
COU202 - 3 credits

Counseled by God

Description

“His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor” (Isa. 9:6)! This course will train you in a form of Christian counseling that begins and ends with the movement of Christ, rather than simply with the words of man. It is built on the ability to commune with God and to receive a freshly spoken word from the Holy Spirit within your heart. You will learn the way to emotional wholeness through personal interaction with Almighty God within your spirit, as it is recorded in your journal.

A genuine word from the Lord heals the broken-hearted. All the “how to” books can never do what a *rhema* word from God can do for the inner man. You will learn to let God speak to your heart and counsel you about the basic emotional pressures of life such as anger, doubt, depression, condemnation and inferiority, letting Him replace them with His opposites as His voice releases His grace within your heart. (Prerequisite: REN103 Communion with God)

Course Texts

Counseled by God book – Mark and Patti Virkler

LEARN Counseled by God notebook – Mark and Patti Virkler

Counseled by God CDs or DVDs – Mark Virkler

The Secret Place by William J. Dupley

Course Objectives

You will discuss at least eight rivers or channels the Lord has ordained by which He wants to pour grace into your home and your children.

Academic

- As a result of the course, you will:
- Quote the following Scriptures:
 - ✓ Isaiah 9:6b
 - ✓ Matthew 5:8
 - ✓ II Corinthians 10:5
 - ✓ Psalm 73:16, 17
 - ✓ Isaiah 1:18a
 - ✓ Philippians 4:8
 - ✓ I John 3:3
 - ✓ Philippians 2:5,6
 - ✓ II Corinthians 10:12b
 - ✓ II Corinthians 4:17, 18
 - ✓ Habakkuk 2:14
- Define “the heart” and describe a healed or pure heart.
- List five names of satan and discuss their significance.
- List five names of the Holy Spirit and discuss their significance to you.
- List the five senses of the spirit and discuss how they are used in birthing spiritual realities into the physical realm.
- Give working definitions of inner healing and complete healing or forgiveness.
- Discuss the three revelation truths which will enable you to properly respond to true guilt.

- List the three characteristics of the conviction of the Holy Spirit and contrast it with the false condemnation of the enemy.
- Give working definitions of anger, meekness and forgiveness.
- Discuss three major causes of an inaccurate self-image and their solutions.
- Give a working definition of depression.
- Discuss at least five **surface causes** of depression, how they relate to the root cause of most depression, and how they can be overcome.

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 be intensely aware that the material world which we see represents only a small portion of reality, and that it is intricately interwoven with the spiritual world which we can only see by revelation.
- As the Father reveals His heart to you, you will grow to love Him and trust Him more each day.
- You will be on guard against the lies which satan whispers into your mind which could contaminate your heart.
- You will have a greater appreciation of the eternal “I AM” Who lives outside of time and always “is” in the present.
- You will rest in the knowledge that God has a purpose for you that only you can fulfill, and that that is all He expects of you.
- You will accept anger as a signal rather than a sin.
- You will seek revelation knowledge of who you are in Christ.
- You will reject self-pity and always look to the revelation of the Holy Spirit for understanding of the apparently negative circumstances of your life.
- You will joyfully recognize that you cannot live the Christian life in the strength of the flesh but only through the death of the flesh and the release of the Spirit of Christ Who is alive within you.
- You will desire to maintain a pure heart by seeing God in all.

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 consistently ask the Lord to reveal the truth about the circumstances of your life, allowing you to see from His perspective and be healed by truth.
- You will immediately counter any lies satan tells you with the truth you have heard in God's presence.
- You will allow the Spirit of God to constantly fill the five senses of your spirit.
- You will allow Jesus to heal any deep wounds from your past.
- You will meditate on the truths which will enable you to properly respond to true guilt in the presence of the Holy Spirit, until He has made them revelation in your heart.
- You will take the time to receive your instructions from the Lord and act in obedience to Him rather than the multitude of voices which are crying for your attention.
- You will not sin in your anger but will respond to the impulse of anger by letting the Spirit of God do His sanctifying work in you.
- When an inaccurate self-image begins to cloud your heart, you will return to the Lord for His revelation of who you are in Him.
- You will meditate only on the *rhemas* of Christ.
- You will not speak or act in response to temptation until you have touched the Spirit of Christ Who lives within you and are able to release His life through your words and actions.
- You will make it a practice to always seek the revelation of the Spirit that you may see God in all.

