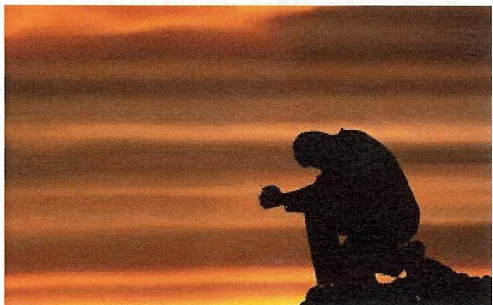




Our Need to Pray



Having been blessed to work with a number of college-age students for many years, I got to meet a lot of different parents. It was not unusual to get a call from one of them (mainly mom) asking me to please check on her son or daughter.

Many times what precipitated the call from Mom was the unexpected phone call home from her child which appeared to be for no reason at all -- at least no reason to which any self-respecting 18-year-old college freshman (who had been clamoring all through high school that he couldn't wait to get out of the house and be independent) was going to admit. The truth is the reason for the unexpected call was due to the student being homesick. There is no question in my mind that when loneliness hits us, or some crisis takes us by storm, we all (whether 18 or 80) want to retreat to that place of shelter and refuge where we felt most secure. Whether he admits it or not, home was that place of shelter and refuge from loneliness and crisis of the 18 year-old freshman.

Jesus found the need to pray whether in the midst of the multitudes or in withdrawing from them to a desert place. In fact, he found it necessary at times to withdraw from his inner circle of loyal disciples, "rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark...and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed." (Mark 1:35) *Continued on page 3*

