

JAN 24-25  
WORLD  
MANDATE  
WEST



ONE SERVICE  
10AM  
JAN 26  
WORLD  
MANDATE  
WEST  
SUNDAY

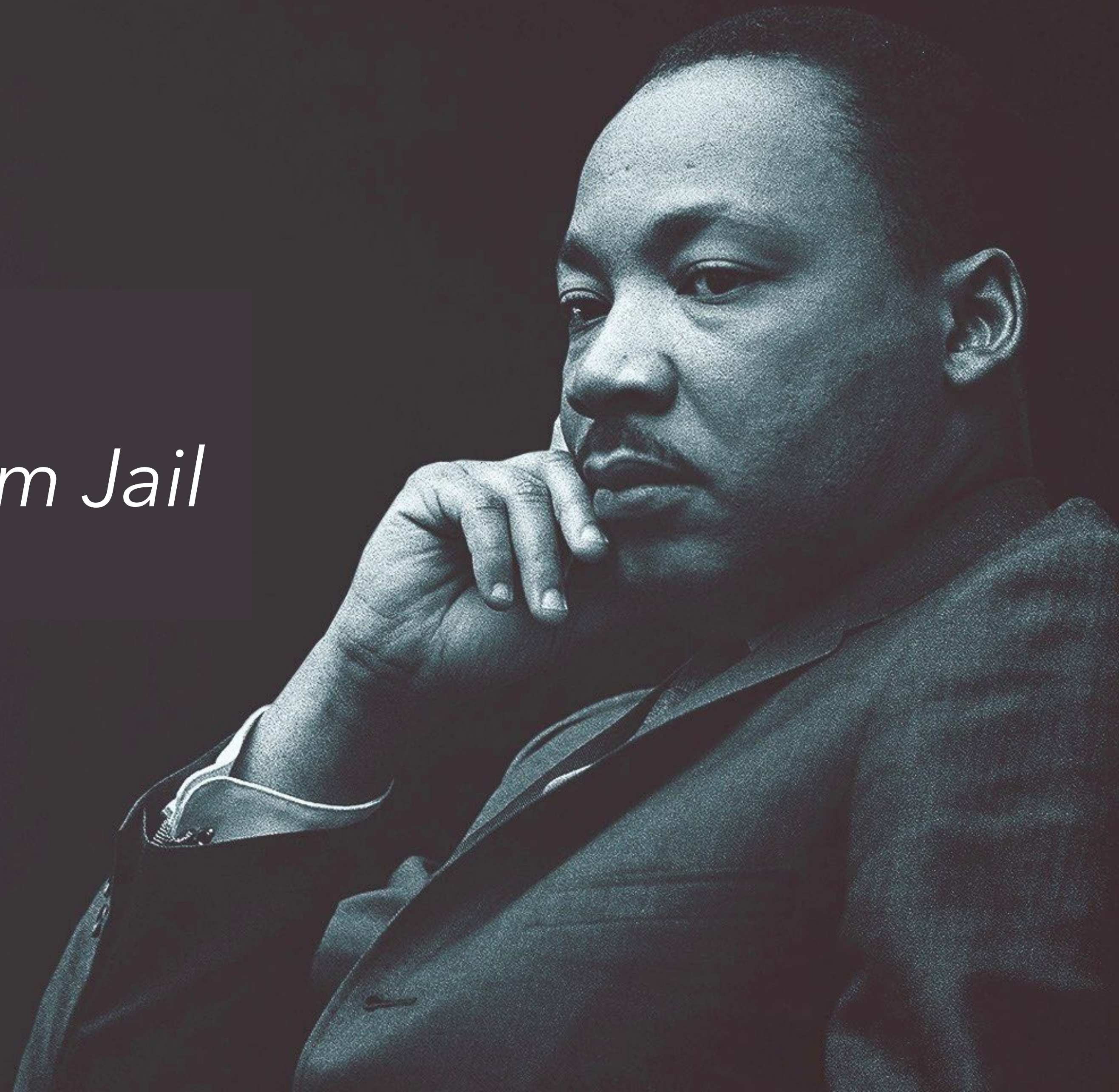
