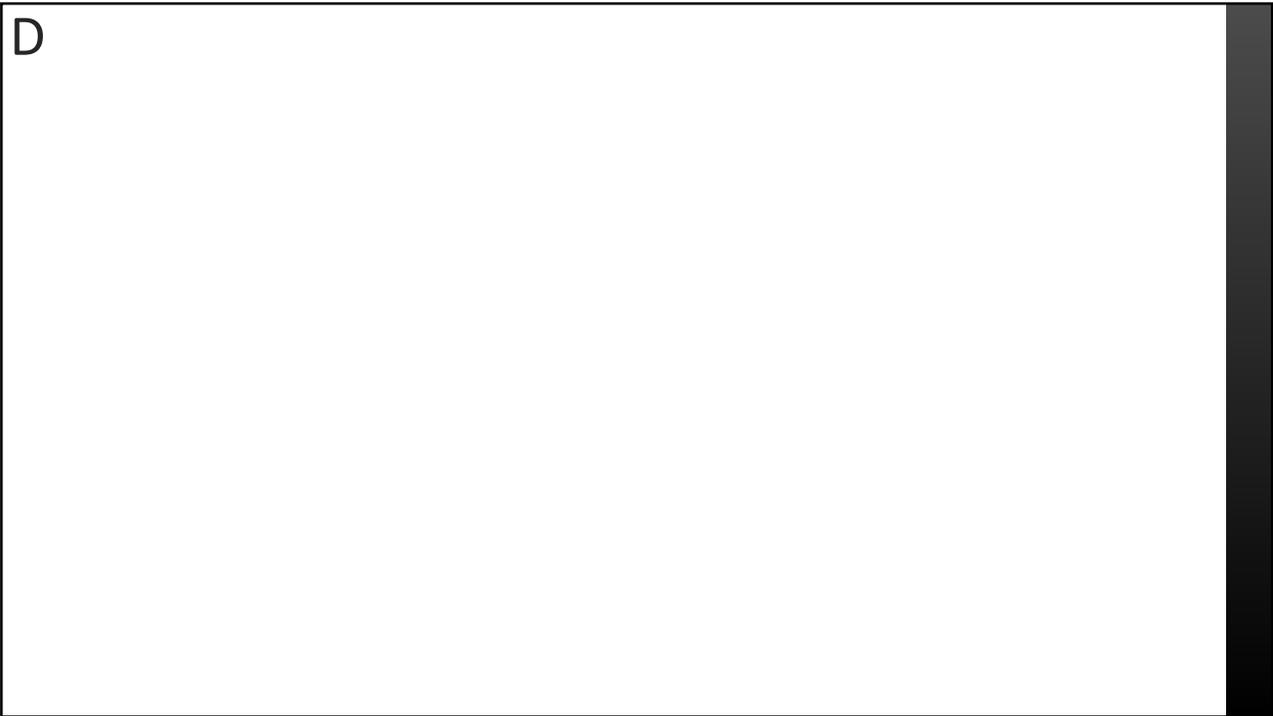
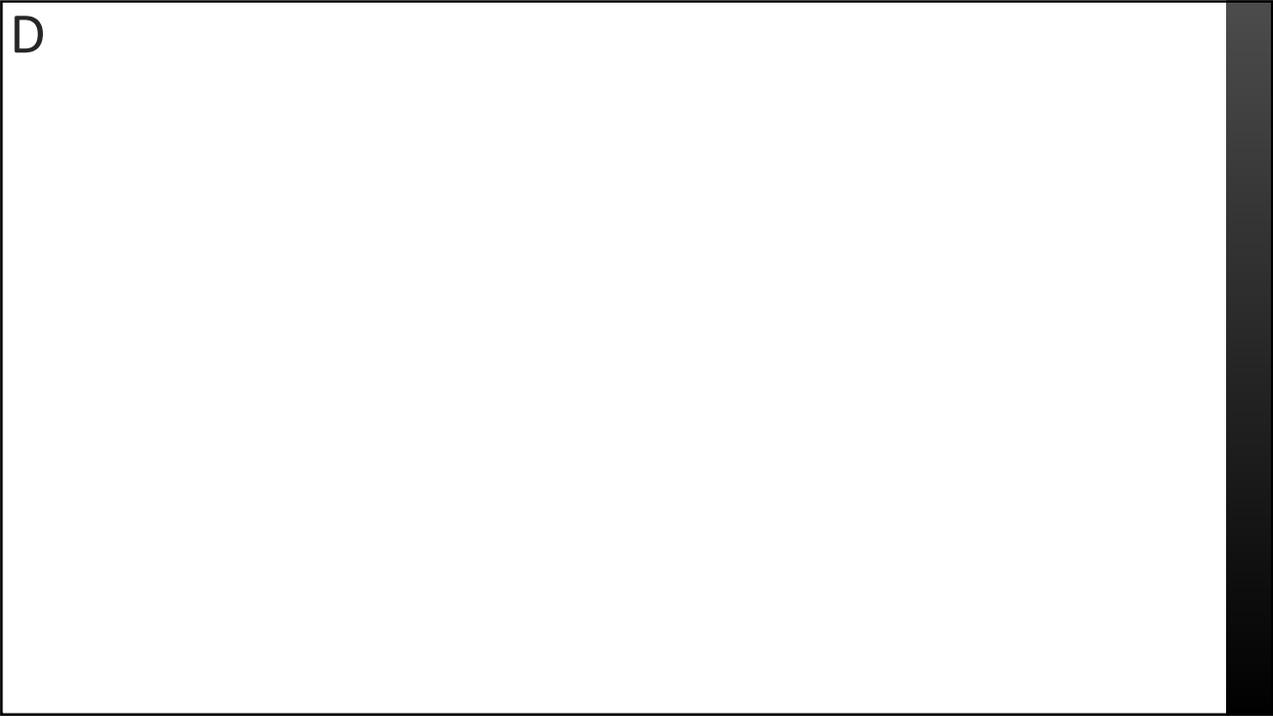


