

CALLING ON GOD
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The scene has a cot and small bedside table with phone and lamp on it. The man lays in bed in pajamas. The light from the lamp comes on and brightens as the play opens. The man talks to himself.

Jerry: Might as well go to sleep. Nothing else to do. No parties where I'd be welcome. No friends want me around right now. Can't even pray any more. Jerry, old boy! Looks like you've pretty much hit bottom. Might as well sleep. Maybe my dreams will be better than life.

Light from the lamp goes off. In the dark, we hear Jerry snore. Then he apparently enters bad dream.

Jerry: *(Still dark)* ...no, not over! No, the deal's not finished yet. *(Builds in volume)* Back off, Man. Who said God doesn't care? I'm not dead yet. Am I? Am...???

Jerry sits up and turns lamp on. He is sweating and holds face in his hands.

Jerry: I gotta talk to someone. I gotta talk to God... *(He reaches and picks up the phone)* ..what was that number? Let's see...*(Sound of dialing is heard)* 1- 8 0 0 - C A L L - H E L P . *(As phone begins ringing)* Yeh, that was it!

Operator: Good Evening! You have reached a service, where your questions about the spirit life are answered. *(The operator pauses)*

Jerry: *(Starts to talk, but is cut off as the operator continues)* Yes, I was calling

Operator: *(Dramatically)* This, is the Spiritual Awareness Hotline. If you need to speak to an angelic being, press 1. If you need to speak to the marketing department, press 2. For all other calls, press three.

Jerry: What in the world?

Operator: If you need to have this message repeated, press 4

Jerry: No, I don't need anything repeated. Just want to talk to God. Guess that's 3. *(Presses phone as the sound of a tone is heard).*

Operator: Thank you for your interest in our services. If you are inquiring about your final destination, press 1. If you are asking about allowable baggage, there is none. If you wish to arrange special accommodations, press 2. If you feel you are not being served, and wish to speak to lower management, press 3. For all other needs, stay on the line...

Jerry: Maybe if I just hang loose for a minute, I can talk to someone live. I really need to talk ...

Operator: Good evening!

Jerry: Yes, finally! Good eve... *(He gets cut off again)*

Operator: You have reached the last resort department. *(Here, Jerry begins to moan)* If you need to have wishes granted and can put up your soul as collateral, press 1. If you are in need of a change in reality, the pharmaceutical department can be reached by pressing 2. Our brewery department is ready for your call if you press 3. Their motto is "Spirits to bring up spirits". If you feel you have reached this recording in error, press 4 now. You pathetic wretch!

Jerry: That's enough! I'll press 4! *(Presses button)*

Operator: *(Dramatically)* This, is the Spiritual Awareness Hotline. If you need to speak to an angelic being, press 1. If you need to speak to...

Jerry: *(Screams)* Aauuuugh! No! No! No! *(He hangs up phone, drops head to hands)* Oh God, I just wanted to talk to you. *(At this point, Jesus is seen entering from the side of the stage)* I thought you promised you'd always be there for me. *(Jesus calls out Jerry's name softly)* You said if we called, you'd be faithful and just...

Jesus: *(Louder)* Jerry! *(Jerry turns around, and sits there speechless)* Jerry! You didn't call me. You called 1 - 8 0 0 - C A L L - H E L L . Don't you remember? I always answer my calls... in person. Now, what can I do for you? *(Walks toward Jerry as the lights fade away)*