

Communion with God Graduate

Course Description:

Have you ever wished you could sit down and have a long talk with the Lord? When you're worried or confused, wouldn't you love to see the situation from His perspective and hear how He wants you to respond? When things don't seem to be going your way and your prayers aren't answered the way you had hoped, wouldn't it be great to hear Him tell you where He is in the midst of it, and what He is working out in your life?

Jesus promised that "My sheep hear My voice" (Jn. 10:27). If you are one of His sheep, then He is speaking to you and you are hearing His voice! The problem is that we have not learned how to recognize His voice and differentiate it from all of the other voices that bombard our hearts and minds. This course will help you discern the voice of the Lord within your heart, clearly and consistently, leading to a deeper intimacy with Him as well as greater faith, hope and joy. Your life will be transformed!

Course Objectives:

Academic

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

- Quote the following Scripture passages:
 - ✓ Habakkuk 2:1, 2
 - ✓ Proverbs 11:14 NASU
 - ✓ John 17:3
 - ✓ Isaiah 55:10, 11
 - ✓ John 7:37b-39a
 - ✓ Psalm 46:10
 - ✓ John 8:38a
 - ✓ I Chronicles 29:18 KJV
 - ✓ John 5:19, 30a
 - ✓ Hebrews 10:22
 - ✓ II Corinthians 10:5

- Define the following terms:
 - ✓ Submission
 - ✓ Mysticism
 - ✓ Two-way journaling
- State the four keys to hearing God's voice.
- 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 counselor or advisor.
- Discuss how the voice and vision of God are experienced and recognized.
- Discuss at least three techniques for bringing one to stillness.
- Define journaling, and discuss its value in recognizing the voice of God.
- 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 an illustration of doing so.
- 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 over-arching goal.
- Discuss the differences between study and meditation.

- Discuss at least six ways by which we can test our journaling to know for sure that it came from God.
- Discuss the three sources of visions in our minds and how to recognize and respond to each.
- Discuss the difference between questions of personal guidance and predictions of the future, and why we should pursue one and avoid the other.

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 phariseeism 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 gift God has provided for you through submission/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 to whom you submit all questionable journaling and any major decisions.

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, we are 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.

- 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:

4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice by Mark Virkler

Dialogue with God by Mark Virkler

"4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice" CDs or DVDs by Mark Virkler

"LEARN 4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice notebook"

Talking with Jesus by Evelyn Klumpenhauer

Am I Being Deceived? by Mark and Patti Virkler

Wading Deeper into the River of God by Mark Virkler

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.
2. Read the complete text *4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice* thoroughly and completely, answering all related questions found here in your Student Notebook, and receiving at least a "B" on your work.
3. Completely read *Dialogue with God* by Mark Virkler as assigned.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You will notice that all of the instructional materials for this course were written by the same authors, and that they all teach essentially the same truths. So be prepared: there will be repetition in your lessons. The chapter from the *4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice* book will talk about the same thing as the chapter in *Dialogue with God* which will be the same teaching as on the CD or DVD.

You are required to read both books and listen to or watch the teaching because each of us learns differently. Some of us love stories and some prefer charts or outlines. Some of us are visual learners who must see in order to comprehend, and some of us are auditory learners who absorb best by hearing. The teaching of this course is foundational to all of the other *lamad* courses, as well as foundational to your spiritual life. All *lamad* courses are built on the abil-

ity to recognize God's voice and be taught by Him. So we are doing our best to be sure that you "get it." For some of you it may seem like overkill. But others will be totally unaffected by two of the sources but will have revelation break forth in the third. If you absorb all of the truth in your first assignment of the lesson, realize that you might learn something in one of the other resources that will be the tool you need to help someone else move into a fuller relationship with the Lord when you share it with them.

4. You will be asked to affirm that you have journaled at least twice a week for the last eight weeks of the course.
5. Use the book *Talking with Jesus* as part of your daily devotions for the entire time you are taking this course. Simply use the entry in the book for whatever the date is right now. The words in this devotional are the result of Evelyn using the four keys to hearing God's voice being learned in this course to meditate upon and journal about Scripture. Using this as part of your devotions will facilitate your skill in hearing God's voice in several ways: first, you will become more comfortable with the sound of God's voice speaking directly to you, as the Holy Spirit in you will sound very much like the Holy Spirit in Evelyn. Also, it will familiarize you with the practice of journaling about the Scriptures. This is a very life-giving experience and one you will want to develop.

