



REN 103 - 3 credits

Communion with God

Description:

This is a thoroughly practical course on hearing God's voice, something all Christians long to do but all too many find difficult. Biblical techniques of vision and journaling will be used to help you discern and clarify the spontaneous thoughts that come to you from God. The key verses used are Habakkuk 2:1,2. The goal is that you commune (converse) with God through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and that this communion flow both ways.

Course Objectives:

Academic

When you complete this course, you will be able to:

- Quote the following Scripture passages:
 - ✓ Proverbs 11:14 NASU
 - ✓ Habakkuk 2:1,2
 - ✓ Isaiah 55:10,11
 - ✓ Psalm 46:10
 - ✓ John 8:38a
 - ✓ John 5:19,30a
 - ✓ Hebrews 10:22
 - ✓ John 17:3
 - ✓ John 7:37-39
 - ✓ I Chronicles 29:18 KJV
 - ✓ Philippians 3:10,11
- List five important safeguards for hearing God's voice.
- Discuss the differences between left- and right-hemisphere brain functions, and how this information relates to your spiritual life.
- List five major differences between the New Age and Christianity, and New Age spirit encounter and Christian Spirit encounter.
- Discuss the qualities of a good advisor or counselor.

- Discuss how the voice and vision of God are experienced and recognized.
- Discuss the godly use of imagination, and contrast it to ungodly and/or humanistic uses of imagination.
- Define journaling, and discuss its value in recognizing the voice of God.
- Discuss at least five reasons why we tend to reject the prophetic word in our midst ("stone the prophets").
- List the six pieces of furniture that were found in the tabernacle of Moses and discuss how they relate to your approach to God.
- Discuss the "fine-tuning dial" of Hebrews 10:22.
- List at least four reasons you may make mistakes in your journal, and solutions to them.
- Define praying with an idol in your heart, and give a biblical illustration of doing so.
- Define the limitations of journaling at various stages of your spiritual development.
- State the Hebrew word for true prophecy, and discuss how its meaning clarifies your understanding of the voice of God.
- Discuss the Leader's Paradigm, including the foundation, pillars and overarching goal.

Attitudinal

As a result of your application of the truths you learn in this course, you may recognize certain changes taking place in your attitudes, adjusting them to the following:

- You will recognize any tendencies toward phariseism within yourself and seek the grace of the Lord to remove it far from you.
- You will have confidence in God's power to keep you from the snares of the enemy as you seek His face in spiritual encounter.
- You will have no fear of New Age deceptions because of your confidence in the keeping power of God and your knowledge of the errors of New Age teaching and practice.

- You will have a better understanding of the way God made you, either more right-brain or left-brain. With this understanding will come an appreciation of your strengths and a respect for the strengths of those who differ from you.
- You will be grateful for the umbrella of protection God has provided for you through accountability relationships. You will honor those who “watch over your soul,” submitting to them joyfully and with confidence that the Lord is working His perfect will through them.
- You will have an increased awareness of God’s overwhelming love for you and His desire to have an intimate relationship with you. This sense of being loved will awaken within you a greater desire to spend time in communion with the Lover of your soul.

Behavioral

If you apply the teaching of this course to your life, you will be changed. Some of these changes will be as follows:

- You will have a regular time of communing with the Lord with the use of journaling at least twice a week.
- You will have approximately three counselors with whom you share all questionable journaling and any major decisions.
- You will know and use whatever biblical techniques are most effective in bringing you to stillness.
- You will regularly present the eyes of your heart to the Lord to enhance the quality and depth of your encounters with Him.

Course Texts:

How to Hear God’s Voice by Mark and Patti Virkler

Dialogue with God by Mark and Patti Virkler

“How to Hear God’s Voice” CDs or DVDs by Mark Virkler

“How to Hear God’s Voice Seminar Workbook” by Mark and Patti Virkler

Communion with God Student Notebook (this white three-ring binder)

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

Course Requirements:

1. Classroom students must regularly attend and participate in class. Extension students must listen to the CDs or watch the DVDs of the entire course as assigned. Follow along in the "How to Hear God's Voice Seminar Workbook," taking notes, journaling and filling in the blanks as instructed on the discs.
2. Read the entire text *How to Hear God's Voice*, thoroughly and completely answering all questions within the text, receiving at least a "B" on your work. Submit the completed *How to Hear God's Voice* study guide on week 12. The form on page 40 is to be sent in by week four.
3. After completing Chapter Five of the text, you must begin keeping a journal according to the procedure laid out. You will not hand this in, but will be asked to affirm that you have journaled at least twice a week for the last six weeks of the course.
4. You are required to earn at least 85% on Test One (due week 8) and the Final Test (due week 12). Memorizing the Course Objectives is the key to success on the tests.
5. Completely read *Dialogue with God* by Mark Virkler as assigned.
6. Submit a paper (due week 12) discussing how your life has been affected as a result of your encounter with God through this course. What changes has He brought in your understanding, attitudes, and behavior? Who are the people He has placed as counselors in your life? What are the methods which are most effective in bringing you to stillness? How have you used vision and what have the results been? Most importantly, how has your relationship to the Lord been affected as a result of this study? This paper is to be a minimum of five typewritten pages (double-spaced, maximum 12-point font) and is due at the end of the course. You must receive at least a "B" on this paper.



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Course Schedule

Lesson 1

Assignment to be completed:

Read Chapter 1 and Appendix A of *How to Hear God's Voice* by Virkler, answering all questions, filling in all blanks.

Listen to or watch sessions 1 and 2, following along and taking notes in your Seminar Workbook.

Memorize Proverbs 11:14 NASU.

Subjects to be explored:

Overview of the Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice

A Theological Backdrop for Hearing God's Voice

Related objectives:

- You will quote Proverbs 11:14 NASU ("Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in the abundance of counselors there is victory.")
- You will state five important safeguards for hearing God's voice.
- You will state the qualities of a good counselor.
- You will have approximately three counselors or advisors with whom you share all questionable journaling and any major decisions.
- You will be grateful for counselors God has provided for you, and you will honor those who "watch over your soul," submitting to them joyfully and with confidence that the Lord is working His perfect will through them.

Lesson 2

Assignment to be completed:

Complete the "test" in Appendix B of *How to Hear God's Voice* as instructed in the text.

Read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of *Dialogue with God* by Virkler.

Listen to or watch session 3, following along and taking notes in your Seminar Workbook.

Memorize John 17:3.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

God Wants to Be Your Friend

Related objectives:

- You will quote John 17:3. (And this is eternal life, that they might *know* Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.)
- You will have an increased awareness of God's overwhelming love for you and His desire to have an intimate relationship with you. This sense of being loved will awaken within you a greater desire to spend time in communion with the Lover of your soul.
- You will discuss the differences between left- and right-hemisphere brain functions, and how this information relates to your spiritual life.
- You will have a better understanding of the way God made you, either more right-brain or left-brain. With this understanding will come an appreciation of your strengths and a respect for the strengths of those who differ from you.