



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 90 "Crossfire" © Kerry Livgren

So what happens when a songwriter / member of a popular rock band becomes a Christian? He begins to "*Sing to the Lord a new song...*" (Psa. 96:1). His transformed life begins to shine through the lyrics and messages he writes and sings. The story is the same for many performers who have made a decision to live for Christ.



They include Kerry Livgren (Kansas), who wrote this song, Bob Dylan, Rick Cua (Outlaws), Mark Farner (Grand Funk), Glenn Schwartz (James Gang, Pacific Gas & Electric), Phil Keaggy (Glass Harp), and Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield, Poco). The Bible tells us that, in coming to Christ, "*...all things become new*" (2 Cor. 5:17). That transformation re-shapes our values, our priorities, and the testimony of our lives!

The Song ¹

- By the rock group, Kansas, from their album *Vinyl Confessions*

"As Kansas began work on its eighth full length studio album Vinyl Confessions, a gulf started to form between its two Christian members, Kerry Livgren and Dave Hope, and the rest of the band. The overall feelings of uneasiness and tension increased when Livgren presented his new material with lyrics directly reflective of his faith, the problem growing to such an extent that vocalist Steve Walsh put his foot down and refused to sing them. Following a meeting in which the band got together to discuss the matter in question, Walsh announced he was leaving the group and took all his material with him."

"The six minute "Crossfire" is by far the albums strongest and most progressive influenced track... Of all the albums tracks, "Crossfire" does the best job of reflecting Livgren's faith."

The Group – Kansas

- American progressive rock band – see notes for Program 89, "Dust In The Wind"

Underneath the sky of blue, it's a time of choosing
Everybody's holding on, to what they're losing
But it all works out okay, if you give your life away
To the one who's holding fast, it's a promise that will last

"...whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." – Mark 8:35

"...The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made." – Psa. 145:13

"God is NOT a man, that he should LIE, nor a son of man, that he should CHANGE HIS MIND. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" -- Numbers 23:19

¹ <http://www.angelicwarlord.com/reviews/k/kansas82.html>

You're caught in a crossfire
Of a greater love than man has ever known
Caught in a crossfire
And you've got to choose which way you're gonna go
Caught in a crossfire
In a world of darkness turn to the light

Time's disappearing, all that you're fearing
Dreamers awaken, chances are taken away

- So, what is this crossfire?
- Consider the competing views on spirituality
 - No God? Which god? What path to God?
- You must decide...
 - 1) ... whether to believe who Jesus says He is, and what He taught; and...
 - 2) ,, whether to accept His sacrifice for your sin and live for Him
 - See <http://www.gospel.com/decide>

There isn't any in-between, there's no escaping
If you step across the line, it's illuminating
And the words are clear and true
And they all were meant for you
For you harvest what you sow, so where you gonna go

(Chorus repeats)

"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters."

– Matthew 12:30, NIV

"The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." – Gal. 6:8

There's no pretending no other ending
All is forgiven, if you are living anew

Everybody faces it, now or later
You can't get around it, 'cause it's human nature
And deep within the hardest heart
There is something there that knows
There's a hunger life can never fill
'Til you face the one who rose

(Chorus repeats)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" – Romans 8:1

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus" -- Anonymous; sometimes attributed to French mathematician Blaise Pascal

Time's disappearing, all that you're fearing
Dreamers awaken, chances are taken
There's no pretending no other ending
All is forgiven, if you are living anew, living anew

- We studied the brevity of life in Program 89
- Mankind fears the unknown – but believers need not fear -- the Bible explains what lies ahead!
- What "Dreamers"? What "chances" are taken?
- Are we gambling in this process? (i.e., determining what to believe and how to live?)

Final Thoughts:

There is a two-part video of Kerry Livgren and Dave Hope, both of Kansas, being interviewed on the 700 Club, posted at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4hrSRfd3wg> .

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16, NIV). Life is not a popularity contest. When you take a stand for following Jesus Christ, do not be surprised by harassment or desertion by others. Share your faith. Pray for others. But recognize that you have no control over their reactions or the choices they make.

As expressed so well in the lyrics of "Live For Jesus" by Nancy Honeytree and Evie, "Live for Jesus – that's what matters. And when other houses crumble, mine is strong..."
