

SERMON: THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFELINE

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:5-15

Introduction: When man is cut loose from fellowship with God he begins to die spiritually. There are many things that insure union and fellowship with God. We call these "The Christian's Life-line." Perhaps the most effective of these is prayer.

Some of these examples are:

1. WHAT IS PRAYERS

- a. It may be a child saying a prayer that he has memorized
- b. For some, it is simply asking God for some favor or blessing.
- c. For others, it is crying and weeping before the altar of God.
 - i. Example: (Isaiah praying in the temple); (The publican and Pharisee praying in contrast)

2. SOME THINGS I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PRAYER

- a. The less you pray, the less you feel the need to pray
- b. That all do not pray alike
 - i. Jacob wrestled with God
 - ii. The mother of Samuel prayed in her heart. (I Samuel 1:13)
 - iii. Jesus talked to God, His Father
 - iv. James said to pray earnestly. (James 5:17)

3. THE HIGHEST FORM OF PRAYER IS COMMUNION

- a. A man and his wife can come to relationship that cannot be expressed in mere words. Even so, the child of God can reach a place of communion with God that is beyond words. It is then that the Spirit maketh intercession for him.
- b. As the old song suggests, "He walks with me and He talks with me."
- c. The greatest comprehension of truth is seen in the personality of Jesus

Conclusion: Joseph Scriven's bride drowned the day before he and she were to be married. Out of this experience came the song, "What a Friend Have In Jesus." Indeed, "O what peace we often forfeit... all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."