



"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

10/23/08

Program 56 **"Shine"** © 1993 Collective Soul

Here's a secular song that is couched much like a prayer to Heaven. It pleads for love, discernment, instruction and direction in life. When we need such guidance, all of us should look to God, and no other source. Many have searched for help in the wrong places, and fallen victim to deception and oppression. The great thing – our great God can restore your life, give it joy and meaning, and lead you to eternal fellowship with Him!

The Song ¹

- First hit mainstream single by our featured group; released in 1993
- #1 Album Rock Song of 1994; won a Billboard award for Top Rock Track
- #1 on Mainstream Rock Tracks for 8 weeks; #11 on the Billboard Hot 100
- Covered by Dolly Parton recorded a cover of "Shine" with members of the alternative/Bluegrass band Nickel Creek in 2001
- Earned Parton a Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance
- Cho Seung-Hui, gunman of the Virginia Tech massacre in April 2007, reportedly played this song repeatedly, and wrote some of its lyrics on his wall

The Group – Collective Soul ²

- American rock band from Stockbridge, Georgia
- Atlantic Records noted the popularity of "Shine" in 1993 and signed the band
- Primarily known for alternative and mainstream rock in mid to late 1990s
- Recorded seven #1 mainstream rock hits
- Performed at the Woodstock festivals held in 1994 and 1999
- Have released several albums that have achieved multi-platinum sales
- Experienced lengthy lawsuits over recording rights and their name
- Continues to write, record and perform

Give me a word
 Give me a sign
 Show me where to look
 Tell what will I find (will I find)

When Pharisees and teachers of the law told Jesus, "...we want to see a miraculous sign...", Jesus called them a "...wicked and adulterous generation..." for asking. See Matthew 12:38-39.

- Have you ever asked God for a sign? What would it be? Would you recognize it if you saw it? Would it make a difference?
- For years congregations have been singing, "I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord...". Do they mean it? Are there caveats?
- How do you distinguish a sign from any other answer to prayer?

Lay me on the ground
 Fly me in the sky
 Show me where to look
 Tell me what will I find (will I find)

God is truly in these places. Psalm 139:8-10a indicates "*If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me...*"

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shine_\(Collective_Soul_song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shine_(Collective_Soul_song))

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

Oh, heaven let your light shine down (x4)



Love is in the water
Love is in the air
Show me where to go
Tell me will love be there (love be there)
Teach me how to speak
Teach me how to share
Teach me where to go
Tell me will love be there (love be there)

Oh, heaven let your light shine down (x4)

I'm going to let it shine (x2)
Heaven's little light gonna shine on me
Yea yea heaven's little light gonna shine on me
Its gonna shine, shine on me
Its gonna shine, come on in shine

- This reminds me of a contemporary Christian song::

Light of Heaven, Lord of mercy
Shine the goodness of Your love upon this day
Till we see You, till we know You
Till the sorrow and the darkness fade away, Fade away ³

- Where do you look for the love of God?
- The Bible tells us God is love (1 John 4:8)
- These lyrics are similar to an oldie by the Troggs, although the focus is on human love –

I feel it in my fingers, I feel it in my toes
Love is all around me, and so the feeling grows
It is written on the wind, it's everywhere I go
So if you really love me come on and let it show ⁴

- Note the conditions for discerning God's will –

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” – Romans 12:2, NIV

George Mueller operated an orphanage purely on faith. Here is how he ascertained God's will ⁵ –

1. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people generally is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the LORD's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

2. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If so, I make myself liable to great delusions.

3. I seek the Will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.

4. Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's Will in connection with His Word and Spirit.

5. I ask God in prayer to reveal His Will to me aright.

6. Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly. In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

Final thought: When the Lord shows you His will for your life, and confirms it in your heart, will you do it?

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³ from “Light of Heaven”, by Fernando Ortega

⁴ from “Love Is All Around”, by the Troggs

⁵ <http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Fellowship/Mueller.Answers.to.Prayer.html>