

# ~TWO APPROACHES TO CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY~

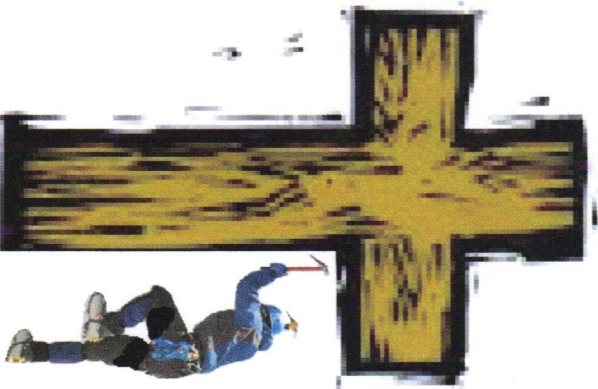
## THEOLOGIES OF GLORY

**Moralistic Spirituality:** the pursuit of behavior that conforms to a system of moral standards<sup>1</sup>, standards held by God; i.e. Mankind exerts the efforts of the will

**Mystical Spirituality:** the pursuit of achieving communion/conscious awareness/ultimate reality with God through direct experience, intuition, or insight<sup>2</sup>; i.e. Mankind exerts the efforts of emotions

**Speculative Spirituality:** the pursuit of contemplative reason and understanding of the principles of logic, the logic and reason of God; i.e. Mankind exerts the efforts of the intellect

**Summary:** All Three of these Conventional approaches to Spirituality involve human beings' expending strenuous effort to reach God, who is, by implication, an impassive observer, far above the fray, a goal that must be attained, a treasure that must be sought, discovered and earned.<sup>3</sup>



**Speculative**  
**Moralistic**  
**Mystical**

## THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS

**Incarnational Spirituality:** the pursuit of God for sinful mankind; i.e. God exerts the efforts to minister to mankind's intellect, will and emotions.

**Summary:** Lutheran spirituality is all about what God does to rescue us from our miserable and depraved human condition. God is no passive force. God is the one who is active, not human beings. The issue is not our ascent to God, but God's descent to us; i.e. coming to us to die for us, embrace us and love us.



**Incarnational**

<sup>1</sup><http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/dictionary/DictionaryResults.aspx?refid=1861631193>

<sup>2</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticism>

<sup>3</sup> Gene Edward Veith, Jr. *The Spirituality of the Cross* (Concordia Publishing, 1999), 23.