

Heeding an Inner Voice

The great American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was a person with tremendous courage.

He endured persecution, beatings, imprisonments, death threats, and his house was fire-bombed. And finally, he was assassinated for standing up for the cause of civil rights.

So what kept him going? It was his strong sense of God's call upon his life. King was just 26 years old when he was appointed leader of the civil rights campaign in Montgomery, Alabama. One night, he got an anonymous call from a man who said that King's house would be bombed in three days if they didn't get out of town.



Fear filled Dr. King as he thought about the danger facing him and his family if he continued to follow God's calling. He wanted to run away. He wanted to give up. He began praying to God and confessing his fear and his weakness.

And he said he sensed an inner voice saying, "Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness. Stand up for justice. Stand up for truth. And lo, I will be with you, even until the end of the world."

That prayer, that voice of assurance, allowed King to face his calling with courage. Three nights later, a bomb exploded on his front porch. But Dr. King and his family were safe.

He determined from that day to trust that God was with him and working in him, no matter what opposition he faced.

Each of us has a calling. God created us with a purpose in mind for our lives, and He calls us to be faithful. No doubt, as you live out His will for you, there will be times of frustration, challenge, even fear. Listen to that inner voice, the whispering of the Holy Spirit.

When we know Christ's peace, we find the courage to serve wherever God calls us to serve.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage (Psalm 31:24 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter