



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

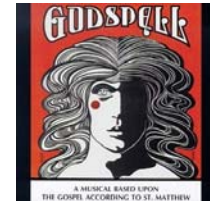
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Program 58 "Day By Day" © 1970 Stephen Schwartz

From the days of the Jesus Movement emerged a number of songs and musicals focused on Christianity and Jesus Christ. Today's featured song was perhaps the most popular number from the musical *Godspell*. It's message is simple, clear and current!

The Song ^{1,2} -- Day By Day

- Reached #13 on Billboard Pop Singles Chart in May 1972
- A simple prayer to the Lord, asking to see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly -- daily
- Composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz graduated from Carnegie-Melon U. in 1968; he also authored:
 - "Butterflies Are Free"; musicals *Pippin* and *Wicked*; and lyrics and/or music for *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *The Prince of Egypt*
- Schwartz has received 3 Grammys, 3 Oscars, 6 Tonys, 4 Drama Desk Awards, and 1 Golden Globe Award



The Musical ^{1,2} – Godspell

- 1970 musical by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak
- Masters thesis project for Tebelak at Carnegie-Melon University
- Moved to off-Broadway production, then to Broadway; over 2,600 performances
- Opened 1 year after *Jesus Christ Superstar*
- Aside from Schwartz's work, the lyrics come primarily from an Episcopal hymnal
- Structured as a series of parables, taken primarily from the Gospel of Matthew
 - Interspersed with variety of modern music and lyrics from traditional hymns
- *Godspell* remains popular in musical theater because of its flexibility / versatility
 - Original production made the company a troupe of clowns who follow Jesus in an abandoned playground; subsequent productions have been set in museums, classrooms, on top of buildings, an apocalyptic world, an abandoned theater – even in a McDonald's restaurant!

Day by day
 Day by day
 Oh Dear Lord
 Three things I pray
 To see thee more clearly
 Love thee more dearly
 Follow thee more nearly
 Day by day

1. "To see Thee more clearly..."

- Can we "see" Jesus today? Compare --
 - "No one has ever seen God" – 1 John 4:12, NIV
 - "...you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live" – Exodus 33:20, NIV
 - "...when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" – 1 John 3:2b

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Godspell>

² [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Schwartz_\(composer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Schwartz_(composer))

[CHORUS]
Oh...

Day by day
Day by day
Oh Dear Lord
Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly
Love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day

Day by day
Day by day
Oh Dear Lord

Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly
Love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day

Day by day by day by day..



2. “Love Thee more dearly...”

- *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment* – Matthew 22:37-38
- Can we love God whom we haven't seen? How?
 - Reflected in our prayer life
 - How we invest our lives
 - How we use our time, abilities, and opportunities as God intends for us to use them

"Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" – Luke 9:23, NIV

3. “Follow Thee more nearly...”

"Come near to God and he will come near to you..." – James 4:8a

- Through prayer³
 - Come as you are
 - Seek His will, not your own
 - Approach God often
- Through reading and meditating upon God's word – the Bible
- Don't run from Him! Adam and Eve, our original parents, hid from God in the Garden of Eden when they recognized they had sinned and were naked
 - *"...our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ" – 1 John 1:3b*

Final Thoughts – (Excerpts from a Bible study by Dr. Charles Stanley)⁴

God desires that we walk in intimate fellowship with Him.

We can... draw near to Him at any time of the day or night. As we draw near, God has the opportunity to reveal who He is and what He desires for us. How, then, should we draw near to the Lord?

A. We draw near through a humble spirit. Look up Isaiah 66:2.

B. We draw near as we cultivate a life of integrity. Honesty and righteous living create an environment that is ready for God to speak. Read Psalm 145:18.

C. We draw near to God when we claim our new position in Christ. Too often, guilt over our sins builds a barrier between our emotions and the Lord... [But], the cross of Christ dealt with our shame once for all. Our sins and guilt were placed on Christ Himself. Read Romans 8:1. Remind yourself of this verse the next time Satan tries to tell you that you are a worthless person. The Holy Spirit convicts us of specific sin so we can confess that sin and receive God's forgiveness. Read Hebrews 4:13-16. Why is it foolish NOT to admit our sins to God?

³ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/tcw/2001/sep/oct/12.88.html>

⁴ Adapted from *A Touch of His Presence: Meditations for a Richer Life of Faith* by Dr. Charles Stanley. 2002. pp.37-38. http://www.intouch.org/site/c.dhKHIXPKluE/b.3785329/k.2E2C/Drawing_Near_to_God_Bible_Study.htm

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