



Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Rev. Michael J. Burns



In this article I will share several quotes by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr that have impacted my life and the lives of millions of people from every age, people, race and tongue. I trust that you will enjoy them and allow these great statements of truth to impact your life as they have mine.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia to Martin Luther King, Sr and Mrs. Alberta Williams King. He was married to Coretta Scott in 1953 and they had four children; Yolanda, Martin, Dexter and Bernice.

The time is
always right
to do what
is right.

~Martin Luther King Jr.



He earned a BA Degree from Morehouse College and a BDiv from Crozer Theological Seminary along with a PhD from Boston University. While he is known as a Civil Rights Activist his first calling was that of a Baptist Minister.

Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and

was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004. There is the National Memorial in Washington, DC that opened on August 22nd 2011 and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park and Preservation District built on nearly 35 acres in Atlanta, Georgia. This site hosts his childhood home and the Ebenezer Baptist Church where he was baptized and both he and his father were pastors. **He was a man that not only practiced what he preached but he preached what he had already practiced.**

He believed that '***The time is always right to do what is right.***' He endured the evils of racism and discrimination that was not based on the *content of his character* BUT on the color of his skin. This was something that he lived and died to defeat and overcome.

One of my favorite quotes of Dr. King was when he said, '***Let no man pull you low enough to hate him.***' My wife Cynthia and our son Christopher took the time to visit the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee some years ago. It is located at the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was assassinated. It has since been converted into this extraordinary museum that chronicles the struggle of black or negro people from slavery to their present day struggles.

Let no man
pull you low
enough
to hate him.

Martin Luther King

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Another thing that Dr. King said is something every person should heed in our day and time. In this year of 2021-22 In my humble opinion Dr. King's *I have a dream* speech is being dismantled by people who think they represent his mission. When we see perceived injustices taking place around our nation and they results in mobs of people that are not peacefully protesting as Dr. King did, but are instead burning down cities, looting, talking of defunding law enforcement and injuring innocent people I can only imagine Dr. King turning over in his grave!

**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
only love can do that.”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

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'Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.' Think about **1 John 4:7-8**, 'Beloved, let us love one another. For love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God for God is love' KJV.

Dr. King did not teach a sloppy kind of love, he taught a love that held forgiveness and mercy in its hands. One that turned the other cheek when smitten. When asked to go a mile that we should go two miles even as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught. At the same time he spoke up against inequality and the mistreatment of all human beings.



Many talk about unity in the world and in the church. The fact is we are in unity about the wrong things and truthfully our lack of involvement has caused us, as Dr. King said, *Accomplices!*

Of all the forms of inequality,
injustice in healthcare
is the most shocking
and inhumane.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
March 25, 1966

One area back in 1966 that still exists today is the inequity of healthcare that Dr. King spoke about. It is quite apparent that government will not solve this issue but we the people must step up and deal with it head on. We should not only use the method of peaceful protests or writing letters to government officials to pass laws to stop the avarice in the healthcare industry, but also coming up with creative ways to deal with these challenges.

One area certainly is in the Church today where we have omitted the supernatural healing ministry of Jesus. God is still in the healing business and we should as a people rely on Him instead of our government alone. My prayer is that there would be a revival of God's Word on a greater level than it is currently. Thankfully there has been a major increase among the masses but there is still a great need for the Word of God with respect to divine healing to be rightly divided. I would be interested to hear your views on this subject. Email me at mjbcjf@gmail.com today.

When it comes to injustice or the imbalance of unjust scales, Dr. King had some interesting things to say as in the following quote...



An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.

(Martin Luther King, Jr.)