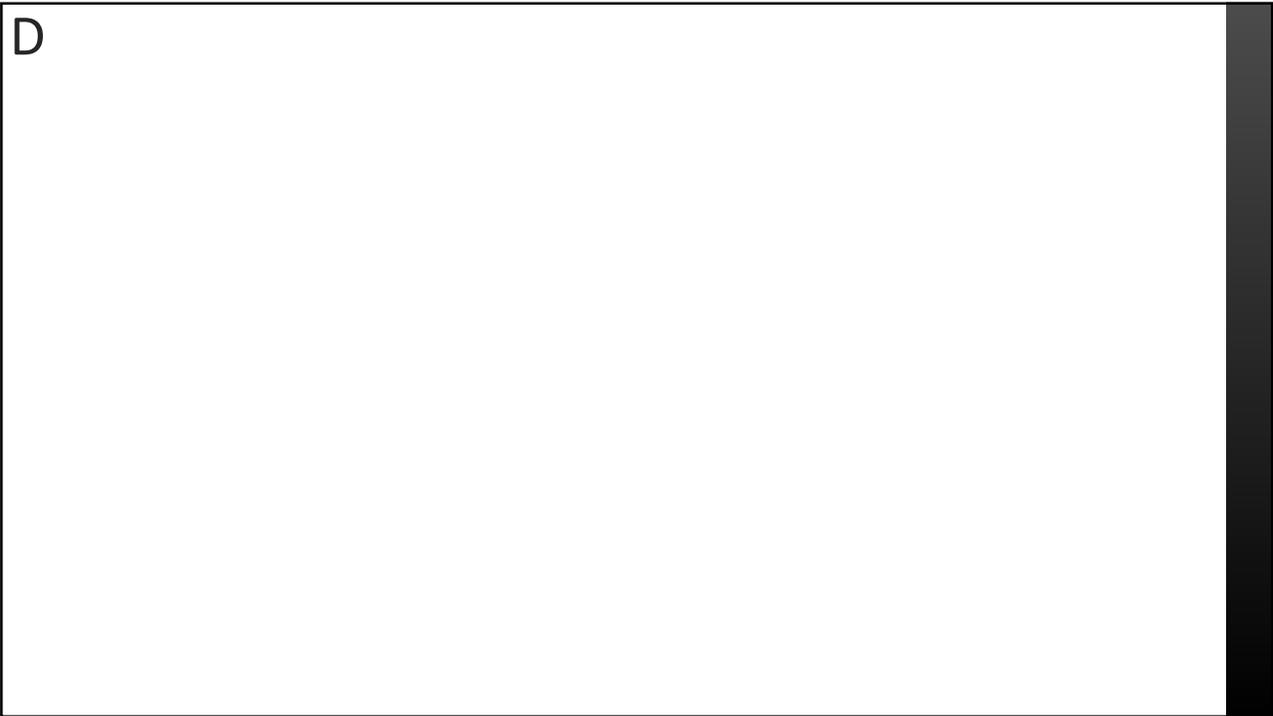












End Session Ten