

## **“Carry On Wayward Son” by Kansas**

In December of 1976, the band Kansas was scheduled to release their next album. Their first two albums had been flops and the band knew it was “now or never” for them. The day of their recording session the band leader, Kerry Livgren, brought in a song he had written the day before, and another song he had been using as a tune up song at home.

The song he brought from home, which he had only been singing to his wife was “dust in the wind.” The song he had only written the day before was “carry on wayward son.” After rehearsing the song one time, they recorded it and made it the title song of their album. The rest is rock-n-roll history.

Today let’s look into this very interesting song. The song is confessional ... it’s a snapshot of what Kerry Livgren’s life was like in 1976. He was searching for life’s meaning. He was confused, having tried out lots of different religious ideas and philosophies. Basically, the message of this song is “keep searching, keep looking, it’ll come to you.”

That’s the exact message of Jesus in Luke 11:9-10, “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Keep searching, keep looking, it’ll come to you. Jesus promised that. And I believe it.

Let’s dig into the song ...

### **How to Help Someone Who’s Searching**

We’ll go over three direct things you can say in response to each verse of the song.

#### **A. Have confidence there IS a right way to live that will lead to peace.**

Carry on my wayward son  
There'll be peace when you are done  
Lay your weary head to rest  
Don't you cry no more

Isaiah 26:3, 7, <sup>3</sup>You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! ... <sup>7</sup>For those who are righteous, the way is not steep and rough. You are a God who does what is right, and you smooth out the path ahead of them.

“The peace you’re looking for is found perfectly in by trusting in God.”  
“Your way will be smoother, less difficult, if you ask God to guide you.”  
“Be careful about your thoughts ... fix them upon God as best you can.”

## **B. Pray for the “inspiration” to figure stuff out.**

Once I rose above the noise and confusion  
Just to get a glimpse beyond this illusion  
I was soaring ever higher, but I flew too high

Though my eyes could see I still was a blind man  
Though my mind could think I still was a mad man  
I hear the voices when I'm dreaming,  
I can hear them say ... [chorus]

Isaiah 40:31, But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

“Let the Lord carry you higher ... wait for His leadership in your life.”  
“When you get tired of all the noise and confusion, God can renew your strength.”  
“God wants to be that ‘voice in your head’ that leads you to peace.”

## **C. Guard the heart and mind.**

Masquerading as a man with a reason  
My charade is the event of the season  
And if I claim to be a wise man,  
Well, it surely means that I don't know

On a stormy sea of moving emotion  
Tossed about, I'm like a ship on the ocean  
I set a course for winds of fortune,  
But I hear the voices say ... [chorus]

Philippians 4:6-7, Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

"Have to talked to God about that?"

"Let's ask God to provide for what you need right now."

"I wonder if there is anything we can thank God for today?"

#### **D. Believe God has a perfect plan for you!**

Carry on, You will always remember  
Carry on, Nothing equals the splendor  
Now your life's no longer empty  
Surely heaven waits for you  
Carry on my wayward son  
There'll be peace when you are done  
Lay your weary head to rest  
Don't you cry, Don't you cry no more,  
No more!

When Kerry Livgren wrote this he was not a Christian. After becoming coming to faith in Christ in 1980 he looked back on this verse and said "it was prophetic."

John 10:10, Jesus said, "... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

"Jesus can fill that empty spot inside of you."

"There is nothing that can match the splendor of knowing Christ."

"Heaven is worth waiting for!"

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, for the wayward among us we pray for a clear path to You. Give us the peace we so deeply long for. Wipe away our tears and show us the splendor of knowing Christ better. In Jesus' name, amen."