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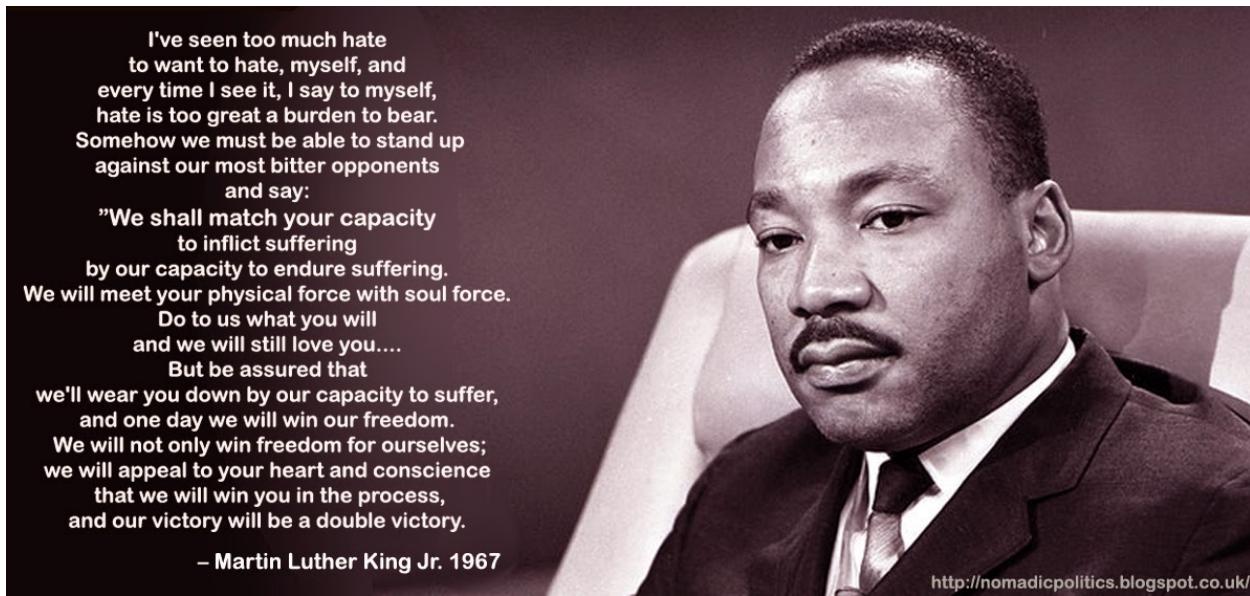
The early church father's in the biblical book of Acts did as Dr. King said in **Acts 4:19** and **5:29**...*Obeying God rather than man.*

There are so many things that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr said that are sharing but space will not permit me to do it. Let me leave you with a few closing quotes that need no further comment by me and can stand on their own. Enjoy!

**Violence is immoral because
it profits from
hatred. It destroys
the unity and
makes the brotherhood
between people impossible**

-- Martin Luther King --

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One thing about all of mankind is that none of us is perfect and we all make mistakes along our journey in life. While this would include

