



## "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

09/04/08

### Program 54 "You Will Know" © Stevie Wonder

Stevie Wonder lost his sense of sight at birth, and his sense of smell later in life. Yet his creative skills and abilities in the world of pop and R&B music are nearly unparalleled. You can readily see how God has blessed him despite his challenges. As for his spiritual journey, his song lyrics reflect his search for a relationship with God. Like many other artists, his search has clearly been wide-ranging. This particular song speaks of looking to heaven in prayer for answers to such conditions as broken heartedness, loneliness, single parenting, and drug addiction.

#### The Song <sup>1</sup>

- Released on Wonder's album *Characters* in 1987
- Album topped R&B charts for 7 weeks; ultimately went platinum
- Song went to #1 on the R&B charts

#### The Artist – Stevie Wonder <sup>2</sup> –

- Born Stevland Hardaway Judkins in 1950, Saginaw MI; changed last name to Morris
- American singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and record producer
- 26 Grammy Awards; over 30 top ten hits – 9 at #1
- Inducted into both the Rock and Roll and Songwriters halls of fame
- #15 on Rolling Stone's list of 100 Greatest Rock and Roll Artists of All Time
- Blind from retinal detachment in infancy – signed with Motown Records at age 11
- Plays piano, synthesizer, harmonica, congas, drums, organ, melodica, clavinet
- Hits include – "Blowin' In The Wind", "For Once In My Life", "Uptight (Everything's Alright)", "A Place In The Sun", "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours", "Heaven Help Us All", "Superstition", "Living For The City", "You Are The Sunshine Of My Life", "My Cherie Amour", "Ribbon In The Sky", "All In Love Is Fair", "I Wish", "That Girl", "Ebony and Ivory", "That's What Friends Are For", "Part-Time Lover", "Sir Duke", "I Was Made To Love Her", "Yester-Me, Yester-You, Yesterday", "Higher Ground", "Boogie On Reggae Woman", "You Haven't Done Nothin'", "We Can Work It Out", "Isn't She Lovely", "I Just Called To Say I Love You"
- Wrote or co-wrote "Tears Of A Clown" for Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, "Tell Me Something Good" for Rufus With Chaka Khan, and "Until You Come Back to Me" for Aretha Franklin
- His songs are difficult to sing. He uses many extended chords utilizing 9ths, 11ths, 13ths, b5s, etc. The melodies often make abrupt, unpredictable changes
- In serious auto accident in 1973 – in coma 4 days; permanently lost sense of smell
- Has 7 children; was once married to Motown artist Syreeta Wright
- Civil rights activist – still writing, recording and performing his music

Lonely one of young so brokenhearted  
Traveling down the rigid road of life  
Using pharmaceutical extractions  
To find the paradise



"...Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness."  
– Romans 6:19b

There is pleasure in sin – but it doesn't last, and there are consequences. The Bible tells us that Moses "...*chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.*" – Hebrews 11:25

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters\\_\(album\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characters_(album))

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stevie\\_Wonder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stevie_Wonder)

Finds the high but comes down feeling lower  
Gets down on their knees and starts to pray  
Looking up to heaven for the answer  
They hear a voice that says

*"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray"* – James 5:13

- Where do you turn when in trouble?
- How do we receive answers from prayer? Audibly? An inner impression? Scripture? Circumstances?
- How do we know the answer is from God?
- Do we look for answers on our own terms?
- Read what God did for King Hezekiah – 2 Kings 20:1-6

You will know  
Troubled heart you'll know  
Problems have solutions  
Trust and I will show

The fact that you were born hasn't taken God by surprise. He told the prophet Jeremiah, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart"* – Jer. 1:5

You will know  
Troubled heart you'll know  
Every life has reason  
For I made it so

Consider Alaska governor Sarah Palen's decision not to abort a Downs Syndrome baby when she was in her 40's

Think of the value of Stevie Wonder's life despite his beginnings

Single parent trying to raise their children  
But they would much rather not alone  
Reaches out to find that special someone  
To make their house a home

God's word specifically instructs Christians to look after *"...orphans and widows in their distress"* (James 1:27)

Single parenting comes about as close to the spirit of this verse as anything else. Husbands are to be providers for their families, and nurture their children.

Finds someone but no one is the right one  
Gets down on their knees and starts to pray  
Looking up to heaven for the answer  
They hear a voice that says

If you place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, your life is in His hands, no matter how oppressive or dire the circumstances of life!

You will know  
Lonely heart you'll know  
Problems have solutions  
Trust and I will show

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* – Philippians 4:6-7

You will know  
Lonely heart you'll know  
Every life has reason  
For I made it so

Every heart that is breaking tonight  
Is the heart of a child that He holds in His sight  
And Oh how He longs to hold in His arms  
Every heart that is breaking tonight...  
He sees you. He knows you  
He loves you. Jesus loves you

-- Twila Paris, from "Every Heart That Is Breaking"

## **Final thoughts:**

Some months ago, I experienced what I can only call a "panic attack" when I realized I may have given my oldest son some bad information concerning preparing for college. I prayed and asked the Lord for help and wisdom. While the facts and circumstances that precipitated the attack did not change, at 2 a.m. I was overcome with a remarkable peace that everything would be ok. There was no earthly reason to have such peace – it was a divine touch from the Lord! The next day, after some calls and emails to every prospective school on my son's list, that peace was confirmed – everything was all right.

The Lord does answer prayer, and gives us a peace that passes all understanding!

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