

No Fear of the Year

Sermon Title: **No Fear of the Year**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner Jr.**

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word. And this is actually New Year's Eve. It is a special day because today is the day that transitions us chronologically and on the calendar from one season to a next – from one year to the next. So today is a special day on this night of New Year's Eve. And I speak to you tonight from the subject of No Fear of the Year.

A lot of people are concerned about the upcoming year because there is so much doubt and there has been so much news, there are so much on the horizon, there are so much going on right now, there are so many forecast by all of the experts of all the things that are subject to come. That it have a lot of people simply worried about what is coming for the future now. Now, I am just here to tell you upon this day to have no fear for the year. And it is particularly relevant to me because I have two events to deal with. Not just the coming of a New Year but I was born today. Today December 31 is my literal birthday. So for me, not only do I crossover into a New Year, I age another year. And do you know, as we get beyond a certain point, age even becomes a factor.

My wife is telling me recently that she had run into a young lady and the young lady was about to pull her hair out stressing because she was 29 years old and she was getting ready to turn 30. Now, it sounds a little silly to some of you but that is a real crisis point for a lot of people. And they get to a point where a lot – I am getting ready to move into my 30's and I have that sometimes so often that there are points and the same thing happens as you age your divisions, they get smaller. When you are young, you move from 20 to 30 and from 30 to 40 but once you hit 40, 45 is the next barrier. Then there is 50 and that is another barrier of 55 and in the end of 60 and 65 so they squeeze up the older that you get. But I am here to tell you people that I have no fear of the year.

Matthew 18 says, "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." And even as some of you now are dealing with the seasonal crisis and has nothing to do with the year, you are transitioning an age where you are moving from one era to another and this even happens even with the young people. You do not have to be oh to go to midlife crisis.

Now, young people are heavy teenage crisis and it is no longer just isolated to once you get past your mid 40's. It is happening younger and younger and younger. But people, we have to be like a little child even when it comes to the transitioning of a season. Do you know children when you ask them how old they are, and if a child is six or seven or eight and if it is couple away from their birthday, a couple of months away from their birthday, they would said, "I am seven but I am almost eight." The

difference between a child and an adult is this, a child looks forward to get getting older and adult dread it. And it is an inevitable thing people that you will go through seasons in your life and you are going to go through a season where you move from a young to middle age to old to very old. There is no way around it. You cannot stop it. You need to become like a little child and you need to say, "I am getting older." I do not hear anyone when they get past 40 glorify in the fact that they are getting older. But it is unavoidable. You cannot stop it. There is only one way for you to stop getting older so it is an unavoidable thing. You need to become like a little child. And you cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven unless you become like a little child. Children look forward to a new season. Adults dread a new season.

Today is my birthday but I have no fear of the year. People will say, "Well, Pastor you are getting closer to the grave." No, I am not either and that is why you have to be careful and I have it there on the background if you notice no fear of the year, ear is involved, fear and year. It is what you hear and it is what you get. I am not getting closer to the grave. They say, "If you are not getting closer to the grave, then what is happening?" You see, my body maybe getting closer to the grave but I am getting closer to heaven. So it is a matter of how you look at things to – see, this is nothing but a vehicle people. I have had in my lifetime six motorcycles, I have had a dozen cars and three boats. And in everyone of them, out of the six motorcycles that I have had, five of them are gone probably in the junkyard but I am still traveling. Out of the dozen cars that I have had, ten of them are gone probably in the junkyard but I am still driving. Out of the three boats that I have had, two of them are probably somewhere in the junkyard at the bottom of the ocean but I am still floating. See that those are just vehicles. All I am going to do even if I get to be 100 years old and transition, all I am going to do is change the vehicles. And when you go to get you a new vehicle, you are just as happy as you can be to get rid of the old one. You have got to become like a little child even with your seasons of life and not fear the year. So, I have no fear of the year and some of you is not the transitioning of the calendar year that has you worried, that has you stressed out, it is the transitioning of you getting older.

I was in a restaurant today, and they have the television on and because it was the last day of the year, they were flashing all of the folks who died this year. All of he celebrities who died and then they were showing this person and this person did and this person did and this person did and what they would do is they would have their birth year and say all of them died this year. And so there I saw man who died in the year that I was born. And do you know what happens when you see someone die in any of your class? You know what you do mentally and psychologically? You start saying, "What did they do?" You go instantly starting to subtract – they are dead and automatically feels like it pulls you in the grave. That just did and that had nothing to do with me. You have to realize that you cannot have a fear of the year and live in the kingdom of heaven.