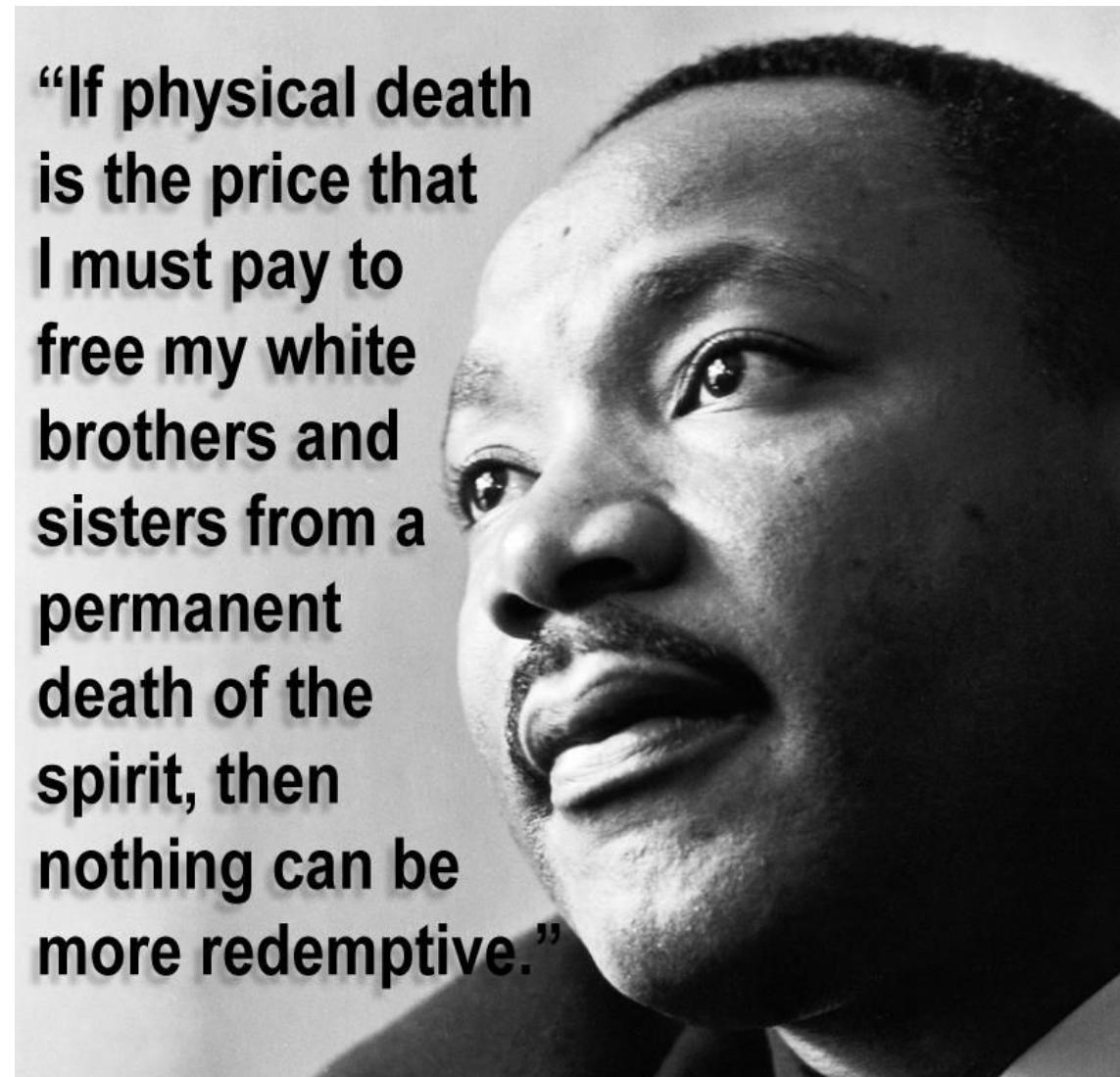
Dr. King we must learn to focus on the wisdom of his words, his mission and his life and untimely death at the hands of an assassin.

Several years ago I had the privilege of ministering and assisting a dear friend of mine who was asked to teach for several weeks at a Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. Pastor Fred LaGarde was the Senior Pastor of this church made up of black or negro people. As a matter of fact this was the last church Dr. King spoke at in the Northeastern part of the United States before his assassination at the Lorraine Motel balcony in Memphis. We spent several weeks ministering on the Holy Spirit's baptism with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues. It seemed like the majority of the people received this supernatural experience and began speaking in a heavenly language.



It was on April 4th 1968 that an assassin's bullet ended the life of one of America's greatest leaders at 39 years of age. While his death was an unnecessary tragedy it must be said that he accomplished more in his young life than most who live twice his age. He was a man who knew his calling and his mission. He also knew that it might even cost him his life which it ultimately did. I end this tribute with a final quote of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr...

“If physical death is the price that I must pay to free my white brothers and sisters from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing can be more redemptive.”



He told the world that he might not get to the mountaintop with us but one thing is for certain...***He paved the way for generations to come!***

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