



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Dr. Alveda King and Her Family's Legacy

Guest(s): Dr. Alveda King

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- Dr. James Dobson: Welcome, everyone, to Family Talk. It's a ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute supported by listeners just like you. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and I'm thrilled that you've joined us.
- Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh. You probably know me as the voice of Family Talk, but today you're in for a bit of a treat as I'm now currently sitting in the co-host seat. I'm also a radio host and ordained minister and a published author, and this program is being recorded at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention here in Nashville, Tennessee. We're in the midst of thousands of industry leaders and decision makers within the Christian media community.
- NRB is the world's largest gathering of Christian communicators, and it's a true blessing indeed to be here. Now, my guest today here on the program is someone you may be familiar with, she is Dr. Alveda King. She's the niece of the late Dr. Martin Luther, Jr., also the daughter of the late Reverend Alfred Daniel Williams King, whose family has been integral in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Alveda King is an evangelist, an author and a pro-life advocate. She's also the founder of Speak for Life, helping pro-life advocates to speak for the pre-born, and she's the founder of Alveda King Ministries. I am so honored to be here with you, Dr. Alveda King. Welcome to Family Talk. Dr. Dobson and his wife Shirley, of course, send their regards as well.
- Dr. Alveda King: Hi, Roger, and hello to all the listeners, and it's wonderful to greet you in the name of Jesus. May God bless us as we speak and hear and to use everything that God gives us in a fruitful way.
- Roger Marsh: Amen. Amen to that.
- Dr. Alveda King: Amen.
- Roger Marsh: Many of our listeners, of course, are familiar with your family. They may not be familiar with your personal story. Let's talk about that. The fact that you grew up in the family that you grew up in, that's enough of a legacy in and of itself. But if you can give us the short version of that, for those who don't know.

Dr. Alveda King: If I can do this first, legacy, family is so important to me. Of course, I was born into the same family that birthed to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, and I want to talk about that. But I want to say, 'cause I don't think that people ever hear this part of this testimony, Dr. Dobson and Shirley helped me to raise my children.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: Now, let me tell you how that happened.

Roger Marsh: Okay.

Dr. Alveda King: I'm an old lady now, 73. All of my children are adults, and I have grandchildren. But when I was raising my children, I was at my wit's end. I had six strong-willed children-

Roger Marsh: Ooh, boy.

Dr. Alveda King: ... and now I have 11 strong-willed grandchildren.

Roger Marsh: Oh, no.

Dr. Alveda King: I didn't know how to handle them, and so I followed Dr. Dobson's ministry on the strong-willed child. I learned how to work with them because I had the kind of children, you know the Scripture, spare the rod and spoil the child.

Roger Marsh: Right. Right.

Dr. Alveda King: So I would try to spank them or do all that, and they would cross their arms, "It didn't hurt. It didn't hurt."

Roger Marsh: Yeah. What was that noise?

Dr. Alveda King: So this is what I got. The Bible didn't say hurt the child, kill the child, and if you beat them, it didn't say do it for destructive purposes.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: So I'm going to give you a spanking now and then we're going to sit down and read the Bible and figure out what we both should have been doing and we're going to read it together. So I grew up with my children and now my grandchildren with Dr. Dobson and Shirley's messages and lessons, and so I wanted to say that.

Roger Marsh: Well, thank you.

Dr. Alveda King: Now, to answer being born into what I call a legacy family, every family is a legacy family. God makes no mistakes. So God has put us in the families that God chose for us to be-

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: ... born into. But in my family, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and my daddy, Reverend Alfred Daniel Williams King and their sister, Christine King Farris, brothers and sister. So we were taught to love God. Daddy King was a preacher. His wife's father was a preacher, and his wife's grandfather was a preacher. Daddy King inherited Ebenezer Baptist Church as a pastor from his wife's family, and so I was raised by preachers, business people, creative people, educators and people who were involved in government. So that's who you see before you today. We were taught faith, hope and love-

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: ... to forgive our enemies, and we were taught that of one blood, God made all people to live on the face of the Earth. We are not separate races. My uncle would say, "We must learn to live together as brothers," and I'll add as sisters, "and not perish together as fools."

Roger Marsh: Beautifully put, and so well stated. This living legacy that you have even today, something else you and Dr. Dobson have in common is your commitment to the sanctity of human life.

Dr. Alveda King: Absolutely.

Roger Marsh: You were named one of the 50 greatest pro-life leaders of the last 50 years. You and Dr. Dobson share space on that list. Talk about why the sanctity of life is so important to you, Alveda King. I know you have a story to tell about why the pre-born child is so important as well as the mother of that pre-born child.

