



*"Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty we're free at last." --Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

I was raised by a single parent in an urban community who taught me to live by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and people of that particular era in history. Born and raised in St. Bernadine's Catholic Church, I was given every advantage of those being raised with two parents; there was no reason for me to be shackled by disillusionment and depression. But about age 12 while in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I was enslaved; I became lost and devoid of goals and focus. How miraculously fortunate it has been, then, that I discovered the

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his famous words of wisdom.

Most think only of Dr. King's civil rights efforts, so his first calling as a preacher, an up lifter of the human spirit, tends to get lost in that immense conflagration.

During my pre teen years, I was faced with many challenges and I didn't really know what or who God was calling me to be. Through the famous words from the "I have a dream speech", "the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together," that my spirit calmed. I heard God's voice tell me that everything would be okay. I could revert back to the path of righteousness. The sudden liberation and grace I felt during this time amazed me.

Dr. King's unbending perseverance of the loftiest goals in human history inspired me away from and freed me from my own intoxicatingly conscienceless demons. I learned that God has a calling for the life of everyone. Sometimes you have to look into the face of adversity to become "free at last" and figure out the calling or vocation of your life.

BJ- Brandon Pinkney  
St. Bernadine's Catholic Church