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## **Community Restoration According to the Bible**

**By: Jimey Grant**

### **The Mirage of Political Salvation**

As we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr with Black History Month just around the corner, the air is thick with the usual political rhetoric. From the neighborhoods of the northside of Lafayette, Louisiana, to the African American ghettos across the nation, the conversation often defaults to a lack of government funding, systemic barriers, and political advocacy. While I respect the monumental effort of Dr. King's career and the legal chains he helped break, we must confront a hard truth that politics refuses to acknowledge: Politics cannot make a man "better."

We have spent over a century marching, protesting, and voicing opinions over microphones, yet the core of the struggle remains. From a societal perspective, the deepest problems in the African American community are not merely political. They are ethical and generational. According to the bible, the fundamental issue is not a lack of civil rights; it is the presence of sin and the rejection of personal accountability.

## **Infrastructure vs. The Intellect**

There is a prevailing myth that "better buildings" create better people. We are told that if we improve the roads, the infrastructure, and the physical surroundings of our communities, the behavior of the people will follow. However, the bible teaches us in Proverbs 4:23 to "keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." No amount of municipal funding can fix a broken heart or a distorted mindset. You can build a million-dollar facility, but if the people that are entering it are still bound by a victimhood mindset, the facility will eventually reflect the chaos of its occupants. Order is not an external gift from the government; it is an internal fruit of the holy spirit. Infrastructure does not make an impact on how a man thinks or acts—only a transfigured mind (Romans 12:2) can do that.

## **The Law of Individual Accountability**

We must be bold enough to speak the truth regarding the system. While it is true that there are underlying systems that have placed drugs, alcohol, and violence in our communities, we must look at the word of God pertaining to this matter. Galatians 6:7-8 says "Do not be deceived God cannot be mocked whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap. In 2026, no governmental agency, gang, or network puts a gun to a man's head and forces him to get high or live the gangster lifestyle pushed by modern media. We must stop putting the blame on the system and the government and start looking in the mirror and begin to start judging the everyday decisions that we are making. We cannot hide our choices behind the brokenness of our communities, for the Word of God reveals that every secret intent is uncovered and exposed in his presence. True accountability begins when we realize that despite the pressures of the system, the final verdict rests on our individual response, as we each prepare to give a personal account of our journey to the creator.

## **The Ethical Turning Point**

Tonight, after you read this message, I challenge you to look at your neighbor and say one word: Decisions. We must stop putting the blame on the government and start looking at the decisions we make in the quiet of our own homes. What decisions are you making that have kept you in the situation you are in? The best investment you can ever make is not in a political candidate, but in personal development and spiritual alignment. This is the renewing of the mind that The Apostle Paul talked about in Romans chapter 12 verse 2. If we do not detach from the systemic narratives that tell us we are perpetually oppressed, we will never possess the mental territory required to build. The bible says in Deuteronomy chapter 30 and verse 19 that I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, and commands us to "choose life". When a man decides to work on himself, to pursue legal living, and to operate in the "gifts and calling" God has placed on his life, the system loses its power over him and then he begins to operate in the kingdom authority that God bestowed upon Adam.

## **A Final Charge To Communities Nation Wide**

Community restoration does not start at the State Capitol; it starts in the mirror. It starts when the men of our communities decide to break the generational curses of fatherlessness, poverty, and addiction and begin to foster and adopt a spirit of unity through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have marched enough; it is time to Build. We have voiced our opinions enough; it is time to repent and regulate our own lives.

True "Black History" is not just a record of what was done to us, but a testament to what God can do through us when we take accountability for our souls. The only way to change our communities is to change ourselves FIRST. And the only way we can do that is through a relationship with Jesus Christ, some positive decision making, and personal development.