Dr. Alveda King: Well, I remember when Dr. Dobson began to get those ultrasound machines, and that was the technology that was being used in medicine, and he launched a whole crusade to put those ultrasounds in so many other places and pregnancy care centers and community places where mothers could see that baby in their stomach. I remember saying, "I wish they had had that ultrasound technology when I had my abortions, because if I had been able to see that ultrasound, I would not have had any abortions."

Roger Marsh: Right.

Dr. Alveda King: I ended up with two abortions and a miscarriage because of damage done to my body. Well, for instance, my mom conceived me, mom and dad in 1950, and mom was a college student. Abortion was illegal, but they were doing D&Cs, procedures to explore if you had a stomach ache.

Roger Marsh: That's what they called it, right?

Dr. Alveda King: That's what they did. So mom wanted to get that exploratory process, 'cause she, "If I am pregnant, I don't know what to do." My granddaddy, she and her mother, Big Mama Bessie, went to their pastor. Mom and dad were engaged to be married. They got married before I was born, actually. But granddaddy said, "That's an abortion. You can't do that. That's my granddaughter. She has bright skin and bright red hair, and she's going to bless many people." Now prophetically, that was my prophetic ultrasound.

Roger Marsh: Oh, that's wonderful.

Dr. Alveda King: So the ultrasound, of course, has saved many, many babies since those times and those days. I repented in 1983 and received Jesus Christ not as granddaddy's God or Daddy's or Uncle M.L.'s God, Mama's, Jesus became my Lord in 1983. So I realized my whole worldview changed according to the Bible, "Choose life so that you and your children can live." My whole mindset changed in '83, so where I had supported women's rights, which included abortion prior to that had been elected to public office on various platforms, I said, "No, this is a human being. Regardless of skin color, regardless of community, regardless if it's a boy or girl, it's a human being." From that day on, '83 till today, I have shared the message with Dr. Dobson, supported the ultrasound ministry, the pregnancy care centers, the elect people who believe in human life from the womb to the tomb and beyond, that philosophy came... really, lights came on the moment I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

Roger Marsh: Dr. Alveda King, you mentioned your time spent serving in the state legislature in state of Georgia. It was a tough time for a lot of people, especially for those in the Christian faith and pro-life community, had you seen it change? I look at the Dobbs decision, what was your reaction to that when you first... June 24, 2022, what a great day that was for so many people who wanted to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. What was your initial reaction?

Dr. Alveda King: One of my granddaddy, Daddy King's favorite Scriptures was "write the vision and make it plain so that those who see it can run with it, and truth has to be told." The Bible talks about generations to come, teach your children and your children's children and your children's children's children. So moving forward, if truth is not told in every generation, every decade and on every platform, people forget. So when we look at the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, the *Dobbs* case, it didn't just happen overnight.

Roger Marsh: Right.

Dr. Alveda King: It didn't just happen in a vacuum or anything like that. There were years and years of people proclaiming gospel truth that human life is sacred. When we forget to proclaim that truth, then people forget, and so that's when bad things happen. There's a Scripture, when bad things happen, it's because good people

do nothing. I have a saying, when peripherals collide, convergence is imminent. That can be for good or bad. When a lot of bad things happen, they all come together and they make up evil. But when people do what's right, trust each other, love each other, repent, ask for Jesus to come into their lives, then whatever our gifts and talents happen to be, they can become useful when we serve each other and we serve God.

So understanding that, I can take no credit really for the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, but I could take credit, we all can. Because everyone who prayed, "God, that's a bad law. Fix it." We all together, our prayers, our efforts, our governmental efforts, our serving efforts, our protests in front of those abortion mill efforts, those were needed too. When you put all of that together, then you see hearts change. I'm so excited to be at NRB, and that's where we are recording this. I'm seeing so many young people.

Roger Marsh: Yes.

Dr. Alveda King: Without the young and without their voices and the technology, then we can't do it. I would say to people not to be afraid in this space. That's my song, Occupy. In the spaces in between, don't be afraid. Satan has a title, prince of the power there, but it's just the title. Jesus has all authority. He has given us authority. He says, "Occupy till I come," and He's given us authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, "Do not fear. Fear not."

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: Knock out the uncircumcised Philistines.

Roger Marsh: I love it. That's exactly where we need to be. You talked about how Dr. Dobson helped you with your six kids, and now your 11 strong-willed-

Dr. Alveda King: Grandkids.

