



"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 18 "Higher Love" © 1986 Steve Winwood & Will Jennings

"Higher Love", released in 1986, was Steve Winwood's first number one hit. It was the first single released from his third solo album, *Back in the High Life*, and earned Grammy Awards for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance and Record of the Year. Chaka Khan provided the background vocals.¹

Winwood, from Birmingham England, was virtually born into the music business in 1948. He played guitar in his father's band in 1957 at the age of nine, and co-founded the Spencer Davis Group at age 15. To date, he has logged one of the most esteemed careers of the rock era, one that spans more than 40 years. He has clearly notched his place in history both as a solo artist and as a member of such celebrated bands as the Spencer Davis Group, Traffic and Blind Faith. He has recorded with the biggest names in the business -- from George Harrison and Jimi Hendrix to Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. In 1981 he released his solo "Arc of a Diver" project, in which he produced, engineered, mixed, sang and played every instrument for every song on the album -- including the top ten hit "While You See a Chance". Other Winwood hits include "Can't Find My Way Home", "Gimme Some Lovin'", "I'm A Man", "Back In The High Life", "Valerie", and "Roll With It".²

From an interview with Steve Winwood:³

Interviewer: "Your music has always been spiritual. On the new album Junction Seven, though, there are many overt references to God in both the lyrics and liner notes. Can you discuss the especially prominent role of religion in your new music?"

Steve Winwood: "Well, I was brought up as a Christian in the Church of England, the "High" Church of England (sometimes called "Anglo-Catholic"), but it was basically Anglican. As a young boy, I was a choir boy and server, and in fact, many of my musical influences come from Hymnals, Psalters and organ music from the English Church and from music that I heard during that period. In 1962, around the age of 14, I drifted away from the church, although I have always been interested in anything religious and spiritual, having read books by Lopsang Rampa, Lyle Roberts, Brinsley Lepour Trench, Thomas Merton, and people like that. However, it wasn't until I met my wife in 1985 and began to think about a family that I became again interested in Christianity. The writer C.S. Lewis has had a big influence on my beliefs. As far as my music is concerned, for the moment, my aim is to write secular music, as opposed to religious music, although perhaps with a moral or spiritual message. However, in the future, I may attempt something more of a religious nature."

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

² <http://www.stevewinwood.com/bio.full.htm>

³ <http://www.scribble.com/showarticle.php?ID=46>

Think about it, there must be higher love
 Down in the heart or hidden in the stars above
 Without it, life is a wasted time
 Look inside your heart, I'll look inside mine
 Things look so bad everywhere
 In this whole world, what is fair?
 We walk blind and we try to see
 Falling behind in what could be

- When observing creation, mankind chooses either to acknowledge God's existence, or live in denial. *"...since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse"* – Rom. 1:20, NIV

"If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing" – 1 Corinthians 13:3, NLT

Bring me a higher love (x3)
 Where's that higher love I keep thinking of?

- To whom is this directed? See verse at bottom

Worlds are turning and we're just hanging on
 Facing our fear and standing out there **alone**
 A yearning, and its real to me
 There must be **someone** who's feeling for me
 Things look so bad everywhere
 In this whole world, what is fair?
We walk blind and we try to see
 Falling behind in what could be

- *"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven"* -- Luke 21:9-11

- *"The god of this age has **blinded** the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"* – 2 Corinthians 4:4

Bring me a higher love (x3)
 I could **rise above** on a higher love

- *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God"* – Colossians 3:1-3

I will wait for it
 I'm not too late for it
 Until then, I'll sing my song
 To cheer the night along
 Bring it...oh bring it...

I could light the night up with my soul on fire
 I could make the sun shine from pure desire
 Let me feel that love come over me
 Let me feel how strong it could be

- "It" is God's love, available now; John 3:16
- We will have "night" as long as sin is here
- *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* – Matthew 16:14-18

Final Thoughts:

The love God shows us is incomprehensible – He loved us while we were still sinners. His is a higher love that needs to be reflected by Christians to a lost and dying world. We will only know the strength and extent of that higher love through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

*"For great is your love, higher than the heavens;
 your faithfulness reaches to the skies"*
 Psalm 108:4, NIV