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Donnie Wahlberg Says Worship Now Fills His Playlist

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Happy Sunday! If you'd have told me, two years ago, what my playlist would look like today? Not sure I would have believed you,"

(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

Donnie Wahlberg says his music playlist is now full of worship songs. The actor and New Kids on the Block singer told his Instagram followers on Sunday 15 November 2026 that even his playlist shows how his faith in Jesus has changed him over the past two years. He shared a 30-second video of himself in an airplane seat, headphones on, listening to SEU Worship's "What A God" - and looking, by his own account, like a man being quietly undone by it.

"Happy Sunday! If you'd have told me, two years ago, what my playlist would look like today? Not sure I would have believed you," Wahlberg wrote. "But when He has your heart, renewal happens." The words on the video said it even more simply: "I didn't plan on only listening to worship music - then God." His eyes were wet. His chin rested in his hand. He was not performing for the camera. He was a man on a plane, caught by a song.

The post ended the way his posts usually do now. "I love you! Jesus loves you more! Have a blessed day and an amazing week ahead," he wrote. It is a sign-off his followers have come to recognise - warm, direct, and unembarrassed about naming Jesus in public. Two years ago, Wahlberg says, none of this would have made sense. Not the playlist. Not the tears. Not the man saying it.

That is the thread running through his posts this year. A man who spent decades in front of cameras is now using them for something plainer: short, unpolished messages about what God is doing in his life. He has become increasingly outspoken about his Christian faith, regularly using his social media platforms to share his love for Jesus - and the playlist post is the latest, and maybe the most honest, example of it.

Donnie Wahlberg Playlist: From Pop Stardom To Worship Songs

Wahlberg's musical life began a long way from a worship playlist. As a member of New Kids on the Block, he sang songs like "Step by Step" to stadiums full of screaming fans. Pop was his trade, his identity, the sound of his whole adult life. The idea that the same man would now sit on a plane with tears in his eyes, listening to a worship song on repeat, would have sounded like a joke to anyone who knew him then - including, he admits, himself.

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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