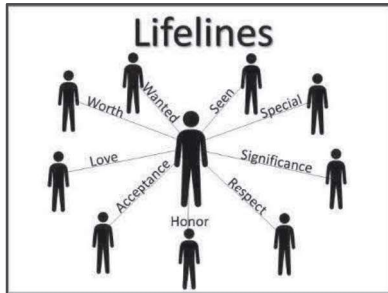


Lifelines



At the core of the human condition is the need, not desire, to be loved, accepted, and wanted. The original design was to get these needs filled by God, and God alone. However, too often we seek those affirmations from people who were never meant to fill that role. This way of thinking is detrimental to our growth process.

We then wonder, why do some people come out of a bad relationship relatively unscathed, while others are devastated, becoming stuck in their emotional and relational lives? The difference is where their lifelines were connected. Just as a fetus is dependent upon the mother, so are we to whomever our lifeline is connected. If something happens to the mother the fetus is directly affected, so are we if the one whom we have plugged into decides to cut that line. If we plug into a spouse or friend, rather than God, we are relying on that person for our life-giving soul sustenance. If that person decides to end the relationship, cutting that lifeline, we begin to die emotionally, which has far reaching effects into every area of our life. How is it possible to receive an honest picture of our wholeness when we seek to find it from others who are just as shattered as we are? Therefore, it is critical to plug your lifeline in to the only one who can sustain a life-giving connection. Only the Lord deserves to have your lifeline, and when connected only to Him, you will indeed have life to the fullest. When we are plugged into God alone, that is when we are free to experience wonderful healthy relationships with others or freedom and peace if they choose to walk away. Only when we focus back to the originator of creation, will we ever find the truth.

For all of the several deeply seated emotional needs you have, there are just as many lifelines requiring attachments. You can have different lines plugged into different people, compounding the tragedy when multiple people make the choice to disconnect the lines attached to them or fail to meet the perceptions and expectations you placed upon them. One of the greatest tragedies of an improperly placed lifeline is the fact that we willingly choke down volumes of poison, desperately waiting and hoping for that one fragmented moment of the validation we seek. Unfortunately, those hurtful events which were fed to us through that lifeline leave us with an incorrect mindset and false belief about our self; wounding both our heart and soul.

Sometimes the best examples and lessons are illustrated with a story. The following text is taken from *Journey Beyond the Gate The Path to Epiphany Profound*. This story depicts the results of improperly placed lifelines and the wounds they inflict.

I closed my eyes, pushed the door open and took a step inside. The door shut behind me and I found myself standing in a huge open hall that was poorly lit and completely empty, except for something or someone standing at the opposite end of the room. This was not at all what I had imagined or expected. I squinted hard in order to see who or what was at the end of the hall. It appeared to be a person, so I called out to see if he or she could direct me to where I was supposed to go. There was no response so I began walking toward the figure to see what it was. The hall was strangely quiet and as I started walking, each of my footsteps boomed on the stone