

# MAKE THE CALL

*At your lowest and on the mountaintop, call out His name. He will be there. We are never too much talk for Him and He always answers, "Welcome Child."*

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## THE LOVE WE LONG FOR

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Love songs, we all know them, we've all sung them. I sang this song in my high school years. James Taylor's classic, "You've Got a Friend", was a favorite. I have such fond memories with my besties in high school, our arms thrown over each other's shoulders, swaying back and forth and singing at the top of our lungs. I knew they were my friends, but these lyrics rang truer and stronger when I turned my heart cry to Jesus.

*When you're down and troubled, and you need a helping hand,  
And nothing, no nothing is going right,  
Close your eyes and think of me,  
And soon I will be there, to brighten up even your darkest night.  
You just call out my name,  
And you know wherever I am,  
I'll come running to see you again.  
Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you gotta' do is call,  
And I'll be there. You've got a friend.*

I have called out His name in all seasons and He always comes running. He has brightened up even my darkest nights, my darkest corners.

I've got a friend. You've got a friend. Turn your heart-cry to Him.

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## ANY

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When I was growing up, a small print hung at my bedside. It read: “When you go to bed at night, give all your worries to God, He’s going to be up all night anyway.” Friends and family aren’t always available, but there’s One who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24) Who never leaves you or forsakes you. (Hebrews 13:5) He’s wide eyed and available 24-7. We need our sleep, but He’s always up. Praise God. When we can’t sleep, when we can’t rest, He’s up and ready to listen!

“Indeed, He who watches over you never slumbers or sleeps.” (Psalms 121:4)

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## HE LISTENS

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My brother and I had a private kids’ phone line in high school. Without it, my parents’ line would have always been busy. It was a rotary dial with a super long cord that stretched to the back hall, perfect for me. I would close the door and lay on the shag carpet, chatting with friends for hours. My brother was lucky if he even got a turn.

You might think I’m ancient describing a phone like this, and I couldn’t tell you what we talked about, it was forever ago. What I’ve realized though, tracing all these years, is that out of all the countless conversations I’ve had with the

Ancient of days, all our years You count, and all our conversations with You, You treasure.
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Lord, He hasn’t forgotten one thing we’ve chatted about. Weeks back or years back, He remembers it all.

Whether you feel ancient or you are young at heart, God’s heart hangs on every word you say. We are loved by the Almighty and never forgotten. When’s the last time y’all chatted?

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## HONESTLY, COME HONEST

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Do you ever feel like your heartaches and miseries are just too much? Too much to bear and too much to share? when we let it all hang out as music to His ears. He wants is best. Honestly, He loves our you have a dark secret? He selves, every part. He lovingly are. We're better off coming everything is okay. Only then can we honestly share life with Him.

We pour out  
all our  
troubles and  
His  
compassion  
never fails.  
(Psalm  
142:2-3)

We need to understand that before the Lord, He counts this us to openly utter it all, raw truth honesty. Are you miserable? Do wants us to bring our whole listens and receives us as we broken than pretending

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## CAW OUT

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I stepped out into the cool crisp Fall air and stood under the heavy gray cloud cover. There was a small wind around me and close by I could hear the song of a crow in the branches above calling, "Caw! Caw!" I thought to myself, "I wonder

"Great is our  
Lord and  
mighty in  
power; his  
understanding  
has no limit."  
(Psalm 147:5)

what he is saying?" You know a crow has a raspy voice. It sounds desperate, with a loud, hoarse, grating rattle. He calls out constantly, and he did as I listened. I couldn't begin to interpret what he was trying to convey. You know, it was that very morning that I should have been hoarse, but I couldn't find my "call." The words wouldn't come to express the cries of my heart to the Lord. I felt desperate. Do you ever find yourself

unable to express what's deep inside? I couldn't read this crow's call, but I was reminded that the Lord can hear the hoarseness of our hearts, the grating desperate places in our souls.

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## ONGOING

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Eyes open is just right. Anytime and anywhere. Long winded or speechless.

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## HIS CONSTANT CALL

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Did you know you're on Jesus's prayer list? Not only do we have complete access to the throne of grace at any time, but there's a constant call on our behalf being made there. He's pleading on our behalf that we will know Him, that we will know that we are known by Him and that we will receive His offer of salvation. I think it's what's responsible for this ongoing ring deep down, the wrestling in our hearts. Have you picked up? Have you answered His call?

“Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and He is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.” (Romans 8:34)

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## HIS HEART'S LONGING

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The rain hit the roof and the house fell quiet as salty tears hit my cheeks. It was raining on the outside and on the inside. I pondered, “Are you crying with me, Lord? My heart weeps, weeps for those who have not yet been held by You.” As the raindrops gathered on the roof, I remembered His heart's longing to gather the lost. “I have longed to gather you, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” (Luke 13:34) It was then I thought I saw it.

I thought I saw a tear on His cheek.

“He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” (Psalm 91:4)