



## JESUS ON THAT MAINLINE

*You can talk with Jesus anytime.*

by BOB HOSTETLER

PEOPLE WHO BEGAN their life's journey before the invention of the cellphone once lived in a world that would seem foreign to those born since. Telephones hung on walls or sat on desks, connected by a cord to wires in the wall. Some homes were part of a party line, which shared a number with other homes; if a neighbor was on the line, callers either interrupted or waited their turn. Users literally *dialed* a number by spinning a rotary wheel. In the days before call waiting, answering machines, and voicemail, a caller would receive a busy signal when the other person was using the phone; the only option was to call back later. And calling beyond a certain radius incurred extra long-distance charges, which were often exorbitant.

So much has changed in such a short time. Landlines are disappearing. Rotary phones are antiques. No more busy signals. And long-distance charges are only for very long distances. But some things remain the same. For example, God still says to even the most wayward soul who is repentant, "Call to me and I will answer you" (Jer. 33:3). In fact, He has promised, "Even before they call, I will answer; while they are still

speaking, I will hear" (Isa. 65:24). You don't need a cellphone or an Internet connection to turn to God and cry out to Him; He is always listening and ready to hear your heart's cry. Like the old gospel song says,

Jesus is always "on that mainline," ready for you to "tell Him what you want."

There is no better time than right now to heed the Bible's plea: "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call to him while he is near" (Isa. 55:6). The line is open. The call is free. The answer is assured. You need no device, just a sincere and repentant heart that is willing to say, "God, my heavenly Father, I confess that I have sinned against You. I'm sorry for my sins

and turn away from them. I trust in Jesus who paid for all my sins on the cross and ask You to please forgive, cleanse, and control me. Please help me to follow Your Son as my Savior and Lord from this moment on. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer, tell a pastor or Christian friend, or call 888-537-8720.

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BOB HOSTETLER is an award-winning author of 50 books, including the award-winning *Don't Check Your Brains at the Door* (co-authored with Josh McDowell) and *The Bard and the Bible* (A Shakespeare Devotional). He lives in Nevada.



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