

JUNETEENTH

I was eight years old when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. I remember the day after his death, my Dad coming to my school to pick up me and my three sisters. Violence had erupted in more than 125 American cities across 29 states. Nearly 50,000 federal troops occupied America's urban areas. Many cities were under a curfew and martial law was in effect. I recall being very afraid that African Americans were going to be "round up" and imprisoned. I struggled to understand why African Americans were so hated by others, and I questioned "was I really free?"

Juneteenth is also called Emancipation Day, Freedom Day or Jubilee Day. Juneteenth is the commemoration of June 19, 1865, the day enslaved African Americans in Galveston, TX, learned that they were free. I see Juneteenth as a day for me to remember that freedom is relative in the physical world, but absolute in Jesus. In the physical world, I am not free from sin, sickness, poverty, and the toils of life.

When God talks about total freedom, He means freedom that is not diluted with some bondage. It is a freedom that is not occasional or seasonal but permanent. It is a freedom that cannot be reversed. It is a freedom that no man can give except God. Every day in Christ Jesus is Juneteenth for me! I keep my eyes fixed on the prize of being with Christ in Eternity! Amen.

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