There will be no questions or exercises to correspond with this text, but you will be asked at the end of the course to affirm that you have faithfully read it.

6. You are required to earn at least 85% on Test One (due week 7) and the Final Test (due week 12). The Course Objectives are the key to success on the tests.
7. 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 type-written pages and is due at the end of the course. You must receive at least a "B" on this paper.

8. Foundational to *lamad* learning is the meditation upon and memorization of Scripture. You will be required to memorize Bible verses and passages in every one of your *lamad* courses. This is not just busy work! Each verse has been carefully chosen to support and complement the principles of the course and the lesson it is a part of. Memorizing Scripture builds a foundation of truth in your heart that the Spirit will be able to draw from to speak to you and lead you and comfort you and correct you throughout the rest of your life.

Therefore, the following is the expected procedure for your Scripture memory work for this and all future *lamad* courses:

- 1) *Write out* the Scripture verse at least once. You are required to write out the assigned verse and include it with your answers to exercises for each lesson. It is also recommended that you write the verse with your own hand (rather than typing it on your computer) on a 3x5 card to carry with you during the week to help you with your memorization.
- 2) *Meditate* on the verse(s). Think about what it means and why it was chosen for this course and this lesson. Discuss (in your answers that you will be submitting to your instructor) how the verse applies to the principles of the lesson and/or the course.
- 3) Ask the Spirit to show you what He wants to say to you through it. Once you have learned two-way journaling, *journal* about the verse. Write down what the Lord says to you. Include your journaling in your course work that will be submitted to your instructor.

Additional Graduate-Level Requirements:

These are not assigned in specific lessons, so you will need to pace yourself to complete these by the end of the course.

1. *Am I Being Deceived?* – Mark and Patti Virkler

Read the entire text and write a minimum of 8 pages typed (no larger than a 12-point font) and double-spaced (or 4 pages single-spaced) in response to this book. Draw together your observations, reactions and experiments into a cohesive report. This paper is to be submitted to your instructor with the Final Test.

- a) Discuss how your mind has been opened and your thoughts expanded through your meditation upon this book. What new truths have you discovered?
 - b) Did you change theologically and/or experientially as a result of this book? Describe any such changes.
2. Read the book *Wading Deeper into the River of God* by Mark Virkler. Write a 2–4 page paper summarizing your response to this book.

Optional Extra Credit Assignment:

To earn one extra credit, you may also do the following:

Write a research paper on Christian mysticism. You may organize your findings in a way that is meaningful to you. This paper is to be a minimum of 20 pages typed (no larger than a 12-point font) and double-spaced, or 10 pages single-spaced. It is to be submitted to your instructor with the Final Test. Include each of the following:

According to **Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary**, mysticism is defined as follows:

“1: the experience of mystical union or direct communion with ultimate reality reported by mystics; 2: the belief that direct knowledge of God, spiritual truth, or ultimate reality can be attained through subjective experience (as intuition or insight)”

- a) Establish a biblical base for this definition and practice.
- b) Explore the history of Christian mysticism, significant individuals considered Christian mystics, and the approaches they used. Document your research appropriately.
- c) Relate what you learn to your experience of direct spiritual encounter with God through the Holy Spirit and what the Bible teaches.

The internet is an excellent place to begin your research, with copies of original writings, scholarly analyses, complete books you can read online (for a fee), and suggested avenues of investigation from the syllabi of other universities. Google is a most helpful search engine (www.google.com). Type in the phrase "Christian Mysticism."

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Course Schedule

Lesson 1

Assignment to be completed:

Read the Introduction and Chapter One of *4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice* by Virkler.

Read the Introduction and Chapter One of *Dialogue with God*.

Listen to or watch Session 1 of the teaching, following along and taking notes in your LEARN notebook.

Complete the exercises for Lesson 1 found here in your Student Notebook.

Memorize Habakkuk 2:1, 2.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Each day this week, read the corresponding devotional for that day from *Talking with Jesus*. Meditate on the words of Jesus, both *Logos* and *rhema*. Take the time to see if there is anything else He wants to say to you specifically from the passages.

Subjects to be explored:

Introduction to the Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice

Related objectives:

- You will quote Habakkuk 2:1, 2. (I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the Lord answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run.")
- You will briefly state the four keys to hearing God's voice.
- You will state the definitions of *logos* and *rhema*.