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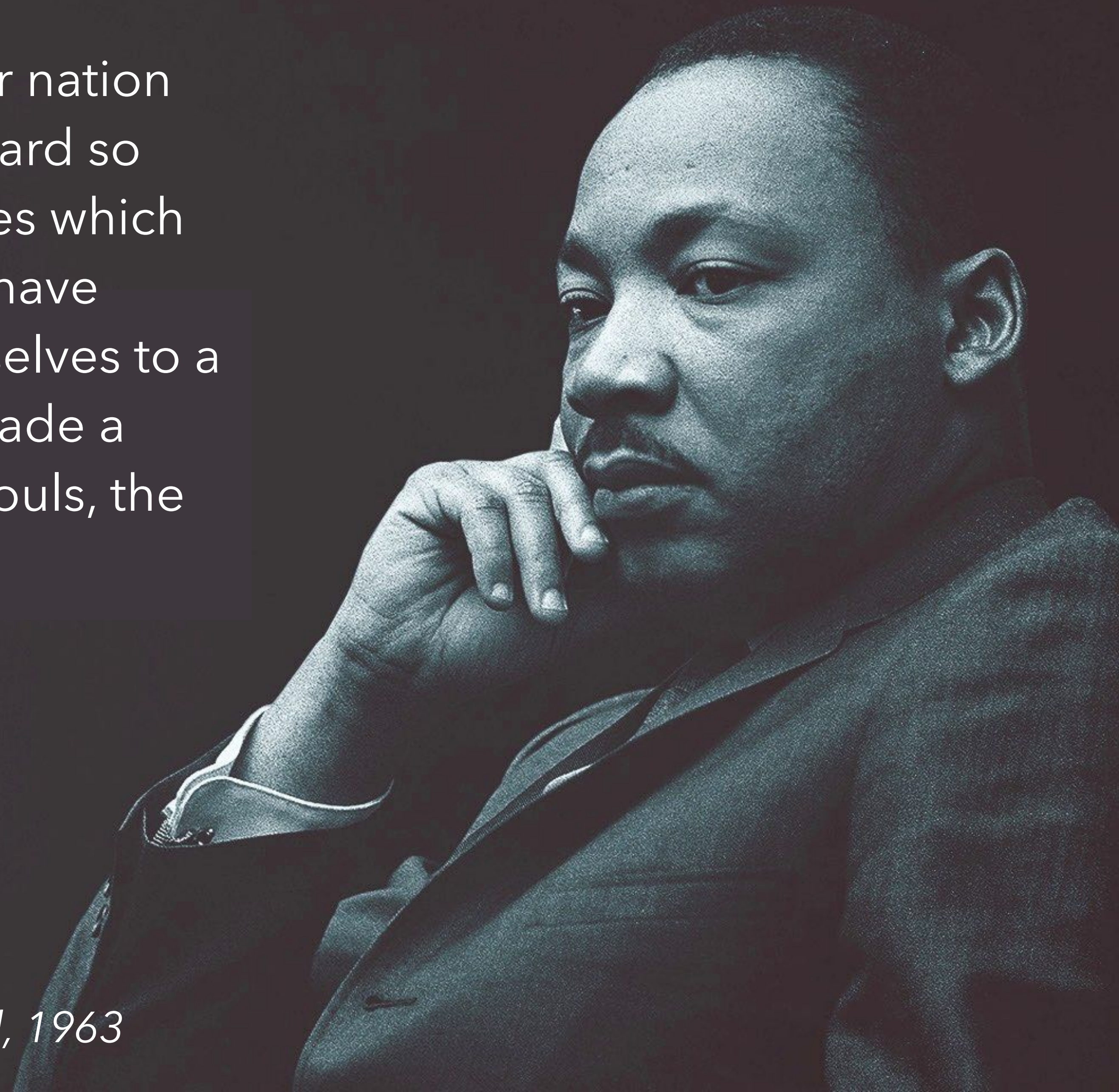
*Martin Luther King Jr.*  
*Letters from Birmingham Jail*  
1963