Roger Marsh: ... grandkids.

Dr. Alveda King: Yeah.

Roger Marsh: Oh, my goodness, and good for you, lots of copies of *The Strong-Willed Child*.

Dr. Alveda King: Still, and it's so relevant right this minute.

Roger Marsh: It is.

Dr. Alveda King: Yeah.

Roger Marsh: It is. It's perfect. When you were younger, think about when you were born, the Civil Rights Movement was in full swing when you were in those very

impressionable years, middle school, what was that like at home? What was it like hearing the conversations behind the scenes that we didn't see? We saw the marches, we saw the protests, we didn't hear the strategy sessions, especially-

Dr. Alveda King: I learned the truth of those strategy sessions the hard way when my uncle, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed. Well, let's go back to 1963 before that. That was '68. So we were in Birmingham, Alabama, and Birmingham was often called Bombingham because there was a lot of anarchy and bombings and hates over skin color in Birmingham, and our home was bombed. It was the night before Mother's Day in 1963. Daddy was working on his sermon. Mama was setting the table. The children had already been put to bed. My brother was in the middle of the house. It was a ranch home. He was watching a war movie, and he had fallen asleep on the couch, and the bombs were going off on the TV.

Daddy gets up, Holy Spirit inspired, I believe, walks to the front. He looks at my mother who's standing looking out the picture window, and the window had begun to crack. Dad said, "Let's get out of here. It's too quiet." He takes mom either by the hand or picked her up, there's two stories on that, I don't know. But they get to the middle of the house, the whole front of the house explodes. There were two bombs. First they cracked the window. Holy Spirit had sent Daddy to get mother. He gets to the middle of the house, the whole front of the house blows up.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Dr. Alveda King: So what I remember from that, they were trying to kill my uncle, Martin Luther King, Jr., who usually stayed in our guest room, but God had sent him away. He didn't spend the night in that room that night.

Roger Marsh: Interesting. Interesting.

Dr. Alveda King: So Daddy gets out on a car because the outside agitators, and that's people who are paid to go into a community and stir up anarchy in times of fear and distress, so they were there, and then the residents of the community had come out of their home. So all of a sudden, people were flooding the streets. They were trying to turn the cars over, Molotov cocktails stuff and starting fires and things. So Daddy stands on the car. I don't remember if he had a bullhorn or not, but I remember him saying, "Wait a minute! Wait a minute! No, no! If you have to hit somebody, hit me. My family and I are okay. Please go home and pray. Please go home and pray." The residents who knew us heard that, they went home.

So all the people who were causing the ruckus were left out there, and so daddy quelled that storm and asked people to go home and pray. I remember that. Then in '68, by then the movement of Black power and women power and free

love and all that was going on, Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed. I remember saying to my dad, he was grieving, I didn't think about that, he was about to take my uncle's widow to get the body, and I said, "Daddy, I hate white people. I hate white people, daddy, I hate..." "Alveda, you can't hate white people. White people pray with us. White people live with us. White people work with us. White people go to jail with us. White people die with us. White people didn't kill my brother. White people didn't kill your uncle, the devil did." He said, "Of one blood, God made all people-

Roger Marsh: Amen. Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: ... to live together on the face of the earth, has nothing to do with skin color. It has to do with the human heart." So that was a hard lesson, but I remember Daddy doing that. I remember my grandfather saying, "Serve and serve God and serve each other." I remember my uncle talking about love, and my daddy, it made me believe Jesus Christ was real, that Jesus walked on water and turned the water to wine. That's why today I'm able to forgive quickly and keep living.

Roger Marsh: That's so important for people to hear. You mentioned the agitators who'd come into certain areas. I don't think people realize-

Dr. Alveda King: They don't understand.

Roger Marsh: ... how many paid actors are the ones who show up. We think those are the citizens of the town.

Dr. Alveda King: Why are the people burning up their own house?

Roger Marsh: Exactly. Exactly.

Dr. Alveda King: Why would you?

Roger Marsh: We understand the passion, we understand the frustration, but we don't understand the destruction.

Dr. Alveda King: That's right.

Roger Marsh: I think the beauty of what your uncle and your father instilled in you, and now the ministry you carry on with Alveda King Ministries is that heart for saying, "Look, we want to tell the truth-

Dr. Alveda King: Yes.

Roger Marsh: ... what's really happening."

Dr. Alveda King: Yes.

