

Drop That
MIXTAPE

YOUR NEW RELEASE



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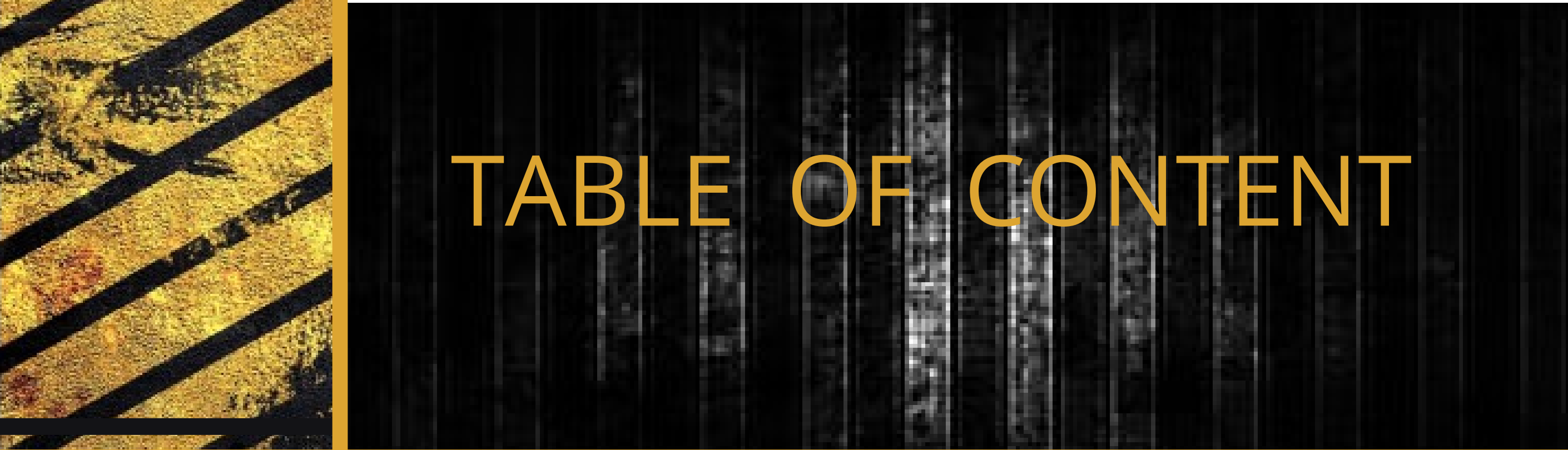


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INTRODUCTION

YOUR NEW RELEASE

Mix tape: a compilation of songs recorded (as onto a cassette tape or a CD) from various sources.

(Merriam-Webster's Dictionary)

No one uses cassettes anymore and CD's are *almost* a thing of the past. But the word "mixtape" is still relevant in today's urban culture. You will usually hear a popular artist say, "*I'm about to drop my mixtape*" whenever they plan on releasing new music to keep their fans satisfied until the grand release of their album. Our use of this analogy simply represents *the release* of all that God has placed on the inside of you.



We all have a mixtape or a collective body of work(s) that need to be released but whether it be music or any other craft - the real issue is **WILL WE RELEASE IT?**

About 15 years ago, I used to write and share Spoken Word Poetry and memorized pieces that I wrote. I was going from church to church until one day a minister that I respected told me that I **WAS NOT** being Spirit led. In other words, what I was doing was not "anointed" or spiritual because I had memorized my writings. I responded by not sharing my poetry for a season.

I ran into that same minister years later only for him to tell me that he was wrong.



My unique mix of poetry and the Gospel was stifled for years, I was unable to release what God had placed on the inside of me simply because of the opinion of somebody else.

That was not only bad for me but it was not good for all of the young people that I was unable to reach at that time.

Now I understand the effects of not releasing something that God undeniably placed on the inside of me. That same experience happened to me several times in my life so when I see someone unable to release what God has placed on the inside of them - I can almost smell it. In my line of work, post traumatic syndrome is a prevalent issue that continues to hinder productivity in people.



I primarily deal with people who are trying to reintegrate back into society after an experience with prison or some other form of confinement. When I try to present "second chance" resources or opportunities available to them I usually run into the same line of thinking that once staggered me:

*I know that it's possible -
I just don't know if it's possible
for people like me.*

The phrase "people like me" is usually tied to some false narrative that we create while comparing ourselves to people who we think are more qualified or better equipped. It can also be associated with a lack of confidence in the unique mix that God has placed in us.



This book is being released during a global pandemic. If there ever was a time for you and I to lack confidence or to drown ourselves in insecurity - that time would probably be now. But I'm saying just the opposite... ***DROP THAT MIXTAPE !***

Release that unique mix that God has given you to impact the world for His glory. If you consider yourself to be a child of God then you have to know that you are creative - because your Father is "The Creator." Like they say, *"The apple don't fall too far from the tree."* So let's break the monotony of *comparisonitis* and fear and let's impact the world in the unique way that God intended us to.



BREAK THE MOLD

Fill the earth with your songs of gratitude.

- Charles Spurgeon

My phone rang and just before I could turn it off I noticed that it was my friend John Content. I answered and we had a great conversation until he made a joke that struck me. He said, "*Man you out here droppin' books like mixtapes.*" That was funny to us because I had just released seven books in the last six weeks - similar to a rap artist releasing large quantities of music - even if that music sucks. We laughed uncontrollably before he paused to say that he was really inspired by the books. So here's another mixtape.



We are still reading quotes from great Gospel preachers like Charles Spurgeon because he filled the earth with sermons like a musician releases music. Money and fame were not his pursuits. He was simply grateful that he could release the "mixtapes" that God had placed in him.

