

Long-Distance, Operator!

by
Steve Trullinger
www.fatherstouch.org

When I was a young boy, it wasn't possible yet to make a long-distance telephone call by dialing directly to the destination number. You had to first call the local operator and be connected to a long-distance operator who would then complete your connection for you. By today's standard it would be quite a nuisance to have to go through such an intermediary for a routine long-distance call, but back then as a boy, there was something special and reassuring about having someone guide your call and make sure that you reached the right party at the other end of the line. A long-distance call was a big event (with a cost to match!) and such calls were made only on special occasions or when something important had to be communicated quickly and personally.

The first-time delight in hearing the voice of a distant loved one as though they were in the same room is hard to recapture, because the novelty of long-distance calling quickly fades as we become accustomed to this capability, usually at a very young age! So it is with a great many technological marvels, as yesterday's novelty becomes today's routine. Spatial separation has ceased to be a barrier to communication, provided of course each party has a telephone. Indeed, distance loses its significance altogether when talking through a good quality link. When you answer a call, you can't tell, without other information, where the caller might be located. They might be next door, or on another continent!

We can also ignore distance as a limitation on God! We can pray in one place and expect him to answer in another, no matter how far away! It's as if distance doesn't exist when our Father wants to touch someone with his healing hand! A few examples from the ministry of Jesus will illustrate the absence of spatial limitations on the miracle-working power of God as he responds to needs of people at a distance from us.

Stretch Out Your Hand, Lord!

Sometimes the Father directs in a way that saves wear and tear on the sandals!

“Once more he [Jesus] visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. ‘Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,’ Jesus told him, ‘you will never believe.’ The royal official said, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies.’ Jesus replied, ‘You may go. Your son will live.’ The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, ‘The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour.’ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, ‘Your son will live.’ So he and all his household believed.” [John 4:46-53]

Although Cana and Capernaum were 20 miles apart, the official's son was healed when Jesus spoke the word! Distance was not a problem!

A certain Roman centurion had a valued servant who was deathly sick and he sent for Jesus to heal him. Jesus responded to the centurion's faith by healing the servant from a distance:

“...He [Jesus] was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: ‘Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.’ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, ‘I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.’ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.” [Luke 7:1-10]

Again at a distance, Jesus cast a demon out of the Syro-Phoenician woman’s little daughter:

“...She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. ‘First let the children eat all they want,’ he told her, ‘for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she replied, ‘but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ Then he told her, ‘For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.’ She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.” [Mark 7: 26-30]

Distance has never been a challenge for God and the manifestation of long-distance influence of prayer never loses its wonder! Answer to prayer in the same location where intercession is made is delightful enough, but the influence of prayer at distant locations causes additional awe and wonder at the inscrutable workings of God! In our modern world, our Father is also quite capable of using our communication tools to facilitate his long-distance touches, as the following examples will illustrate:

Telephone Touch!

One morning several years ago, one of The Father’s Touch team members received an urgent phone call from a father-to-be. The baby was not yet due for a few months and his wife had begun to experience substantial bleeding, a very serious sign that something was going wrong. So his call for prayer was urgent indeed!

The strategy quickly given by the Holy Spirit was remarkable! The father was asked where mom was at that moment and he replied that she was in bed and trying not to move, lest the bleeding become worse. When asked whether there was a telephone extension in the bedroom, he replied that there was and he joined his wife in the bedroom. He was asked to lay his hand on her abdomen while he still had the phone in his ear so he could be in agreement with the prayer of the team member. As a prayer of faith was offered at the other end of the phone line, the father’s hand got “hot” with the healing presence of the Holy Spirit and the bleeding stopped instantly and never returned!

The mom went full-term and gave birth a few months later to a very healthy 10-pound boy who is growing so big that he might become a linebacker! Praise God for his healing “telephone touch!”

Thankfully, the husband did not waste any time before calling for help in prayer! This is an important lesson in using the technology God has given us!

Cross-Continental Coach!

