



## "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 20 – “In My Room” © 1963 Brian Wilson and Gary Usher

The Beach Boys released this hit on their 1963 album *Surfer Girl*, and as the “B”-side of the “Be True to Your School” single. It peaked at #6 in the U.S. Co-writer Gary Usher explained that the song was written in an hour. Brian has noted, “I had a room, and I thought of it as my kingdom. And I wrote that song, very definitely, that you’re not afraid when you’re in your room. It’s absolutely true.” *Rolling Stone* magazine named it #209 on its list of greatest songs of all-time. Concerning Brian’s room – he shared it with brothers Dennis and Carl, and used it for jam sessions that gave rise to formation of the Beach Boys.<sup>1,2</sup>

After the failure of one of his songs in 1969, Brian spent the majority of the following three years in his bedroom sleeping, taking drugs, and overeating. By 1982, his mental state had deteriorated to the point that he was taking large amounts of cocaine, weighed over 300 pounds, and was in danger of losing his life. He was at times plagued with stage fright, and reportedly heard voices in his head. Various diagnoses and treatments were directed to Brian’s mental condition over the years; however, he has been successfully treated with a relatively mild combination of anti-depressant drugs.<sup>3</sup>

*“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” – Matthew 6:6*

We all need a private place where we can be alone with God – to focus on His word, pray to Him, to reflect on what He has done for us, to share our burdens with Him, and to seek His direction for our lives. Some of you can say, “That place is in my room”.

There's a world where I can go  
and tell my secrets to  
In my room, in my room  
In this world I lock out all my  
worries and my fears  
In my room, in my room

- Discuss need for private place to pray
- Where do you pray?
- Why did Jesus instruct us to do this?
- Compare private prayer with prayer offered in public. What are the differences?

1 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In\\_My\\_Room\\_\(song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_My_Room_(song))

2 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Beach\\_Boys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beach_Boys)

3 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian\\_Wilson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Wilson)

Do my dreaming and my scheming  
Lie awake and pray  
Do my crying and my sighing  
Laugh at yesterday

Now it's dark and I'm alone  
But I won't be afraid  
In my room, in my room  
In my room, in my room  
In my room, in my room

- Consider the pressures we all face – e.g., financial, employment, family, social, spiritual
- Need for balance of work, rest, and recreation
- Jesus said, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”* – Matthew 11:28

#### How did Jesus go about praying to His Father?

*“And early in the morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there”* -- Mark 1:35

*“...And after bidding them farewell, he departed to the mountain to pray”* -- Mark 6:46

*“And they came to a place called Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here until I have prayed.” And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.” And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground, and began praying”* -- Mark 14:32-34

*“And when day came, He departed to a lonely place; and the multitudes were searching for Him, and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from going away from them”* -- Luke 4:42

*“But He Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray”* -- Luke 5:16

#### **Final Thoughts:**

Just as Brian Wilson found relief and refuge in the security of his room – a place where he would “...lie awake and pray”, Jesus instructs us to pray in private. Some still refer to this private place for prayer as a “prayer closet”. While there’s nothing especially sacred about a specific location or arrangement, the primary purpose is to be alone with God – to be free to be honest with Him – to share “...our crying and our sighing...” with openness and honesty, and to wait on Him.