There was part of the psychological makeup that you have to look forward until tomorrow. No matter what, you have to look forward to tomorrow. I am getting older and I am just as glad as I can be. Now, I am going to have to be more cautious, I am getting older but I have to be more cautious. I will have to give this cake away to somebody getting into that. I know I have not opened the box but I know what is in it. It is a very delicious moist super good German chocolate cake. It is good but my body cannot have it right now. See, I am just as happy as I can be to be getting older but I realized I am getting more into a vintage vehicle and this I cannot now at this age what I can do at 20. I realized that so you got to have something and see, you also have to know even though I am older now, I am wiser, I have far more experience but I do not have a resistance against that German chocolate cake. I am just as bad as a teenager with it. And if I bring it home, I am going to eat every crumb of it.

I know my strengths and my weaknesses and you know, that is one of the things that age should give you is some wisdom. There are some things people you all have and you do not need to bring home with you. Now, that has got some multiple meanings but some of you all got some themes and you do not need to bring it home with you. Because if you bring it home with you, you are not going to be able to resist it and it is going to get you in trouble. So even as you age, you are to grow in wisdom. You are to grow in grace, you are to grow in temper, you are to grow with all of these stuffs and you should have no fear of the year because I am getting closer to heaven without question. I am not getting closer to the grave. So I look forward to every single year that rolls around because there is no alternative.

And what happens even as people change season is it is a statistical fact that more people would die within three months after their birthday than any other time. There is a part that once they get at a certain age – it gets us worrying folk. People, you do not to have a fear of the year and you do not have to let anybody ever place into your ear about you getting old because that is a blessing. That is why the bible says honor thy mother and thy father that thy day shall be upon the land that the Lord. So it is a blessing and every year that you are on this planet, it is a blessing. So you are a glory and thank God every time you birthday comes around, you are to praise God. And when you have that sense of thankfulness, it changes how you look life and it will help you to actually even live longer.

And the other thing that we are often fear about the year especially this particular year that is coming up because there are some tough things. We had so many beautiful testimonies tonight just dealing with how God has delivered and protected and cared for people. But we see, a lot of it is economic and we see what happening in the economy and we know without question that next year in all probability is going to have some tough times without question. But yet God has brought us through the past. He has brought us through the day and he is going to bring us to

the future. I have no fear of the year. It is the same God yesterday, today and forever. He is the same God that has protected you through some stuff. I just have no fear of the year. Yes, there are some stuffs that is going to come the next year and without question, it maybe some rough stuff.

I got an email yesterday that was interesting. Actually written by someone who attends here with the arc and it was a commentary on a Mountain Wings issue that I have written called Winter is Coming and it made me think. And basically, what the email said was this that people are like trees and there are two basic types. There is the type called the deciduous tree and there is a type called the evergreen. The difference between the deciduous tree is a deciduous tree, when the weather gets cold, it will lose all of its leaves and beauty. An evergreen tree no matter what the weather is, it will maintain its greenery and maintain its beauty. Now which one are you? Are you are a deciduous tree? Are you an evergreen tree? And as she made that analogy, it got me to thinking that this is the way the future will be even within the church.

There are some of us that when stuff gets cold, when things get tight, when money run short, when relationships do not go like we want to, when we feel a little pain in our body, some of us will lose all of our crowning glory. We lose our joy, we lose our smile, and we lose our testimony to the world because we let the outside weather change us into what it is and instead of what he is. But when you are evergreen – do you know a pine tree will be green if it is ten feet of snow outside? It maintains its greenery regardless of the situations. A pine tree has no fear of the year. A Christian ought to be the same.

Also on the news as I was sitting there in that restaurant was on all of this stuff that is now happening over in Israel with the rockets going. Look, Jesus told you. He told you in the Word. He said in Matthew 24, he said, “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning or sorrows.” I will tell you, more likely, that is going to be a big disaster that is going to hit the US next year. Jesus said these things are coming but he says, “See to it that you are not troubled.” Do not worry about this. If you are going to turn on your television one day and you are going to see some awful stuff happening, Jesus says, “See to it,” turn to the person next to you and tell him, “See to it that you are not troubled.”

So when you see all of this stuff going on around you and you are going to look and you will hear other people go, “Oh, what is going to happen now?” See to it that you are not troubled. These things must come. So, you got these wars, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, famine have to come which means people are going to starve. There is going to be economic collapse, there is going to be economic

calamity, there is going to be all of this stuff that is going to happen with money that is all a part of that famine. He says pestilences will come that means mass disease, and insects and all of this kind of stuff and earthquakes. All of this stuff – Jesus said that this stuff must come. But he says see to it that you are not troubled. So, whenever you see this stuff, you got to let the stuff go into your ear that I am not going to let this stuff worry me. I am not going to let it bother me because Jesus told me not to let it bother me. People there have so many marvelous opportunities for stuff to bug you. Do you understand what I mean? There are so many marvelous opportunities for stuff to really worry you starting from little stuff. A lot of you had been dealing with little stuff. Next, he does a good possibility. It is going to be some big stuff. If you have not learned how to master the little stuff, how in the world are you going to handle the big stuff? So there is likely to be some big stuff but Jesus say make sure that you do not let this stuff bother you.

