

CANVAS - SPENCE 4HIRE (FEAT. HARLEY THOMPSON)



Nicknamed “Spencer For Hire” as a kid, Spencer Jackson (a.k.a. Spence 4hire) wields the mic intentionally to harness the motivational power of hip-hop culture. Growing in both his faith and his art, from childhood, Spence has always created content with conviction and character, keeping it keeping it real and keeping it fresh.

Following a sudden Internet viral campaign and his first self-titled release, Spence paused his rap career to focus on family, schooling, and community outreach – all of which he alludes to transparently in his music. Returning from the hiatus, Spence drops his new EP Make Noise, and has every intention of doing so.

As of late, the message in hip-hop has been muzzled by mumbles – prime real estate for the distinctive, aural capture of clarity and tenacity that is signature to Spence’s delivery. Hip-Hop purists long for lyrics, while the millennial hip-hoppers drowned in sound, and as sure as he hails from the mid-Atlantic, Spence believes there is literally a harmonious medium, and more than willing to fill the gap. Spence is “4hire” to bridge the old school to the new school, the streets to the steeple, and the nobility to the “noise”.

Information from: <http://www.spence4h.com/>

LYRICS

Empty canvas in front of me
I can make this what I want it to be
I was gonna paint a self portrait
And it was gonna be gorgeous
But when the brush began to move
My self concept I began to lose
Feeling hurt, feeling so confused
I cried out “isn’t this what I’m supposed to do?”

I am your canvas, You are the artist
You see my beauty, You know where my heart is
So paint over me, I want to see
What you see in me. You know my worth
So paint over me, I want to be
Your artistry, I am your work

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I can make this what I want it to be
I was gonna paint a self portrait
And it was gonna be gorgeous
But when the brush began to move
My self concept I began to lose
Feeling hurt, feeling so confused
I cried out “isn’t this what I’m supposed to do?”

I thought if I could just get a tighter grip
I wouldn’t have to see my dreams slip

Through your grace I could see my wrong
It was never my hand with the brush all along

Chorus

Paint over me, that’s all I want to see,
it’s your artistry

With every brushstroke of your grace and love
You’re making me yours, Lord
Into your masterpiece

You didn’t have to but you chose me (you chose me)
I was withering away and you rose me
When I didn’t an option you chose adoption

And even when I ran so far away
You opened your arms and came running after me

I was cursed, now I’m blessed (you blessed me)
No my worst is you best
Even when I can’t understand it
I know that you planned this
I know that your hand is

Chorus

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Ephesians 2:10, New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:4-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1. What would you say the song is about?
2. What is attractive about thinking of our lives as a blank canvas? What does that analogy mean?
3. Is it easier to think of ourselves or God as the artist?
4. Read Ephesians 2:10 (in the NLT). How are we described? Why are described that way?
5. According to verses 4-5 (NIV), what did God do for us? Why did He do it?
6. What did God do in verses 6-7? Why? What does this mean for us?
7. How should 8-9 be applied to us, in light of this song?
8. Now that we have context, what does it mean that we are God's "masterpiece" (NLT) or "handiwork" (NIV)?
9. According to the text and the lyrics, where should we get our 'self portrait' and 'self concept' from?
10. How should this change the way we live our lives?