

PRAYER LESSON 141

Consistent Prayer or Crisis Prayer

There are basically two kinds of pray-ers, consistent pray-ers and crisis pray-ers. Those who pray out of having a relationship with the object of their prayers and those who pray out of a specific need that they believe the object of their prayers can deal with. I'm not going to suggest that either of these approaches is better than the other, but rather that both are included in an appropriate prayer life.

Consistent prayer is important as it is about a relationship with God. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, **pray continually**. Did he have in mind that we do nothing other than pray? I think he meant that every moment should be lived in the presence of God. If we have that kind of relationship with our Father, then we will be in prayer continually, even while doing other things. The crisis pray-er tends to take time out of his, doing other things, to pray. It comes from a desire to get something rather than a desire to relate.

The consistent pray-er comes from a deep emotional need to connect with his creator and his prayers come from within. While the crisis prayer is motivated by external circumstances and finding a solution takes priority over building a relationship. The consistent pray-er sees prayer as part of his calling, it is as critical as the air he breathes. The crisis prayer sees prayer as driven by his need and is prompted by some stimulus that requires resolution.

Consistent prayer is planned and practical, it is the meeting of old friends. Crisis prayer is spontaneous and reflects the demand of the moment. Consistent prayer includes all the dimensions of prayer, including praise, confession, thanksgiving, and asking. Crisis prayer is almost always only about dealing with the need of the moment.

In summary the focus of consistent prayer is on building a relationship, while the focus of crisis prayer is satisfying a need. Consistent prayer requires some discipline, while crisis prayer is spontaneous. A well rounded prayer life ought to include both.