



## "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

04/09/08

Program 32 – "I Believe In You" © Bob Dylan

This song by the legendary Bob Dylan is a prayer. And it's all about standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ in a world hostile to Him. If you are a Christian, be assured – your faith will be tested. There is a spirit of antichrist in our world – a spirit of paradox which preaches religious tolerance while promoting persecution of Christians and suppression of Christianity with the backing of political-correctness. It makes no sense. It's a weird, jaw-dropping contradiction that defies human explanation. Scriptures even warn believers not to be "surprised" by it, "...as though something strange were happening to you" --

*"Dear friends, **do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.** But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. **If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you**" – 1 Peter 4:12-14*

But what you are witnessing and experiencing is not natural – rather, it's a supernatural hatred of God – aimed at you because you stand for Him.

*"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.**"  
– John 15:18-19*

*"**All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved**" – Matthew 10:22*

Here's what Bob Dylan encountered when he shared his faith through song --

"...the song, I Believe in You, which concerns being cast out due to unpopular religious beliefs, seemingly set the stage for a six-month tour - starting on November 1, 1979 - to promote the album. Dylan would not play older compositions - radio ads and other media material informed fans of the tour structure - and **he oftentimes spent portions of the concerts lecturing hecklers who yelled out song requests or derided him for his Christian beliefs.**

But what was lost in much of the critical noise then is Dylan's powerful messages of protest/patriotism, fellowship, friendship and love - themes that he had written about in the past - were given additional meaning when a rainbow of promise & hope appeared in his life. **That he wanted to share his faith with others made his personal mission to spread the gospel even more wondrous.**"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.amazon.com/review/R2PJAXHN9649XA>

They ask me how I feel  
And if my love is real  
And how I know I'll make it through.  
And they, they look at me and frown,  
They'd like to drive me from this town,  
They don't want me around  
'Cause I believe in you.

1 Peter 3:15 says: "...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

[a crowd at Lystra] "...stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city" – Acts 14:19-20

They show me to the door,  
They say don't come back no more  
'Cause I don't be like they'd like me to,  
And I walk out on my own  
A thousand miles from home  
But I don't feel alone  
'Cause I believe in you.

"If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town" – Matthew 10:14

"The Lord is near... the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" – Philippians 4:5b, 7

I believe in you even through the tears and the laughter,  
I believe in you even though we be apart.  
I believe in you even on the morning after.  
Oh, when the dawn is nearing  
Oh, when the night is disappearing  
Oh, this feeling is still here in my heart.

**...the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times**  
**...the God of the day is still God in the night**  
-- From "God On The Mountain", by the McKameys

Don't let me drift too far,  
Keep me where you are  
Where I will always be renewed.  
And that which you've given me today  
Is worth more than I could pay  
And no matter what they say  
I believe in you.

**After all the things that you have shown me  
I'd be a fool to let them slip away  
I'm doing things I know I shouldn't do  
But I don't want to fall away from you**  
-- From "I Don't Want To Fall Away From You", by Keith Green

I believe in you when winter turn to summer,  
I believe in you when white turn to black,  
I believe in you even though I be outnumbered.  
Oh, though the earth may shake me  
Oh, though my friends forsake me  
Oh, even that couldn't make me go back.

**"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" – Mat. 10:24**  
**"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."**  
—Luke 9:62, NIV

Don't let me change my heart,  
Keep me set apart  
From all the plans they do pursue.  
And I, I don't mind the pain  
Don't mind the driving rain  
I know I will sustain  
'Cause I believe in you.

**"...in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord"**  
– 1 Pet 3:15a

Jude tells us that Jesus **"...is able to keep you from falling"** – Jude 1:24

**Final Thoughts –**

Jesus warned -- **"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves"** (Mat. 10:16). He also instructed us to **"...let your light shine before men..."** (Mat. 5:16). **Will you?**

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