



DARRELL KELLEY

THE MAN. THE MUSIC. THE MINISTRY.

Born and reared in the rough streets of South Boston, Mass., Darrell Kelley is a self-made man whom many could call an unlikely success. Being raised in the projects as the third of 8 children with different fathers in a single-parent home, and witnessing his mother being viciously stabbed at the age of three are the kinds of circumstances that statistically derail the potential of most young black boys. However, in Kelley's case, God had different plans. When looking back, he can only be thankful for the unlikely circumstances that led him to become the world-renowned recording artist, entrepreneur, philanthropist, activist, and spiritual leader he is today. He recalls a fateful decision he made one day at the age-of-12 that sparked a change in his life.

"My step-father came home to drunk to go to work one day and me, my brothers and sisters were hungry," recalls Kelley. "I had no choice, somebody had to feed my brothers and sisters. I refused to leave."

As fate would have it, the young, determined Kelley took matters into his own hands and took an arduous bus trip through one of the most racist parts of South Boston to the restaurant where his father was a dishwasher. He confronted the manager asking if he could work in his father's place. Hesitant at first, the manager said he was too young but saw that the young man was determined, and he agreed to let him wash dishes.

As it were, that bus trip became a defining moment that gave him the confidence to believe he could change his own circumstances. Soon afterwards, he got his brother a job at the same restaurant, and as the saying goes, the rest is history.



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Over the next several years, Kelley rose through the ranks of the restaurant business and eventually managed McDonalds, KFC, and Burger King restaurants by the time he was 18 years old. Although he still lived in the projects with his mother and several of his siblings with no lights and heat, he was determined. Little did he know, another defining moment was right around the corner.

"I was 18-years-old training to be a Burger King manager . I was 1 minute late, and my trainer fired me," recalls Kelley. "So, I had to take an 8-hour drive back home and I began to curse God for taking everything away from me."

Kelley recalls how low he felt just after losing his job, living in the dark at home because the lights were cut off, and having to drive for 8 hours only to be fired for being a minute late. No sooner than he questioned God his car swerved into a 360 degree turn and into a light pole which landed him in jail. There he was at his lowest point, and he began to pray and ask God for forgiveness for cursing him and doubting his will. His car was totaled, and his mother had to come bail him out of jail. It was then that Kelley realized that God was real. Within two days, he had another car and was on to his next opportunity with a newly found conviction in his heart.

Having caught the entrepreneur bug, by 2013 Kelley had become quite successful in real estate. After the markets of Boston began to dry up, he moved to Atlanta and purchased a small thrift store while pursuing his real estate interests and discovered that a Chinese restaurant next door to his store was closing. Seeing an opportunity, he "made the owner an offer he couldn't refuse" and purchased the property which he converted to a successful soul food restaurant called Soul Delicious. Having overcome so much in his life, up until this point, he was truly just warming up. Having always been an avid fan of Gospel music, Kelley decided to enter the recording business and true to form, yet again, he wound up unexpectedly shining even brighter.

"I had started a small recording called Viral Records and was working with a singer that I was going to sign. I had the contract drawn up and when it was time to sign, the guy didn't show up to the studio," recalls Kelley. "When the engineer asked where was your artist, I said here I am."

Thus launched his unexpected singing career. Kelley jumped into songwriting immediately and has always been an avid Gospel music fan. He would host an annual concert at his restaurant with many of the gospel greats like Joseph Wailer and New Praise Band making appearances. He unveiled his first song at his annual concert titled "Shut Her Up" and made a tradition of publishing a new song each year for the annual concert. By his third song titled "A Storm is Coming" the song broke into radio play and wound up receiving more than 1 million plays on World Star and reached #1 on the international music charts. Unlike most singers, Kelley uses his music for activism and praise with songs named for victims of police brutality such as "Atatiana," "Derrick Scott" and "Ahmad." His latest album titled "Get Your Knees Off Our Necks," has received international acclaim and to date, his music has been played more than 5 million times and is a huge success on domestic and international music charts.

Having felt the presence of God on his life since writing scriptures on his wall at the age of seven, Kelley would fully realize the weight of his anointing in 2016 with the creation of his ministry called UWGEAN which stands for God of the Universe, God of the World, God of all Gods, God of Everything, God of Anything, including Me. Through his ministry, Kelley seeks to expand the truth of who Jesus is and the true mission he sought to fulfil in the earth. Kelley does not consider his church one of Christianity because Christianity is man made but one of Life because Life is God made. Even with all his success in music, and business, Kelley remains a humble servant of God with a pure philanthropic heart. He has fed and clothed the homeless, traveled extensively to support police brutality victims, and been a voice for change in all aspects of his life. But he says ultimately, "I want to be known and remembered for a legacy of service to God and humanity."

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