



REN 503 - 4 credits

Communion With God Graduate

The following shall be **added to** the requirements for the course REN103 Communion With God to receive graduate-level credits.

Additional Requirements:

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, available online at cwgministries.org/freebooks. 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."