

The Reverend DR Martin Luther King, Jr. was born Jan 15, 1929. Had he lived to this day he would be 83 years old. But his life was cut short nearly 44yrs ago, when he was killed by a cold, hate filled assassin April 4, 1968 in Memphis Tennessee. DR King was best known for his iconic participation and leadership in the African American Civil Rights Movement. This Christian, Baptist Clergyman, Pastor was influenced by the likes of Jesus, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, Benjamin Mays, Hosea Williams, Bayard Rustin, Henry David Thoreau, Howard Thurman, Leo Tolstoy.

He did not hide behind his religion or pulpit, rather, his faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David and all the faithful seed was his foundation. His faith in God, Elohim, was the force behind, and within him as he took his place as pastor of the nation during those turmoil filled 60's as he stepped onto the larger stage to address the moral conscience of America and the world. *In his 1963 "Strength to Love," message "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state."*

Although King never publicly supported a political party or candidate for president, in a letter to a civil rights supporter in October 1956 he said that he was undecided as to whether he would vote for the [Adlai Stevenson](#) or [Dwight Eisenhower](#), but that "In the past I always voted the Democratic ticket."

In his autobiography, King says that in 1960 he privately voted for Democratic candidate John F. Kennedy: "I felt that Kennedy would make the best president. I never came out with an endorsement. My father did, but I never made one." King adds that he likely would have made an exception to his non-endorsement policy in 1964, saying "Had President Kennedy lived, I would probably have endorsed him in 1964."

From the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott to helping to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957, King's efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech expanding American values to include the vision of a color blind society.

In that famous speech and moment DR King stated that America had written a check. The Declaration of Independence eloquently set forth, *that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.* If we today would look again to the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States wherein are the words, *We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

Justice, equality & domestic tranquility are noble attainable goals. The account is opened, but prideful, selfish evil legislators and public servants stopped payment on the check. There are ample resources in the account. Neither is nor was any reason that the check cannot be honored.

And as we gather today we must admit, there are resources to negotiate the check and bring the poetic and poignant legislative literature to full manifestation but men are still filled with pride, allowing evil thoughts to become deeds perpetuating division, separation, and discrimination refuse to honor it.

The check continues to be dishonored. How dare senators and congressmen, elected to office to serve the greater good of America and Americans go to Washington and refuse to honor the commitments made by the founding Fathers?

How dare they promote the benefit and welfare of a few? How dare we, the electorate sit back and murmur amongst ourselves when they were elected by us. How dare we hide behind our positions quietly sitting back and allow it to continue? Do they not know the foundations of their offices and the purpose for their holding office?

We always remember the passion of the Dreamer as he unfolded his dream.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.'... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."

But do we remember—King's 1963 **Letter from Birmingham Jail**, King wrote,

*"I am coming to feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than the people of goodwill. We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right. **Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy**, and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity."*

If Dr. King were alive today, he might say that his dream is still alive. It's been a long time and the way has been dark but a ray of light has been manifested. But we that are of the light, seeking and serving the Lord must band together as light. *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. **Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.** Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction...The chain reaction of evil -- hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars -- must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation."* **Strength To Love, 1963**

The Changes that will bring his dream to reality will continue as Americans come together in faith, work together hand in hand to do what is needed: First to those having the greatest need. Yes the Poor and downtrodden are the first that must be cared for. As the poor are cared for they will be strengthened. Strengthened they will be enabled and motivated to blend in as true partners in our nation's future.

If King were alive today perhaps he would challenge us again to come out—come out of the closets of complacency, and personal idolatry to do the work of making this land truly a land of the free by the hand and sacrifices of those brave enough to forsake all to the good of this and coming generations. Rather than forsaking assembly fearing who will be our leader, let us call upon the name of our God on behalf of our peers and stand together till all, ALL, ALL are blessed and not just a few.

Do we not know, **He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?** Micah 6:8 (KJV).

Our greatest enemies selfishness and ignorance are wed and to them are born the children elitism, hatred, and separation. The family is intensified and magnified each day. Do our legislators not know that their purpose is not to serve special interest but the interest that serve the better good of the people of this land.

The Workers of the nation must come together. It's time to cash the check. And before it can be cashed, the people as one, with one voice must go to the treasury and present it to the teller and occupy till the check is honored. Do they not know that progress does not just happen it must be gained.

I don't believe that DR King would delight in the MLK sales at the Mall this weekend. Neither do I think he would be thrilled with the special afternoon and evening college basketball games on Monday. He would however, be moved as we are moved to remember, re-address, and renew the work of making this land a land of bounty and beauty. The leadership must work to promote, rather than preserve their own status do more trusting in God, to pay the bills.

*And then freedom will ring! "From every mountainside, **let freedom ring.** When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"*

I Have A Dream, 1963