In the midst of a mighty struggle to rid our nation of racial and economic injustice, I have heard so many ministers say, "Those are social issues which the gospel has nothing to do with," and I have watched so many churches commit themselves to a completely otherworldly religion which made a strange distinction between bodies and souls, the sacred and the secular.

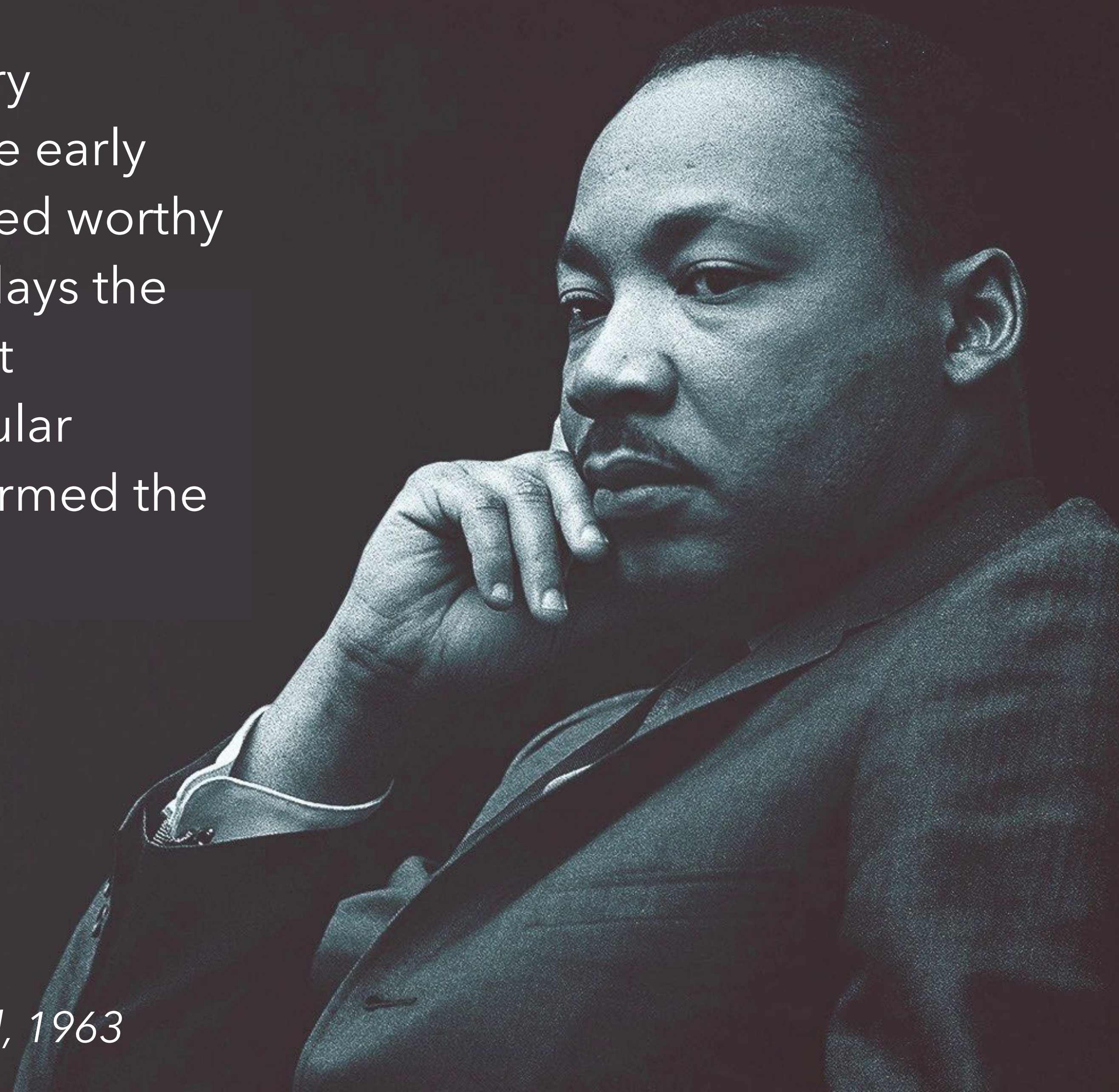
*Martin Luther King Jr, Letters from Birmingham Jail, 1963*