At a youth rally on the East coast, the niece of one of our team members was in a worship and prayer meeting with her youth group in one of their hotel rooms when she started to manifest demonic behavior. The shocked youth pastor needed help since he was having difficulty dealing with the wicked spirits. One of the chaperons felt the Lord giving counsel to call the aunt back on the West coast for help, and she was able to make some long-distance headway while the pastor held the phone to her niece's ear. The aunt then called some other team members in her own city on the West coast to start praying. They were led to swiftly gather together and seek the Lord's direction.

A few minutes later, on her way to the hastily-organized prayer meeting, the aunt kept thinking about her family tree. Without knowing this, the West coast team began to intercede and one member asked her to draw out her family tree! They then received specific words of knowledge concerning the situation with the niece and how it related to the family as a whole. The aunt called the youth pastor again on the East coast and got the niece on the phone. She led her through deliverance from specific demonic assaults and she was wonderfully set free, to the glory of God! The youth group was rejoicing with their transformed friend during the rest of their trip and they returned full of zeal and even more love for the Lord!

As an additional blessing from the team intercession that night, much insight was given by the Lord regarding his call on their large family and some of the prophetic words given have already started to come to pass, including the salvations of family members! Now the extended family around the globe is alert to the enemy's attempts to hinder their destiny the Lord has planned for them! A bright future is unfolding as the Kingdom of God continues to advance through them!

Call for Back-up!

It is not wise to go into heavy spiritual battle alone! The power of agreement in prayer was illustrated dramatically one evening when one of The Father's Touch team members was confronted by a very strong spirit of fear accompanying a "Jezebel spirit" trying to snuff out her prophetic voice! She had already made great progress in her life-long battle against fears of various kinds, but a major "hold-out" was waging a fierce fight to keep its influence in her life, and was partnering with the Jezebel spirit to try to cripple her effectiveness for God.

The battle line had been clearly drawn! Our team member was confronted by the presence of these spirits and had decided she would finally take her stand! Enough was enough!

Knowing that the battle would be intense, she called another team member to help her war against these enemies of her soul and her ministry! With the aid of the Holy Spirit, there is much power in the prayer of agreement:

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." [Mt. 18: 19]

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." [Eccl. 4: 12]

The Holy Spirit and the two believers, being in God's will, formed a "cord of three strands." The extra "fire-power" broke the intimidation of those unclean spirits and they backed down in just a few minutes! The spatial distance between the two believers was clearly not important -- only their agreement with the will of God that she be set free from all fear and loosed from every hindrance to the call on her life!

Gabriel Calling!

Our Father can, of course, be very creative in using the telephone lines to touch his children. A very interesting example of this happened several years ago and involved a small group fellowship attended by a couple of our team members in which there was a recent grandmother with a very serious problem. Her daughter was suffering from what health professionals call “severe postpartum depression,” to the point where she was very afraid of being alone with the baby because of the violent thoughts screaming through her mind!

Grandma brought her daughter for prayer one evening and the Lord provided a breakthrough! Much of the “depression” lifted and in the days after her deliverance there were many blessings in their home! Praise God!

But there were still some lingering “chemical” problems and Grandma began seeking help from local hospitals about what to do, but none of the private facilities were able to help her because of a lack of insurance to cover the treatments. When she finally called the county hospital, she didn’t receive the customary greeting, but instead there was a gentleman on the line who was evidently trying to reach the same hospital. Somehow they were connected together instead of to the hospital staff!

The gentleman asked Grandma who she was trying to reach and when he learned that she was trying to find help for her daughter’s postpartum depression, he said he knew something about that condition and suggested some herbs and other natural remedies. As he continued to encourage her and comfort her, Grandma began to get a very eerie feeling, with goose bumps appearing quickly! She thanked the gentleman for all his help and remarked that he was “such an angel” to help her this way!

He replied that, “A lot of people call me that!” At this response, she was almost overpowered by a sense of awe and blurted out the question, “What is your name, if I might ask?”

“Gabriel,” he replied, and the phone went dead!

Reach Out With the Father’s Touch!

The familiar telephone company slogan, “Reach out and touch someone!” is not original! Our Father has been doing it since he created man and he has given the clear command for us to do likewise! Long distances are no problem for angels or for children of the King!

So, believe for the miraculous as you pray and “reach out and touch someone” with his love! It’s another way that you, as the apple of his eye, can bless your Father in heaven!