

# Freedom of Preach

Ludacris

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

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...

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

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...

Searchin so loooooong, I was lost in the clouds  
I'm tryna stay stroooooong, and make you prouuuuud

It took me some tiiiiime, but now I see  
That Heeeee resiiiiides, in me yeahhhhh yeah

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)

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)

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)  
(2x)

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 ghettos  
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!

Searchin so loooooong, lost in the clouuuuuuds  
Tryin to stay stroooooong, and make you prouuuuud - make you proud!  
Took me some tiiiiiime (took me some time) now I seeeee  
Heeeee resiiiiides (Heeee resiiiiides) in me (in me yeahhhhh)