There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period that the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was the thermostat that transformed the mores of society.

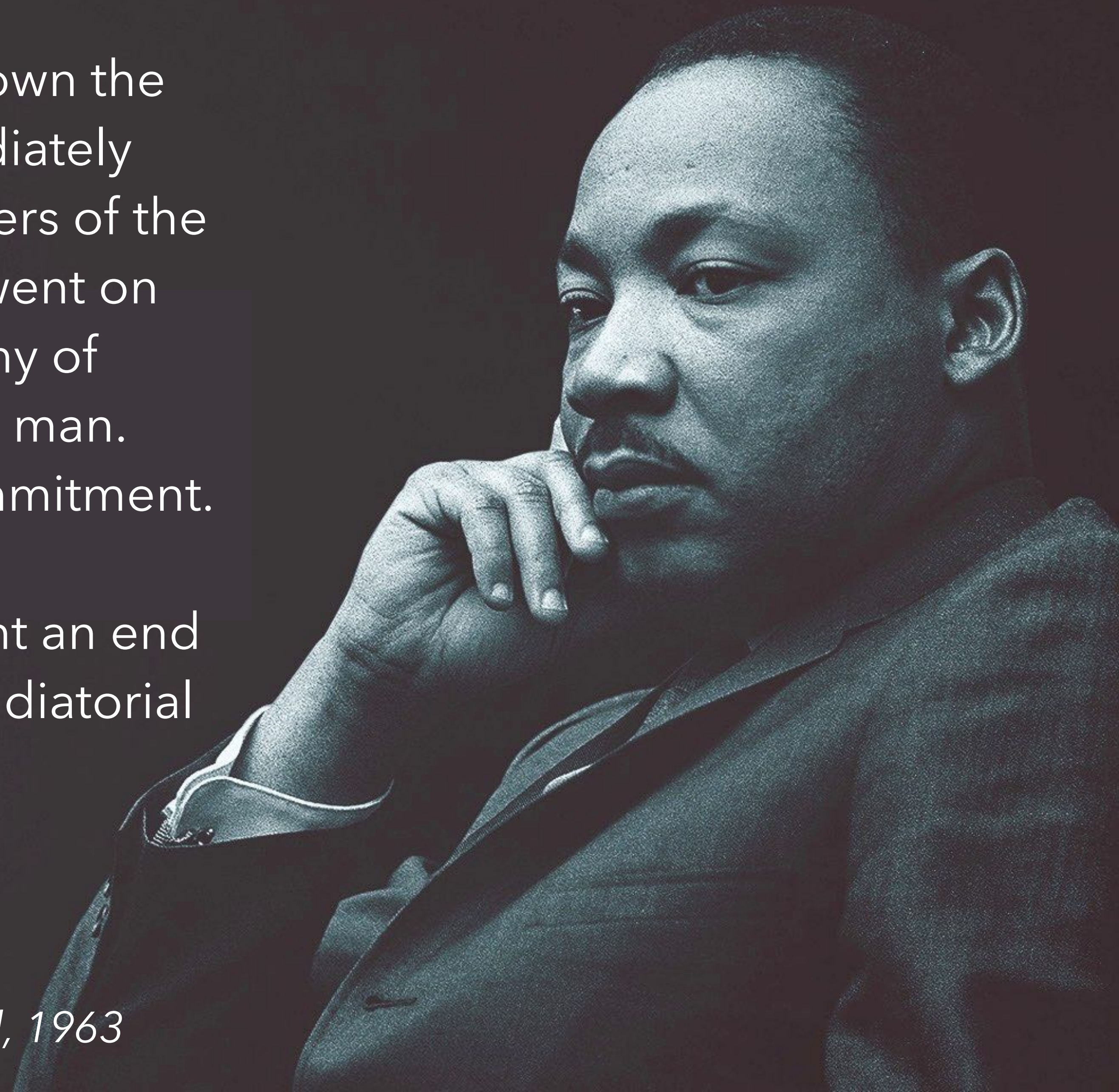
*Martin Luther King Jr, Letters from Birmingham Jail, 1963*





