

HEART OF THE ARTIST

We love working with the artists at Reach Records. This exclusive interview we did with Trip about his new album and book will hopefully show you why...

What is the concept behind the title of your new album?

There are kind of three meanings to “Rise”—first, to get up from the dead and live. I want those who are spiritually dead to get up and live. Second, we like to sleep in on life and say, “I’ll get serious when I get twenty or thirty or forty or fifty.” I’m saying, “Get up from your slumber; rise from your slumber. Start your day. Get up and live.” And third, to rise above the low expectations our culture has for us.

You also have a new book about the concept of God’s people rising up. How different is writing a book compared to writing music?

With music, I have only three minutes or so. I have to write in the time and form constraints of a song. A book is much easier to include a lot more content, to expand more on the story. So really, I use music to celebrate certain truths; to grab your emotions when we talk about those truths. And with a book, I’m able to go a lot more in depth.

The song “Shweet” talks about bragging on God and His goodness. What, specifically, has He been doing for you lately?

Over the last three years He’s given me two beautiful children. My wife and I really love raising them. And there have been many things that God has shown me, through my relationship with my kids, about myself. He’s grown me. He’s sanctified me. And He’s shown me just how amazing a creator He is.

The “Manolo” has created a lot of buzz, comparing the Word of God to a weapon. Can you explain the meaning behind the song?

“Manolo” means “God is with us”—one of the main ways He is with us is His Word. The Word is a double-edged sword—it’s the sword of the Spirit. So I’m just bringing that into today. We think of a gun when we think of a weapon. I want to think of God’s Word as the weapon that fights off all the lies that come at us. Against all our enemies, God’s Word is the most powerful weapon that we have.

Lecrae believed in and started mentoring you from a very early age. Do you have any encouragement for youth leaders who are sowing into young people?

Lecrae is a friend and he definitely poured into me a lot. He was helpful to me when I met him at fifteen or sixteen years old. And even beyond him, there have been men throughout the years who have mentored me. That is, I think, one of the things that made a big difference for me was people showing an interest in me—not just wanting to show me a good time, but being willing to teach me how to study God’s Word.

How can youth groups around the country be praying for you?

Please pray that God would give me energy. I have health issues that make it hard to figure out how to balance. I have been diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which sometimes leaves me completely bedridden. Anytime anything ends up good or impacts people, the Lord is really clear to me that it’s not my strength that does it, because I never cruise through the finish line on anything. I always limp. So prayers for energy, strength, and faith would be appreciated!