What would make someone consistently share a message that is constantly ridiculed? What drives an artist to release music in the face of possibly not ever receiving a record deal? There has to be something or someone that drives that individual beyond recognition or personal ambition. The message has to be bigger than the messenger.



James Brown released a song in the 60's during the height of racial discrimination and became not only "The Godfather of Soul" but he was also one of the musical voices of the Civil Rights Movement. The song is called "*SAY IT LOUD - I'm Black and I'm Proud.*" Now you have to understand the racial tension and climate during the time in which he released this music to fully appreciate what happened. He broke the mold that society created for him. He challenged the status quo simply by releasing what was on the inside. I personally believe that he was able to do that because the message that he carried was so much bigger than the messenger. It was a movement.



This may sound strange but God has placed "a movement" on the inside of you. You have no idea who you will reach or who will be impacted by you breaking the mold and releasing your unique gift.

And here's another thing that may sound strange... *It's not about you!*

A mold has been formed in society that teaches "self preservation." We are indirectly being taught that during the current coronavirus pandemic. Instead of using our resources to help others we are subtly being taught to keep what we have to ourselves. This is definitely not a song of gratitude or a movement of God.



It's not about determination - it's about destiny.

Jesus was more than motivated, he was "mission minded." He rebuked his own disciple Peter for placing his personal interest above the mission that God had given Him (**Mark 8:31-33**). This teaches us that momentum, motivation and even movement can be dangerous if not rooted in God's appointed purpose.

We were not created to fulfill our own personal desires. God placed something on the inside of us that's bigger than us. It's time to break the mold and release the message.



PRODUCE YOUR PURPOSE

I grew up spending late nights in the studio. A majority of my friends and I lived in Richmond California during my high school years where you would probably only make it out of the neighborhood if you could rap or play sports. So we unfortunately sold drugs and used that money to buy studio time hoping to one day achieve our dreams.

Amazingly, a few of my friends were able to record with major artist. But I was never able to find mainstream success. It's not that I wasn't determined, I probably out-hustled a lot of people, it just wasn't my destiny.



If I could write a letter to my younger self I would probably tell myself...

*No matter how hard you try -
your purpose is the one thing that you
can not deny.*

Back in those days, you would never catch me telling somebody that I didn't know who I was. I would simply assimilate to the culture hoping to one day discover what I was created for. But you can't hide from purpose. I now realize that every brick wall that I ever hit in my life was constructed to place me right here - right now.

You can run but you can't hide.



Legacy: something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.

- Merriam Webster's Dictionary
(definition #2)

Often people make the mistake of only defining "legacy" as something that they will one day leave behind. But we are far more important to God than to be pawns for the next generation. God left us a valuable inheritance that can not be hidden during our lifetimes. He intentionally placed something on the inside of us that has to get out.

Our purpose has to be produced.



In 20 years of doing reentry work I have seen the same failure cycle over and over again - business owners settle for being workers, workers settle for being unemployed, entrepreneurs settle for being jobless... and the list goes on. It's both sad and amazing how a person's background can make them feel inferior - but I know exactly what that feels like.

When this happens it becomes difficult to be productive because of the inner struggle that a person may be having with their purpose.

My calling is to bring awareness to our inheritance in Christ. Embracing His legacy will help us to produce it.



When I was younger we had this saying that prevented artist from copying other artist. We called it "*biting*." In other words, you couldn't take somebody else's style verbatim and claim it as your own. You had to be original in whatever you produced.

As an heir of God, what He has for you is for you alone. This prevents us from watching other people to see what they're doing so that we can form a successful niche for ourselves. We are not *copycats* and we certainly don't have to *bite* off of others to get ahead.

God has given you your own legacy.



GO VIRAL

I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

Genesis 12:2 NLT

Some people think fame is a bad thing and it can be depending on a person's reasons for wanting to be famous. But if God ever makes you "famous" His reasons are usually contrary to what most people desire to be famous for.

For example, God blessed Abraham in the book of Genesis so that people could see what a Godly covenant or inheritance looks like. Abraham's blessings pointed to God.



In God's eyes, our fame should always point people to Him, since He's the one who gave it to us. If our fame only draws people to us than that makes us *in-famous* in His eyes. We are claiming glory and a reputation that does not belong to us. **Acts 12:21-24** is a perfect example of that.

I've always been cautious about what people say to me after I share a message or a speech or do anything in the public eye. When I read about the gruesome way that King Herod died in Acts 12, I am reminded that we should always give the glory or *fame* to God.

In this way, we can be a blessing to others.



There is an art to be a blessing.

If I give somebody something and they go and give it to somebody else - I'm ok with that. But if I give somebody something and then they turn around and take all the glory for something that they had nothing to do with - I would be apprehensive about giving to them again.

It's just the principle of it.

I can only imagine how it makes God feel when He gives us something and then we turn around and take all the credit for it - as if He had nothing to do with it. That can in no way be a blessing to anybody involved.



We want to go viral - the right way.

I remember the 80's R & B group "*Milli Vanilli*." They became famous - for all the wrong reasons. On July 21st, 1989 they were busted for lip-syncing when the track that was playing behind them began to skip. Prior to this moment, they had number 1 hits (five in the top 10), seven million copies of their debut album sold and a Grammy Award for Best New Artist.

But when we Google them today, what comes up the most - what are they famous for now?

They went viral - the wrong way.



The word *viral* is closely related to the word *virus*. Just imagine how many times the word *coronavirus* has been mentioned today. This word has also become famous for all the wrong reasons.

Interesting enough, this virus can not carry itself but it has to be carried by people. What if we, the people, decided to carry something else? What if we decided to make something else go viral as opposed to this infectious disease?

I would admonish you to promote your relationship with Jesus Christ and if you don't have one - get it today - **Romans 10:9-10**. That mix will definitely go viral!