Wherever the early Christians entered a town the power structure got disturbed and immediately sought to convict them for being "disturbers of the peace" and "outside agitators." But they went on with the conviction that they were "a colony of heaven" and had to obey God rather than man. They were small in number but big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be "astronomically intimidated." They brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contest.

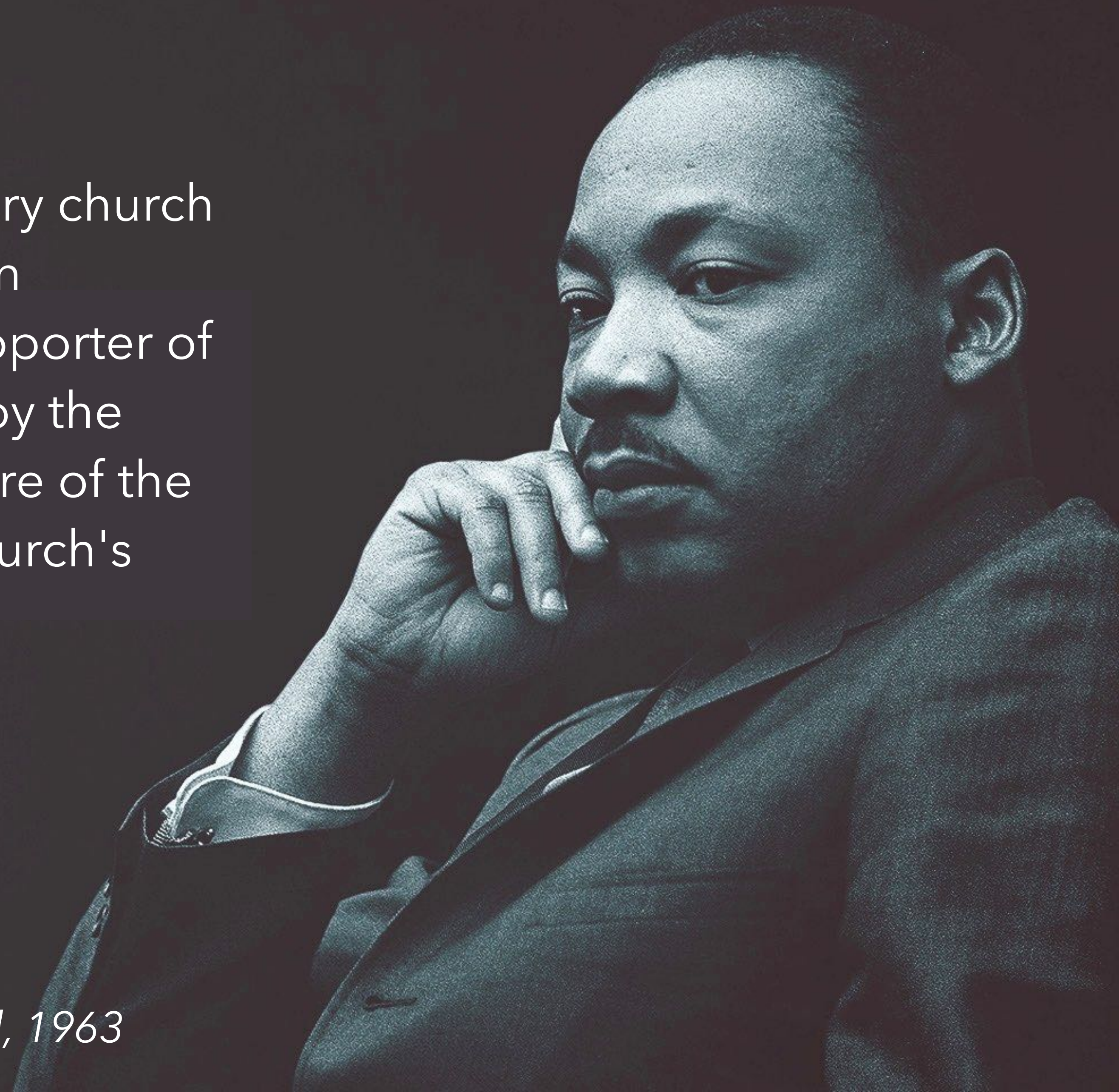
*Martin Luther King Jr, Letters from Birmingham Jail, 1963*





