



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 31 – “**Speak To The Sky**” © Rick Springfield

About Songwriter / Performer Rick Springfield ¹

- Born Richard Lewis Springthorpe in 1949 in Sydney, Australia
- Most famous for the '81 #1 single "Jessie's Girl", which won a Grammy Award
- An actor -- best known role is Dr. Noah Drake on *General Hospital*
- "Speak to the Sky" – hit #1 in Australia, and rose to #14 in US in '72
- Also wrote and performed a #2 hit "Don't Talk to Strangers" in '82
- In '85, took break from music to deal with depression, which he had also wrestled with in the '70s, contemplating suicide when his father became seriously ill

Here again, we have a spiritually-based song from the heart of the Jesus Movement era – a phenomenon that obviously transcended American shores. Note that the author, Rick Springfield, lived in Australia when he penned this hit at age 23. Without using the word “prayer” – the song clearly focuses on communication with God. The Bible instructs us to pray in and under many circumstances – even to “*Pray without ceasing*” (1 Thes. 5:17). Let’s take a closer look at what the lyrics say and consider ‘when’ and ‘why’ the author suggests we pray...

Speak to the sky **whenever things go wrong**
And you know you're not talkin' to the air, to the air
And the world will look better from up there

“*Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray*” – James 5:13

Prayer is a two-way street

Speak to the sky **'cause things can get ya down**
And you know when you're talkin' to the lord, to the lord
The world will look better than before

“*The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are **choked by life's worries**, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature*” – Mat. 8:14

Why? Because the Bible tells us we should cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us! (1 Pet. 5:7).
• Compare this to what mental health therapy terms the “empty chair technique”.

And **if I stumble and it seems that I am blind**
Or **if the road I'm on seems awful hard to find**
And though **my conversation doesn't always rhyme**
I always try to find some time to

The same Jesus who pulled you from the mire of sin will also pull you up and out of your current struggles!

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Springfield

Speak to the sky and **tell you how I feel**
And to know sometimes what I say ain't right
Its all right

- So many of us act religious with God. We don't do it on purpose, mind you. Perhaps we have just learned a pattern and have never realized it. But **what a freedom it is to be able to stop telling God what you think He wants to hear, and to simply be honest with Him.**²
- Tell God everything that bothers you. Be completely open and honest about it. Especially tell Him about all of your doubts about Him; all of your misunderstandings of Him; all of your inability to grasp Him. And then surrender it all to Him -- again and again.²

Cause I speak to the sky **every night**

- Muslims pray at least 5 times a day – at pre-dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset, and evening
- “...*Three times a day he [Daniel] got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God...*” – Dan. 6:10, NIV
- When and how often do you pray? Does it matter?



John Wesley on Prayer²

God's command to "pray without ceasing" is founded on the necessity we have of his grace to preserve the life of God in the soul, which can no more subsist one moment without it, than the body can without air.

Whether we think of; or speak to, God, whether we act or suffer for him, all is prayer, when we have no other object than his love, and the desire of pleasing him.

All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God, without either adding to or diminishing from it by his own choice.

Final Thoughts –

Most Christians would agree that the essence of Christianity is a personal relationship with God. As such, our fellowship, our dialogue with Him should be enjoyed throughout all circumstances of life. Do you talk to Him often -- as your Divine Companion? Or do you only grab for Him like a “Divine Fire Extinguisher” whenever you’re in deep trouble?

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² From A Plain Account of Christian Perfection, as believed and taught by the Reverend Mr. John Wesley, from the year 1725, to the year 1777; <http://gbgm-umc.org/UMW/wesley/prayer.stm>