



"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 15 – “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For”

© 1987 Bono; performed by U2

This song was a number one hit in 1987 for the Irish-Catholic group U2, and later placed #93 in Rolling Stone’s 2004 list of the 500 Greatest Songs Of All Time. The song’s author, Bono, and U2’s lead guitarist, Edge, have reportedly referred to it as a gospel song on numerous occasions¹; however, Bono reportedly told Rolling Stone that “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For’ is an anthem of doubt more than faith”².

The true meaning of the lyrics to “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” has been much-debated. Opinions expressed on the internet reveal a wide variety of views, ranging from purely secular interpretations all the way to complex soteriological analyses. The only apparent consensus among reviewers is the unambiguous conclusion reflected in the song’s title.

The writer describes searching for a sense of personal fulfillment and completeness in a variety of ways – similar to Solomon’s search for meaning in Ecclesiastes. Whatever message Bono intended, the song has clearly resonated with the public.

I have climbed the highest mountains
I have run through the fields
Only to be with you
Only to be with you

- Apparently references Jesus, based on the use of “you” in the last verse
- *“You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart” – Jer. 29:13, NASV*

I have run I have crawled
I have scaled these city walls
Only to be with you
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for

- Describes an urgent quest to be Jesus
- But salvation is not earned through our blood, sweat, toil or good works – it is a gift from Jesus Christ.
- *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” – Romans 6:23*

I have kissed honey lips
Felt the healing in her fingertips
It burned like fire
This burning desire
I have spoke with the tongue of angels
I have held the hand of a devil
It was warm in the night
I was cold as a stone

- Relationships with other people simply cannot fulfill the deep needs of the soul – only God can do that
- An apparent reference to 1 Cor. 13:1 – *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal”*
- Those who truly come to Christ for salvation have a changed outlook on sin. They need not look for fulfillment in sinful activities. They have all they need in Christ
- The pleasures of sin are only for a season (Hebrews 11:25), and can’t satisfy the deep longings of the heart. They leave one “...cold as a stone”.

¹Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Still_Haven't_Found_What_I'm_Looking_For

²http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/6595938/i_still_havent_found_what_im_looking_for

But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for

I believe in the Kingdom Come
Then all the colors will bleed into one
But yes I'm still running.
You broke the bonds
You loosened the chains
You carried the cross
And my shame
And my shame
You know I believed it
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for

- Committed Christians are still running a race. Toward the end of his earthly life, the Apostle Paul said, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* – 2 Timothy 4:7
- Jesus did all these things for us; but if the writer is looking for something more than what Christ has provided, he has a problem. See "Final Thoughts" section below

*"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection... Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.** But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* – Philippians 3:10a, 12-14

"Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart."
– Psalm 37:4

Final Thoughts:

If the writer means he's looking for more than a relationship with God through Jesus' atoning sacrifice, he has a problem. Consider –

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" – 2 Peter 1:3-4, NIV

"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." -- Hebrews 10:26-27, NIV

As explained by John Rippon, in his 1787 hymn, "How Firm A Foundation" –

...What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?...

I prefer to lean upon the truth expressed in the last stanza to that hymn...

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

You can find what you are looking for – in Jesus Christ! *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us"*
-- Hebrews 12:1 TNIV