Things are different now. The contemporary church is so often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's often vocal sanction of things as they are.

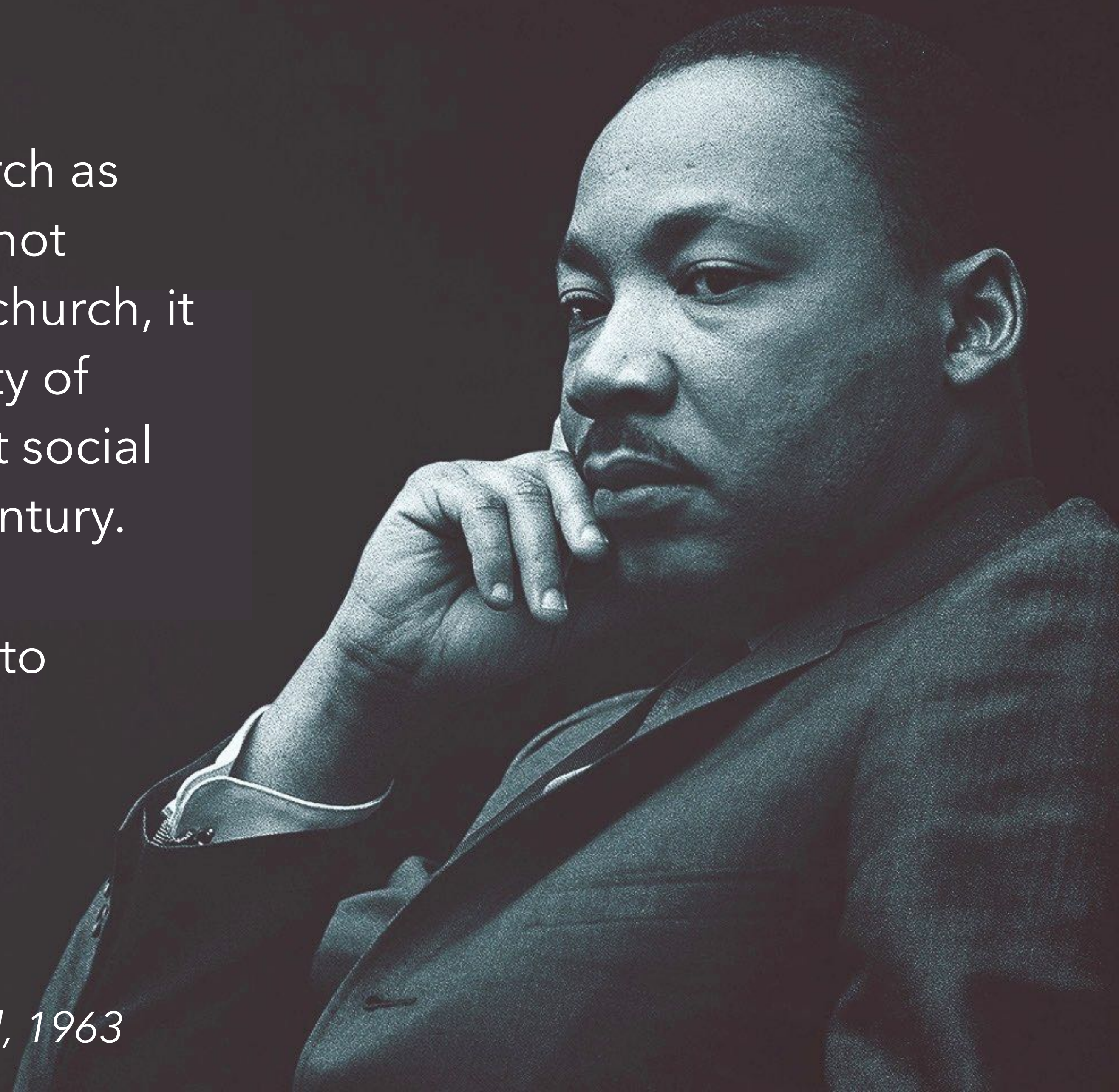
*Martin Luther King Jr, Letters from Birmingham Jail, 1963*





