

Good morning! One of the interesting things we have seen develop within the Christian community---especially the American Christian community---is the concept of rugged individualism in the Church. We Americans like to think that we're independent and this way of thinking about Christianity being about "Jesus and me" fits right into that---but it isn't biblical. The teaching of scripture isn't that we're independent---it's that we're *interdependent*. We need each other and following Jesus is not something we just do on our own. This morning, let's look together at one of the most famous passages in the Bible to see what I mean:

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." So He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'" Luke 11:1-4 NKJV

What do you notice about this passage? Everything Jesus says is corporate; *Our Father*; give *us*; forgive *us* deliver *us*. There is no concept of what I like to call the "Lone Wolf Christian". When we are saved, we are saved into the community of believers. You and I are not out on our own in the wilderness, doing whatever we think is right. When we belong to Jesus, we also belong to each other. Jesus taught ---and apostles taught---that following Jesus is something we do together. I have discovered over the years that being together in Jesus is much better than trying to work it out on my own. This is not just a New Testament concept, by the way; the psalmist tells us (in Psa. 133) "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ...For there the Lord commanded the blessing; life forevermore." Indeed, life with Jesus is better when we do it together. This morning, if you have been trying to go it alone, it's time to come in from the storm. Ask God to help you to find fellowship and then begin to look for how He is answering that prayer. Following Jesus is better...together!