

DeWayne Woods

Artist | Spiritual Strategist
Founder and Chief Architect | Soul Engineer
San Diego, CA, USA



(Photo courtesy of DeWayne Woods)

DeWayne Woods is a RIAA Platinum-certified Gospel/Inspirational/R&B recording artist, worship pastor, therapist, and transformational strategist whose work lives at the intersection of sound, story, and soul-level formation. Raised in Kansas City, Missouri, Woods was shaped early by the vocal fearlessness of Daryl Coley and the emotional precision of Donny Hathaway—influences that still show up in the way he sings and the way he leads: with range, restraint, and real life in the room. He honed his craft at the Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, then sharpened it in community—joining the gospel group Joy Unlimited and later becoming a sought-after background vocalist across R&B and gospel.

Since 1997, Woods has maintained a long-running commitment with Donald Lawrence and The Tri-City Singers—a relationship marked by longevity, trust, and the kind of excellence that only survives when it's built on consistency. That partnership has been one of the defining throughlines of his musical life, shaping not only his sound, but his standards.

Earlier in his journey, Woods earned a defining chapter in gospel history: in 1995, he toured with John P. Kee and delivered lead vocals on Kee's Show Up recording and concert video, singing "I Surrender" and "I Shall Survive." That season didn't just spotlight his voice—it trained his instinct for ministry that meets people in real life and calls them upward anyway.

Woods later stepped into the national spotlight as lead singer for Atlantic Starr, leaving his imprint on All Because of You (1997) and Legacy (1999). But his breakout as a solo force arrived through a vision he built from the ground up: the inspirational choir When Singers Meet, formed in 1997 and woven into his earliest solo releases. His debut and follow-up projects—Introducing DeWayne Woods & When Singers Meet and My Life's Lyric (Quiet Water/Verity)—carried a signature blend of worship intensity and R&B soul that would become his calling card.

The tipping point was "Let Go" (written by P.J. Morton), a record that didn't just chart—it stayed. Introducing DeWayne Woods & When Singers Meet spent 73 weeks on Billboard's Gospel Albums sales chart, while "Let Go" held 53 weeks on Billboard's Hot Gospel Songs chart. The album reached the Top

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The project earned significant industry recognition, including multiple Stellar Award nominations and wins—establishing Woods as a breakthrough voice with staying power. In 2022, "Let Go" was RIAA-certified Gold. In 2025, it became RIAA-certified Platinum—a rare long-game testimony in a fast-scroll era.

Woods' catalog is threaded with fan-favorite singles and collaborations that show his range and reach: "God Is" (with the Tri-City Singers), "Living on the Top," "I Won't Be Afraid," and "Never Be the Same." He teamed with Larry Waddell and Stokley Williams (Mint Condition) on "They Said," and brought powerhouse voices together on "Friend of Mine," featuring Anthony Hamilton and Dave Hollister—a bold fusion of gospel electricity, funk grit, and rhythmic swagger. Beyond music, Woods has also built a parallel lane as a performer and storyteller, appearing in stage plays and musicals alongside artists such as Peabo Bryson, Dave Hollister, Charlie Wilson, and Deniece Williams, and later appearing in the Robert Townsend TV series "In the Faith Zone" (2019).

In 2016, Woods relocated to San Diego, California, where he serves as a Worship Pastor, deepening the ministry thread that has always run through his music. In 2019, he was honored with a Doctorate of Sacred Music from Saint Thomas Christian University. In 2020, he joined the annual McDonald's Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour, serving as Co-Vocal Producer alongside Donald Lawrence and headlining the West Coast lineup—another example of Woods operating not only as an artist, but as an architect behind the scenes.

That architect energy is now fully expressed through Soul Engineer—Woods' transformation and strategy platform serving high-capacity artists, creatives, and leaders who are building under pressure. The platform focuses on alignment before expansion. Through structured frameworks, strategic consulting, and intelligent tools, Soul Engineer helps individuals and organizations design sustainable rhythms for creativity, leadership, and long-term impact. Soul Engineer's work centers on identity alignment, creative sustainability, and execution that does not require burnout as the cost of vision—delivered through cohorts, Sound and Soul Labs, AI Implementation Sprints, keynotes, and private intensives. It's not motivation for a moment; it's infrastructure for a life.

Woods' personal mantra is both a promise and a blueprint: "I'm still worth the build—and so is everyone I'm building." And the next chapter is already in motion. With new ventures being engineered at the platform level, DeWayne remains fully active in music, ministry, travel, and coaching—still creating, still leading, still building systems that can hold the weight of calling. He isn't chasing what's next. He's designing what lasts.

"I'm still worth the build, and so is everyone building with me."

DISCOGRAPHY

DeWayne Woods & When Singers Meet — The Poets, The Psalms, And The Psalmists (2003)

Introducing DeWayne Woods & When Singers Meet (2006)

My Life's Lyric (2010)

Life Lessons (2015)

Somehow (2024)