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Marvin Sapp Releases Restoration Album After Death Threats and Police Protection

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Close the doors."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Marvin Sapp released his 17th album, Restoration, on Friday 20 November 2026, and it is the most personal record of his career. The 10-track live album was recorded at The Chosen Vessel Cathedral in Fort Worth, Texas, where Sapp serves as senior pastor. It grew out of a bruising stretch that Sapp says brought death threats and police protection at his own church - and it is his answer to the year a viral video clip made him famous for the wrong reason.

The clip came from July 2024, when Sapp was asked to receive a voluntary offering at the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World's International Summer Convention to help cover convention expenses. A video went viral the following year showing him urging people in the room and watching remotely to contribute toward a $40,000 goal before telling ushers to "close the doors." Critics accused him of trying to keep worshippers from leaving until enough money had been collected.

The organisation said no doors were locked and no one was held against their will, describing the instruction as a security measure while money was being collected. Sapp said the practice would have been familiar in many Black churches, where congregants traditionally avoid moving during prayer and offerings.

Asked whether he could understand why the optics might make some uncomfortable, he offered little concession. "The only people that were uncomfortable are those who don't go to church," he said.

The fallout, he says, still finds him. Recently, Sapp and his new wife, La'Boris Cole-Sapp, were picking up food at a restaurant when a stranger recognised him - not for his signature 2007 hit, "Never Would Have Made It," but for the video clip.

"That's the one that robbed his church," Sapp recalled the person saying after he had walked away. His wife challenged the stranger, asking where they had gotten that information and telling them it was not true.

"She got in the car. She said, 'Babe, I may go viral again today,'" Sapp said, briefly chuckling at his wife's response.

The encounter showed how hard it has been for him to shake the public perception.

"You just got to live through it," he said. "Once people make up in their minds what they think about you and what they feel about you, you can't change their mind."

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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