

Ludacris

"Freedom Of Preach"

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(feat. Bishop Eddie Lee Long)

[Intro]

Can the church say Amen? (Amen reverend)
We gon' do another off in right now
We gon' do another one in fifteen minutes
And we gon' do one mo', right after that
Yes, women you lookin so very beautiful here today
Some of you with the same thang on from the club last
night
The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away
Oh Lord Jesus I wish you'd taketh away Sister Mary's
wig
Oh you disrespectin the House of God with that thing
It don't even look real; aww, it's testimony time
Oh who is that? Young Chris Bridges
Boy I'm glad you finally grew into them ears
Go on and testify

[Ludacris]

Lord, please forgive me for the mistakes I've made
And thanks for keepin my momma safe when she
wrecked my Escalade
See I could replace a Cadillac but I can't replace my
momma
I'm sorry for the hip-hop beefs, we sorry for the drama
But you gotta understand us rappers ain't never had
nothin
And one's loss is another's gain so we gotta grab
somethin
Lord, got so many questions I need the answers to
And sorry for the thangs I put my baby's mama through
I feel that women are really the strongest human
beings
but why do you make 'em so emotional, and other
minor things
I guess it's your way of sayin we gotta love 'em and
gotta praise 'em
cause without 'em we'd be nothin, plus our kids they
gotta raise 'em
while we, out and about and seein what life has to offer
But if you offer a new life then what we need is better

fathers

Either I'm smarter cause of my daughter or I'm just too
dense
I'm 28 years old, it just now started makin sense
And I've been...

[Chorus One]

Searchin so loooooong, I was lost in the clouds
I'm tryna stay stroooooong, and make you prouuuuud
It took me some tiiiime, but now I see
That Heeeee resiiiiides, in me yeahhhhh yeah

[Ludacris]

Lord, forgive me for anytime a fan said I was bein rude
I'm only human, I'm not always in the best of moods
But thanks for givin the gift of rap to write my feelings
down
And sorry for cursin sometimes but feelings make me
shout 'em out
Forgive the people that wanna blame everything on rap
music
If they didn't live it they can't relate or even adapt to it
Forgive those who don't think I'm great and wanna see
me go
Forgive Oprah for editin most my comments off her
show
Don't get me wrong, I know some people got a image
to hold
But those who criticize the youth might just be gettin
too old
We still travellin through life, findin what's right or
wrong
I know some folks may not agree or even like this song
But I'm just speakin MY truth, cause I heard it sets you
free
And my conversation's with God, even though he
speaks through me
I'm smarter cause of my daughter, and I'm NOT too
dense
I'm 28 years old, it just now started makin sense
And I've been...

[Chorus One]

[Ludacris - over Chorus One]

I've been searchin so long
I admit that I've been lost in them clouds
I'm just tryna stay strong baby
You know I'ma make you proud
I know life is full of contradictions
I'm tryna become a better man

Prayin for redemption, each and every day

(Hallelujah, as the choir sings)

[Chorus Two: sung by choir]

Searchin so loooooong (so long) lost in the clouuuuuds
(in the clouds)

Tryin to stay stroooooong, and make you prouuuuud -
make you proud!

Took me some tiiiiime (took me some time) now I
seeeee (oh now I see)

Heeeee resiiiiides, in me (yeah)

(Ladies and gentlemen, we have a special guest in the
house tonight

Came with some words of encouragement, Bishop
Eddie Long)

[Chorus Two - repeat 2X, minus ad libs]

[Outro: Bishop Eddie Lee Long]

What you just heard is real life

It's real life for you, it's real life for many

It's about where you been, yet at the same time you

Ay, you find yourself, in the midst of conflict and
turmoil

Yes I'm talkin to you, in the midst of conflict and turmoil

Cause you realize HEY - it's, time to change right now

And in the middle of that I wanna say this

The Bible says that when I was a child, I spoke as a
child

I understood as a child, I fought as a child

Hey, but when I became a man

I put away those, childish things

Did you not know that your environment has shaped
you?

Where you were born, in the projects, in the ghettoes

In the upper downtown, wherever it was

The people around you, the things around you

cause you to do strange things because, you were
seeking to learn

But what you learned, was on the streets, and not in the
book

God called you a prophet

When you open up your mouth, everything of God
comes out

And it commands attention, it commands change

I'm talking about the power, that's inside of you

And in the midst when you're, starting to understand

that I caught the wrong message, and now it's time

I'm hearing from God, what amazing experience, as
you hear from God
He said, "Is there forth any man be in Christ, he is a
new creation"
Old things are passed away, somebody needs to hear
that and behold
Everything becomes new, and when everything
becomes new in you
It's time to stop the killing
I said it's time to stop the stealing
It's time to stop disrespecting our women
It's time for us to come home and raise our children
It's time for us, to really mold our communities
It's time for us, not to get hooked up in religion
But to get hooked up in relationship, with God
And the amazing thing about it
is wherever you find yourself right now, you can
confess
and you can tell God "I'm sorry;
I had the wrong cue, I was doing the wrong thing
I was going after things that I thought were right, but it
wasn't right
And now that I'm getting it right, I'm asking you to
forgive me
And I may have done the things, that they said I did
But I'm not, who they say I am; I am who you made me
to be
and I'm changing in that, and it takes a few moments
But every time I fall down, I'll get right back up
And every time I make a wrong turn, I'll get myself back
in line
Because I recognize, I have been called, for such a
time as this!"
You can't resist the change
And you're not condemned by your yesterday
If you can grab hold of your now, and move in your
destiny
Move, change, and be, now!

[Chorus Three: sung by choir]

Searchin so looooong, lost in the clouuuuuds
Tryin to stay stroooooong, and make you prouuuuud -
make you proud!
Took me some tiiiiime (took me some time) now I
seeeee
Heeeee resiiiides (Heeee resiiiides) in me (in me
yeahhhhh)

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