But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. I meet young people every day whose disappointment with the church has risen to outright disgust.

*Martin Luther King Jr, Letters from Birmingham Jail, 1963*









I've been  
created to bring  
God's Kingdom  
from heaven to  
earth

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

Ephesians 2.8-10 NIV 1984

So it's  
important for me  
to live as my God-  
made (not  
genetically  
modified) self

I've been given  
Jesus' authority to  
change the world

and I've been  
sent to a specific  
people and place to  
see this happen



# Own Your Vocation

I am a shepherd.

i have a staff.

I have sheep.

I am a pastor.

I have a pulpit.

I have a people.



# Bless Your Flock

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

““The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.””

“So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Numbers 6:24-27

God’s desire was to bless His people

The way He did it was through the blessing of Aaron



# Bless Your Flock

This act of blessing was meant to be extended from the children of Israel to the children of all the nations.

This is our privilege today!

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.

Genesis 12:1-3



# Blessing and Praying for Your Flock

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

““The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.””

“So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Numbers 6:24-27

Guard over you

Smile at you and pour unmerited favor upon you

Shalom = physical, social, psychological and spiritual well-being, tranquility, health, harmony, prosperity and security



# Blessing and Praying for Your Flock

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6.9-10

This involves our asking God what He wants to do



# Blessing and Praying for Your Flock

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Romans 14.17

One way of understanding the Kingdom of God is that it should manifest itself as:

- righteousness
  - integrity
  - people be seen as created in God's image and treated justly
  - each person be given equal opportunity
- shalom
- joy - hope and fullness

The spiritual, relational and moral climate of a place and people are changed through our prayer, blessing and through our modeling



# Bless people and be a blessing (Testimonies)



The Lord bless you and keep  
you;

the Lord make his face shine  
on you and be gracious to  
you;

the Lord turn his face toward  
you and give you shalom.

Numbers 6:24-27

May your will be  
done, on earth as it is  
in heaven.

Matthew 6.9-10

Righteousness,  
shalom and joy in  
the Holy Spirit

Romans 14.17



[illegible]

I need the blessing  
of God in my life

Lord,  
strengthen my  
foundations in the  
places and with the  
people you've  
called me to



Lord, bless my  
people and my  
place!

May your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

# Righteousness, shalom and joy in the Holy Spirit

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you shalom.