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Daddy Yankee Named Person of the Year After Faith Turn

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"First, I want to give glory to God - not out of habit, but because if I am standing here today, it is by His grace, not by my own merits."

(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

Daddy Yankee was honoured as the Latin Recording Academy's 2026 Person of the Year at a gala at the MGM Grand Marquee Ballroom in Las Vegas on Wednesday, 11 November 2026. He is the first reggaeton pioneer to recieve the honour, and he used his acceptance speech to give the credit somewhere the music industry rarely looks: to God.

"First, I want to give glory to God - not out of habit, but because if I am standing here today, it is by His grace, not by my own merits."

That was how Ramón Luis Ayala Rodríguez, the man the world knows as Daddy Yankee, opened his moment. Not with a list of hits, not with a thank-you to his label, but with a line about grace. The room was full of the people who built Latin music into a global force, and the man they had come to honour was telling them that none of it was really his.

Daddy Yankee Person Of The Year 2026 Las Vegas Gala

The Person of the Year gala is one of the Latin Recording Academy's biggest nights, a formal celebration of a career that changed the music. Daddy Yankee did exactly that. He helped carry reggaeton from the streets of Puerto Rico to stadiums on every continent, and "Gasolina" became a song the whole planet knew even if it did not speak a word of Spanish.

The honour was overdue in the eyes of many in the room.

What made the night different was the man accepting it. Three years ago, at his farewell show in December 2023, Yankee walked away from the genre he helped create. About 18,000 people filled the Coliseo in Puerto Rico that night, and they heard him say the words that ended one career and began another.

"Living a life of success is not the same as living a life with purpose... Jesus lives in me."

It was not a retirement speech with a comeback clause hidden in it. He meant it. He left the top of reggaeton behind and started making music about his faith instead, and the industry that had made him a star watched to see whether anyone would still listen.

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?

READ THE FULL STORY

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