Roger Marsh: It's beautiful to see how God has used all of those moments in your life. What would you say now to the younger generation who's coming up and saying, "Well, Dr. King, with all due respect, you don't know what it's like to be young and Black in America in 2024?" Which is, it's 60 years removed. You've got a lot of wisdom to share with younger people who are seeing injustices-

Dr. Alveda King: Right.

Roger Marsh: ... and wondering, "Okay, what's a Godly response?" What would you tell them?

Dr. Alveda King: I have that beautiful opportunity with my own children and own grandchildren, "It's hopeless. The world is terrible. You don't see anything. You don't know that." I say, "Yes, I know that, and yet I am determined to always overcome evil with good." When we talk to the young people like that, that's where their hope comes from. Then we have to remind the young, and when I say the young, that's even the little babies now almost into preteens all the way up, they don't know their history.

Roger Marsh: I'm talking with Dr. Alveda King today here on the special edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, reminiscing, looking forward to the future and moving forward now, you've mentioned the legacy that Dr. Dobson has had in helping you. Can you just briefly touch on that for just a moment?

Dr. Alveda King: When I sit and think about Dr. Dobson and Shirley, that whole legacy and that family, the days that I studied about the strong-willed child with six children of my own with strong wills and now 11 grandchildren, and I talk to all of my children often, and they say, "Mom, we just still think you're great. You've taught us so much." One other thing, during that same time period with Dr. Dobson, Integrity Music had done a series on Bible music and it sang the Scriptures, "Continually, continually." So I played that in my home and in my car and in the music environment. My children always say now they're playing scripture music to their children.

Roger Marsh: Love it.

Dr. Alveda King: So it's important when we train up a child in the way that child should go, when the child is mature, the child will not depart, come back to it. I did, I certainly did, and my children and grandchildren are doing that. There is something that's occurring right now here in 2024, and I was so amazed by it, the fights over the national anthem. Colin Kaepernick knelt a while back and everybody thought that was so disrespectful and so terrible. Now there is another anthem Lift Every Voice and Sing, which some call the Black Anthem, Negro Anthem, which was written by a Black Republican in honor of Abraham Lincoln's-

Roger Marsh: Lincoln, right.

Dr. Alveda King: ... birthday-

Roger Marsh: Right. Right.

Dr. Alveda King: ... which is so funny. So now people want to fight, "Well, which anthem?" I said, "Do you ever go to church, and they sing two or three different songs, and do you get in an argument about which song they shouldn't sing?"

Roger Marsh: Yeah. Yeah.

Dr. Alveda King: So we have a national anthem and it says, "Oh, say, can you see?" Well, we better see. We better see the truth. We better remember the beautiful history and all together as Americans sing that song. But I have sung that song, the National Anthem, and then turned right around at the same rallies and Father Frank Pavone and I, for instance-

Roger Marsh: From your Priests for Life days?

Dr. Alveda King: ... from my Priests for Life days, would sing Lift Every Voice and Sing.

Roger Marsh: Oh, I'd love hear that.

Dr. Alveda King: Then we would say, "But we're not singing it over skin color, we're singing it for the babies." So when we find ourselves splintering and arguing, that's strife, and we have to stop it. We can do it if we continue faith, hope, love, repentance, forgiveness, embracing human dignity from the womb to the tomb and beyond. Even those who say, "Oh, well, the best thing to do for abortion right now is to say we'll stop it after six weeks or 20 weeks or something," why argue over weeks? Why not just try to save every life possible without killing anybody and serve the baby and the mother? So when we get bogged into fighting over weeks or now, this one is real crazy, you have to think about this. I pray that your views and listeners pick this up too well. Well, my uncle said, "Hate cannot drive out hate-

Roger Marsh: Right.

Dr. Alveda King: ... only love can do that. Darkness cannot drive out darkness-

Roger Marsh: Only light.

Dr. Alveda King: ... only light can do that." So we admit abortion is evil, so how are we going to use evil abortion to drive out abortion? By making a law of an exception, we're going to take this little bit of evil, we're still going to do it, but it's going to get rid of the other evil. Evil will not get rid of evil. It won't do it. So we have to find ways to serve people with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness from the womb to the tomb and beyond. That includes the mama, the baby, the daddies, the grandparents, the community, and we actually can do it. If we just enforce life-affirming laws that are already on the books, because it's one thing to pass a law, but if the law is never enforced, it won't matter.

Roger Marsh: Amen. Amen. That's powerful testimony. You were talking music earlier, and I was just trying to envision Frank singing Lift Every Voice.

Dr. Alveda King: We would sing it together, hold hands, "Lift very voice and sing..."

Roger Marsh: It's a beautiful hymn.