Course Requirements:

NOTE: Save your answers into a digital document to be emailed to your instructor. Use Microsoft Word, Google Docs, any other word processor or even just save it as an email draft or in the Notes application of your mobile device. Handwritten work will be not be accepted without prior approval from your instructor.

1. Faithfully attend classes if in a classroom setting, or listen to all assigned CDs or DVDs if in an extension setting. Take notes in the *LEARN Counseled by God* notebook as you absorb the teaching.
2. Completely read *Counseled by God* textbook by Mark and Patti Virkler as assigned, answering the related questions and completing the exercises as found here in your Student Notebook.

NOTE: The answers to these questions will be submitted to your instructor at the end of the course for grading on completeness and personal thought and application. Therefore, you should prepare your answers in the best possible way to do this. *Your instructors prefer to receive your work as **email attachments**.* If you are unable to submit your work by email, you may send a **COPY** of it to your instructor's physical address. Be sure that you do not send your only copy of your work as the postal system may lose it, especially if it must cross international borders.

3. Prayerfully read *The Secret Place* by William J. Dupley as assigned and complete the exercises at the end of each chapter. We recommend that you complete the exercises for your two texts (*Counseled by God* and *The Secret Place*) on different days, rather than trying to complete them both in one sitting. Both will involve journaling, but from slightly different perspectives. The main goal of this course is that you learn to live every moment of every day by turning to Jesus and seeing what He is doing and hearing what He is saying. We want to encourage you to make regular journaling a part of your life so that you can daily be counseled by God. The exercises in these two texts will facilitate this.

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4. You will notice that there is very little reading involved in this course. Instead, the focus is on you hearing from God directly and recording what He is saying to you about the issues covered. In essence, *you* will be writing the collateral text, as you receive divine counsel about the concerns of your heart. There are extensive journaling exercises. Take the time to do them with your whole heart. It is in hearing from God that we are healed and changed.
5. Earn at least a B on the two tests.
6. Submit a paper describing your application of at least one of the lessons of this course. Briefly present the weak area of your life that the Spirit focused upon and how you have attempted to deal with this weakness (sin) in the past. What have been your successes and failures? What has been your focus and source of power? What truths did the Lord speak into your heart through the texts or the Scripture during this course? How has it affected your approach to your weak areas? What successes have you enjoyed? What are you still struggling with in this area? This paper is to be at least five pages, typed and double-spaced. It is due in the final lesson.

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.

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

NOTE: Save your answers into a digital document to be emailed to your instructor. Use Microsoft Word, Google Docs, any other word processor or even just save it as an email draft or in the Notes application of your mobile device. Handwritten work will be not be accepted without prior approval from your instructor.

Listen to or watch Session 1 of the *Counseled by God* CDs or DVDs, following along and taking notes in your *LEARN Counseled by God* notebook.

Prayerfully read the Forward and Chapter 1 of *Counseled by God*, answering the related questions found here in your Student Notebook.

Memorize Isaiah 9:6b and Matthew 5:8.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Related Objectives:

- You will quote Isaiah 9:6b. (His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.)
- You will quote Matthew 5:8. (Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.)
- You will state Virklers' definition of "the heart" and a pure or healed heart.

Exercises

1. State and memorize Virklers' definition of "the heart."
2. State and memorize Virklers' definition of a pure or healed heart.
3. Take the time either now or over the next few days to journal about each of the questions found in the "Classroom Application Journaling Exercise" in your *LEARN Counseled by God* (page 4).
4. Complete the "Exercises to Promote Ongoing Revelation at Home" (page 5 of *LEARN Counseled by God*) by meditating on the results of both a pure and contaminated heart as revealed in ten Scripture passages.
5. Discuss Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made..."
 - a) In what way are God's invisible attributes, eternal power and divine nature clearly seen and understood through creation?
 - b) Has there been an occasion when God particularly revealed something about Himself to you through nature? If so, talk about it.
6. Write out and journal about Matthew 5:8, asking the Lord what He wants to say to you especially about the verse and its application to your life right now.

Self-Test

NOTE: *These Self-Tests are designed to clarify and reinforce the lesson objectives. They may be done with open book, if necessary.*

1. Quote Isaiah 9:6b.
2. Quote Matthew 5:8.
3. According to the Virklers, your heart may be seen as your underlying _____, _____, and _____ traits.
4. According to the Virklers, a pure or healed heart reflects _____ attitudes, _____, and _____ traits of _____, hope and _____.

Answers to Self-Test

1. Isaiah 9:6b “His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
2. Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”
3. attitudes, motivations, character (LCBG p. 4)
4. God’s, motivations, character, faith, love (LCBG p.4)