



"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 4 – "My Sweet Lord" © 1970 George Harrison

George Harrison was truly a searcher / seeker in matters spiritual, as evident in the lyrics to "My Sweet Lord", as well as others he penned and/or performed, such as "What Is Life", "The Inner Light", "Hear Me Lord", "Give Me Love (give me peace on earth)", "Living In The Material World", "Looking For My Life", "That Which I Have Lost", "That's The Way God Planned It", "The Light That Has Lighted The World", "The Lord Loves The One (that loves the Lord)". Perhaps the most spiritual of the Beatles, Harrison clearly looked long and longingly, far and wide, for the true and living God. As illustrated by "My Sweet Lord", he had searched across both Christianity and Eastern religions.

My sweet lord
Hm, my lord
Hm, my lord

I really want to see you
Really want to be with you
Really want to see you lord
But it takes so long, my lord

My sweet lord
Hm, my lord
Hm, my lord

I really want to know you
Really want to go with you
Really want to show you lord
That it wont take long, my lord (hallelujah)

My sweet lord (hallelujah)
Hm, my lord (hallelujah)
My sweet lord (hallelujah)

I really want to see you
Really want to see you
Really want to see you, lord

- What is meant by the term "lord" – what does the Bible say? Does everyone who uses the word mean the same thing?
 - *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven"* -- Matthew 7:21
 - Thomas to Jesus -- *"My Lord and my God!"* – John 20:28, NIV
- Mankind typically craves tangible / sensory proof in matters of faith
 - Thomas to the other disciples -- *"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it"* -- John 20:25b, NIV
 - Jesus said – *"blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"* – John 20:29b, NIV

- A God-shaped vacuum in every soul desires fellowship with the Creator
 - Paul said he would prefer to be with the Lord than here in the world
- When we want something badly, time seems to crawl (in terms of time, Bible says our lives are like a drop of vapor – soon gone)

- Now we see through a glass darkly; we will someday know our Savior better when we see Him face to face; even so, we can know the Lord Jesus now, by faith!
- We can follow Him, as did the disciples in the Bible
- Beginning here, the choral response to Harrison's prayer is Judeo-Christian – i.e., "Hallelujah" – which literally means "Praise Jehovah" – Whom we Christians know as the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - Wikipedia states – **"Hallelujah, Halleluyah, or Alleluia, is a transliteration of the Hebrew word הללויה (Standard *Halleluya*, Tiberian *Hallelūyāh*) meaning '[Let us] praise (הללו) Yah (יה)'"**¹

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

Really want to see you, lord
But it takes so long, my lord (hallelujah)

My sweet lord (hallelujah)
Hm, my lord (hallelujah)
My, my, my lord (hallelujah)

- Note that the lyrics proceed with the choral response of "Hallelujah", as if it were a contemporary Christian piece

I really want to know you (hallelujah)
Really want to go with you (hallelujah)
Really want to show you lord
That it wont take long, my lord (hallelujah)

Hmm (hallelujah)
My sweet lord (hallelujah)
My, my, lord (hallelujah)

Hm, my lord (hare krishna)
My, my, my lord (hare krishna)
Oh hm, my sweet lord (krishna, krishna)
Oh-uuh-uh (hare hare)

- But at this point, Harrison switches gears with the choral responses to his prayer – from "Hallelujah" to elements of the Hare Krishna Mantra, which is based in Eastern religion(s)
- Per the tenets of Hare Krishna, the mantra is intended to be a prayer asking "Krishna" to take away all the sorrows, pains and shortcomings of the chanter and, through faith and repetition, fill him/her with a feeling of bliss and joy that followers call "Krishna Consciousness"

Now, I really want to see you (hare rama)
Really want to be with you (hare rama)
Really want to see you lord
But it takes so long, my lord (hallelujah)

Here is where we lose the "cross connection" in this song. Jesus said – *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* – John 14:6

Hm, my lord (hallelujah)
My, my, my lord (hare krishna)
My sweet lord (hare krishna)
My sweet lord (krishna krishna)
My lord (hare hare)
Hm, hm (gurur brahma)
Hm, hm (gurur vishnu)
Hm, hm (gurur devo)
Hm, hm (maheshwara)
My sweet lord (gurur sakshaat)
My sweet lord (parabrahma)
My, my, my lord (tasmayi shree)
My, my, my, my lord (guruve namah)
My sweet lord (hare rama)
(hare Krishna)
My sweet lord (hare krishna)
My sweet lord (krishna krishna)
My lord (hare hare)

- The choral response shifts again -- to sing elements of a prayer that Hindus commonly chant prior to beginning any action. Translation:
 - "The god of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva creates, sustains knowledge, and destroys the weeds of ignorance. I salute such a god."²

What a contrast between the tone of these lyrics and those of George Harrison's fellow Beatle John Lennon in the latter's song "Imagine" – e.g., "Imagine there's no heaven... and no religion too"!

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

Final Thoughts:

In 2001 came news that George Harrison was losing his battle with lung cancer that had spread to his brain. Recognizing Harrison's fervent search for God, I got on my knees and pleaded with the Lord to reveal Himself – the Truth – to him in his final hours, consistent with His will that none should perish. The Sunday after George Harrison passed away, I sang "My Sweet Lord" (with choral responses of only "Hallelujah") in our church. Wikipedia relates --

After his death, the Harrison family released the following statement: *"He left this world as he lived in it: conscious of God, fearless of death and at peace, surrounded by family and friends."* Harrison had often said, **"Everything else can wait, but the search for God cannot wait; and love one another."**³

Amen!

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Harrison