Dr. Alveda King: It is.

Roger Marsh: I like the Clyburn suggestion of making it a national hymn.

Dr. Alveda King: Don't think about skin color when you sing it.

Roger Marsh: No, no, because-

Dr. Alveda King: Just don't do that.

Roger Marsh: ... it's such a song of unification, overcoming, Christians can relate to it. Everybody should be able to relate to it. Music has that power, and I know that's a huge part of your ministry, Alveda King. Talk about what you've been doing musically, and maybe we can even convince you to sing a little bit.

Dr. Alveda King: I might do that.

Roger Marsh: You just might? Okay.

Dr. Alveda King: Well, one, I started singing it around the late '80s, early '90s. Thank you Lord for saving me. As a matter of fact, I'll just do that one right quick now.

"Thank you, Lord for saving me. Thank you, Lord for saving me. Lord you are my healer and you're my provider. Thank you for supplying all my needs."

Now there's a YouTube video, Alveda King, Thank You, Lord. So you can see that you can occupy until He comes, occupy.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: Jesus said occupy and to overcome. So we occupy and we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony.

Roger Marsh: Our testimony. Yes, those great words from Revelation. Television has been a part of your ministry for a long time. You've been a contributor to Fox & Friends. You've been on Fox Nation with Alveda King's House. You have a brand new talk show that just launched, a television program called The Vision. Take us through what the vision is all about. I understand it really got off to a fantastic start.

Dr. Alveda King: Well, we have a website, thevisiontvshow.com, and on the media drop-down, you can see the first four shows. There's a schedule of 24 of them, and we're still in production. I'm working with Destiny Yarbrough, and we are co-executive producers. My friend Day Gardner, who 10 years ago we did a pilot called The Vision-

Roger Marsh: Really?

Dr. Alveda King: ... we were tired of the secular show, The View. Now we've got The Christian View. It's a good show. It's out there, and there are some other shows, The Christian Vision, all of that. So we have joined that pool of overcoming evil with good with a Christian show, a Bible-based show, and we talk about different topics. We talk about hard topics, raising our children, the abortion issue. We were on with Lance Wallnau, so it's exciting to join Destiny and four other hosts. We rotate as hosts, and we talk about hard issues and fun issues of the day.

Roger Marsh: True renaissance woman, Dr. Alveda King. Alveda King's House has a lot of cooking. That's a big part of your ministry too.

Dr. Alveda King: Absolutely.

Roger Marsh: Why is the culinary so important? I don't think people realize there's a real spiritual connection to preparing food, making meals.

Dr. Alveda King: There's a spiritual connection to the land, to the earth, to the soil. We've got the parables of where seed is sown and it can only grow and prosper and blossom. So we want people to be healthy, whole in spirit, soul and body, and we do that nutritionally as well. Interestingly enough, gardening was always my hobby. But in 2023, I became a certified farmer with the USDA because I would, on Alveda King's House and on my Christmas show with The Vision, and now we are going to do cooking roll-outs, I grow herbs and vegetables in my home garden.

Now we are doing hoop houses with the farm and all of that, teaching people how to return to the earth, to return to the soil and then to cook good nutritious food. I use some of the family recipes in my cookbook as well, and that's a lot of fun. So there's a lot of interest in cooking and also restoring houses too. So we are in a time of restoration, looking for answers, looking for health. So we find it, but we still look for our source and inspiration from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Roger Marsh: It all comes back to that restoration, redemption, reconnection with God. And your ministry in every aspect of it and every language and every expression of it speaks to that. Dr. Alveda King, thank you for your time today. Thank you for being with us and the wonderful ministry that you have and God Bless you from all of us here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. We appreciate you so much.

Dr. Alveda King: Thank you.

“Stand firm. Be Strong. The battle rages on but the victory is won.”

Roger Marsh: Well, that was Dr. Alveda King and her song, “Occupy: A Kingdom Victory Song.” You can find it on YouTube and Spotify. If you want to share today's program with a friend or loved one, simply visit drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. That's drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. Have you heard about our brand-new resource we've developed? Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute? We are Remastering Dr. Dobson's sound, biblically-based transforming truths into 60-second audio messages, or as we like to call them The Dr. Dobson Minute. We pray that these one-minute features, we'll encourage young families and provide them with practical insights to strengthen marriages and help them to be the best parents they can be. Now, if you'd like to explore the archives there or to listen to a sample, go to drdobsonminute.org. That's drdobsonminute.org. I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks so much for making Family Talk a part of your day, and be sure to join us again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer: This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.