



"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

7/15/09

Program 92 “(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher And Higher”

© Billy Davis, Gary Jackson, Raynard Miner



The Song ¹

- Classic R&B hit by Jackie Wilson (1967), and soft rock hit for Rita Coolidge (1977)
- Wilson version was backed by 4 members of Motown’s house band -- *Funk Brothers*
 - Moonlighting to supplement low pay at Motown
 - Wilson added vocals in a single take
 - Hit #1 R&B and in November 1967, and peaked on the Pop charts at #6
 - #246 on *Rolling Stone’s* list of The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time
 - Single sold 4 million copies; inducted into Grammy Hall of Fame, 1999
- Coolidge version reached #2 on U.S. pop charts, earning a gold record
- Also covered by Otis Redding, Bobby Darin, Gene Pitney, Michael McDonald, Barbara Mandrell, Martha Reeves, Dolly Parton, and Bette Midler
- Christian cover version by Jeff and Sheri Easter
 - Minor lyrical changes; (we recommend playing this version prior to discussing)

The Artists – Jack Leroy “Jackie” Wilson Jr. (1934 – 1984) ²

- Detroit-born singer-performer who became one of the most influential soul artists of his generation; helped transition rhythm and blues genre into soul
- Known for dynamic dance moves, vocals; he was dubbed “Mr. Excitement”
 - Inspired Michael Jackson, who dedicated his Grammy for “*Thriller*” to Wilson
 - Wilson cited Al Jolson as his own inspiration
- Initially achieved fame as member of the R&B vocal group *The Dominoes*
- Went solo in ‘57; 50+ hit singles, spanning R&B, pop, soul, doo-wop, easy listening
- Collapsed on-stage from a heart attack at a benefit concert in 1975
 - Fell into coma that lasted nearly nine years, culminating in his death
- High-school drop-out at 15; gang member; won Golden Gloves boxing division at 16
- Formed music group with his cousin, Levi Stubbs (of *4 Tops* fame), at age 17
- Joined *The Dominoes*, replacing Clyde McPhatter (of *The Drifters* fame)
- Other solo career hits include: “Lonely Teardrops”, “To Be Loved”, “That’s Why”, “I’ll Be Satisfied” and “Reet Petite” (all co-written by Berry Gordy, Jr.), “Doggin’ Around”, “Night”, “Baby Workout”, “Alone At Last”, “My Empty Arms” and “I Get The Sweetest Feeling”
- Miscellaneous info: Shot, wounded by girlfriend in ‘61; a convert to Judaism; inducted into R&R Hall of Fame in 1987; cited in Commodores’ song “Night Shift”

Your love, lifting me higher
 Than I've ever been lifted before
 So keep it up
 Quench my desire
 And I'll be at your side, forever more

God’s love and His attributes transcend our feeble attempts to capture them in words, e.g....

- “Amazing Grace”, “Awesome God”, “My Utmost For His Highest”, “Amazing Love”, “Unbelievable Love”

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/\(Your_Love_Keeps_Lifting_Me\)_Higher_and_Higher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/(Your_Love_Keeps_Lifting_Me)_Higher_and_Higher)

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackie_Wilson

You know your love (your love keeps lifting me)
 Keep on lifting (love keeps lifting me)
 Higher (lifting me)
 Higher and higher (higher)
 I said your love (your love keeps lifting me)
 Keep on (love keeps lifting me)
 Lifting me (lifting me)
 Higher and higher (higher)

"I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths..." -- Psa. 30:1

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." – Ephesians 3:17b-18

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" – 1 John 3:1a

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." – 1 Peter 1:8-9

Now once, I was down hearted
 Disappointment, was my closest friend
 But then you, came and it soon departed
 And you know he never
 Showed his face again

[Chorus]

"... the LORD... has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, ...to comfort all who mourn"
 – see Isaiah 61:1-2

- As Christians, are we indemnified from heartaches and disappointments?
 - Why or why not?

I'm so glad, I've finally found you
 Yes that one, in a million girls
 And I whip, my loving arms around you
 I can stand up, and face the world

At this point, both the version by the Easters, as well as by Rita Coolidge, substitute *"one in a million man"*. Of course, when sung to Jesus, we must recognize that He was/is completely man and completely God – much more than one in a million -- **completely unique!**



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me." – Psalm 23:4

"...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

Final Thoughts:

The love we can know through Jesus Christ is the only kind that we can count on in this world, and the one to come. That love also provides a supernatural peace – one that the Bible tells us passes all understanding. It is love that we can't earn, but can surely appreciate! It should inspire us to worship and thank God for it! Jesus wants each of us to know that love personally. He has made it possible through the love He showed us on the cross at Calvary's hill!

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