We were in the Dominican Republic not too long ago. I was reading a book and he book was called The Crash of 1929. And I wanted to understand all of the factors that made the great depression happen and what people did, who prospered in it and what people did, who got messed up in it. So, it is good to study history. Did not know how to avoid some of the pit falls of it. And I was telling James about that. I was talking all of the stuff of The Crash of '29 and the stuff that happened in the '29. And he asked me, he said, "How long ago was that book written?" I said, "I think it was written about 30 years or so ago." He said, "30 years? They knew about these 30 years ago?" I said, "What do you mean?" He says, "They knew about that—" I said, "No, I am not talking about 2009. I am talking about 1920." He said, "Oh, I thought you were talking about 2009." You see, they are the same number, The Crash of 1929 and next year.

So, there is good possibility that we would go through some economic trembles and some economic trials next year. But turn to the person next to you, even if your money gets funny, do not let it trouble you. Do not let it trouble you people even if your money gets funny, do not let it trouble you. When you can get to the point – and you have them and that is why God has me teaching this series on miracle money so that we can get prepared just like when we have to deal with that cake. I got one cake. James brought me two potato pies. And he says the potato pies are the best potato pies he has ever had in his whole life. He brought me two big potato pies.

Now, I know the cake is awesome. I have no question about that but the problem is even though I am not going to worry about some things, it does not me at the food and there is a big difference. And so there are some stuff I know that if I partake of it, I will have some issues with somebody's stuff. I told James I said, "No, I cannot bring that stuff in the house because by bringing it in the house, I am going to have some issues with it." What I am trying to tell you is the things that are beyond your control, do not worry about it but the things that are within your control, deal with

it. Do you understand the difference in that? So I am not going to say, I will just take this juicy cake. Give me those three pies and just enjoy myself. No, I am saying do not worry about stuff that is in your power. There is a lot of stuff that you do not need to take home with you.

One of the ladies who made a testimony tonight, one of the thing she said, she says, "I do not take my work home with me." And I know what that meant. Some of you even take your work home with you. You come home mad and taken all of this stuff, you need to know what you do not need to bring into your house. So I am not telling you do not worry about stuff that you can control, do not worry about stuffs that you cannot control. The earthquake, you cannot control tsunami, you cannot control the hurricane, none of these stuff you can do anything about. You cannot do anything about those wars over in the Mid-East, you cannot do a thing about the terrorist, you cannot do anything about his ball or anybody else. You cannot do anything about any of that stuff. The stuff that you cannot do a thing, I cannot do anything about that man who died in the same year he did. I cannot do anything about any of that stuff. And people, if I cannot do anything about it, I am not going to worry about it. It is not going to worry the past. I can tell you that but there are things within my control, within my grip that I can do something about and I can tell you right now, if I have eaten those two pies and this cake, that is going to do more damage to me than how much you have blown up the bill is.

Do you understand what I am talking about? See, this are some stuffs in your own world that you have control over but you should have no fear of the year. So, you will hear all of this stuff that is coming and it is coming. If you watched the news, you are going to see it over and over because it is going to go in your ear. And the more the stuff goes in your ear, the more fear that it produces about what is coming for the future. But it does not have to come naïve. And even if some of it does come naïve, you have to keep your mind focused on the blessing that you have. The fact that you still have your health, the fact that you still have your strength, the fact that you still – my father always use to say hope is the greatest things. He said a man who has hope has everything. So, if you let anything in life take your hope away, you have let the stuff defeat you. So people, as you move through seasons, as you start seeing gray hairs pop up in your head, it is a new season but have no fear of the year. It is blessing and that is why I have. I am looking forward until tomorrow. I am looking forward to the day when I turn 55. I am looking forward to the day when I turn 75. I am going to look forward to that day when I turn 95 and then if I hit 105, but if I do not, I am not worried about it because I am not going to the grave anyhow. I have no fear of the year and now does should you.

People, Jesus told you, do not worry about anything as long as you have food and clothing. You see that God can clothe the birds of the field and the lilies, how much more will he do for you? And he says take no fear for tomorrow because the day has enough trouble enough of its own. So turn to the person next to you one more time

and say, "See to it that you do not worry." People, I want you to have a good year. I want you to have a great year. I want you to have a year joyous and filled with hope, with peace and you can without question. But you cannot have fear of the year because there is something about fear that draws the very thing to you that you are afraid of. Here is one of the things that people in law enforcement will tell you, criminals, they pray on full who are scared. There is something about it. They can feel it that you have fear and whatever you fear, you automatically will draw it into your world. I have no fear of the year. Next year is going to be awesome. It is going to be awesome and I cannot hardly wait to get in to next year.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word and we will see you next year.