

## An Open Line To God

by Mick Wells



Sometimes telephones can pose a true test of one's Christian commitment. Where I work, there should be a checklist prepared to help a poor caller clear all the hurdles inherent in securing a decent connection. As I stare at the Orwellian warning on the phone telling me that my call might be monitored, I repeatedly dial, redial, and dial again in an effort to avoid busy signals, static, echoes and spastic transmissions. Assuming the person I'm trying to contact is available, and assuming I've not been placed "on hold", all too often my conversation ends abruptly, as my call is suddenly cut off by faulty equipment or in deference to higher priority telephone traffic. Then I must initiate the ritual again.

My frustrations only give me a greater appreciation for prayer -- our precious means of communicating with God. Consider the features...

- Prayer can be personal and private between you and God, not subject to monitoring by others. Jesus said, *"When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray..."* -- Matthew 6:6
- For Christians, prayer provides a line to our Heavenly Father that is always open. The Bible does cite several things that can hinder our prayers (examples include – cherishing sin in our heart [Psalm 66:18], asking with wrong motives [James 4:3], husband not honoring his wife [1 Peter 3:7]), but if we correct such problems, the "transmission" of our prayers is always clear and clean— invulnerable to storms, wind or malfunction.
- There are no busy signals in Heaven. Our God is infinite -- always able to listen to you at the same time He is listening to me. He will never put you "on hold" or cut you off in favor of someone or something else. He is no respecter of persons.
- Our Heavenly Father is always there to answer our calls. We have direct access to Him through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- There are no charges, no credit cards, no taxes," no interest, and no gimmicks. Communication with God is free and encouraged! How blessed we are to have the privilege of prayer!

*"...the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers..."*

--1 Peter 3:12

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