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Speaker: Nathaniel Bronner.

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the word. And we have been focusing here for quite awhile on Hebrews 11:6 which reads, "But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he who comes to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seeking." And I want to talk for a few minutes today on the subject of the diligent seeker, the diligent seeker. He is a rewarded of those who diligently seek him, but what does it mean to be a diligent seeker? Everyone wants the reward. Everyone wants to be rewarded, but God he classifies who he rewards. This is those who diligently seek me. The dictionary defines diligence as constant in effort to accomplish something, alternative and persistent in doing anything done or pursued with persevering attention, pain stick.

I want you to ask yourself two questions. Number one, do you want to be rewarded? Just turn to the person next to you and just ask him, "Do you want to be rewarded?" Now sometimes you may think that's a silly question, but I've learned in life that's like Jesus asking me, "Do you want to be well? Do you want to be healed?" The man had healed and all. I'm not sure that some folk even want to be rewarded. There sometimes inner things within us from our past that make us feel ashamed and unworthy and undeserving and because of that I've seen people that no matter what you try to give them they would destroy it, because deep down they don't feel they deserve it. They don't feel they even deserve the reward. So that may seem like a silly question but in truth it's not and you have to really ask yourself, "Do I really truly want to be rewarded?"

So if you truly want to be rewarded, now as for me, I want to be rewarded. I want everything God has for me. I want the whole ball of wax. I don't want any plug missing out of my ball of wax, I want the whole thing. So I want to be rewarded. Second question, are you diligently seeking God? Are you diligently seeking God? Now there are levels of diligence. Many of you here are in the middle of 42 at do42.com. It's a program that we do twice a year here with the Ark and around the world, but yesterday for me, I finish the seven days of water.

Now I started my seven days of water because I always start on the evening of the first, so I always start generally at sun down. So I started my seven days of worth at 7:47 P.M. So, I started it at 7:47 on Saturday so it may not get eat at 7:47 the next Saturday. So at six o'clock I was there at the health food store at the salad bar preparing my salad just -- I was picking it, I couldn’t eat it yet because I had another -- almost two hours ago, but I was fixing my stuff and preparing, I was getting ready to eat. I hadn’t anything but water for seven days I was getting ready. You see I was diligent in making sure I have my food when 7:47 came. So I packed up my food and actually drove over to my mother’s house and I sat there on her couch, and she was there in the dinner and I was just with my -- so I'm getting ready to eat. I got about another 45 minutes and I'll be able to eat. I was kind of tired because I've been working all day long, so I just lay and I started to sleep and I
woke up, and then I check my clock it was 7:55. I say, "Oh, eight minute past when I can eat."

Now the point is this, I was diligent about making sure I was going to eat when I could eat because I was hungry. I wasn’t that hungry to be honest about it, once you go past a certain amount, you lose your appetite, you’re not really that hungry but you want to eat. There is something in your mind that says, "You can eat now," and I’m going to eat and I wouldn’t go waste a single minute of it. I was diligent in making sure I had that food. How many of us are that hungry for God? How many of us said -- three hours I needed to get to church, "Oh, do you know in two more hours it's prayer time?" How many of us are that diligent? How many of us are really hungry for God? I mean how many truly thirst when Jesus says, "You know hunger and thirst." How many of us really, really have an appetite where we can say that we are diligent truly diligent for God?

This is a brother point. We are driven to diligence by either desire or duty and for the most part, most people serving God is not a natural desire. We are driven to diligence by either desire or duty and for most people serving God is not a natural desire. That’s something that pastor should know, isn’t it? God had always has to command folk, put restrictions on them, lock on them all kinds of stuff to get him to obey and serve God. It’s not a natural desire. The natural desire is of the flesh. The natural desire is of sin. The natural desire is really not to do what God wants us to do that’s why he had to put so many rules and restrictions. To be honest about it a natural man is a mess, it’s a natural man just doing what he want to do and what he felt like doing.

Can you imagine, to be honest about it some of you are sitting out here right now would be dead and you wouldn’t be dead just because of what you did, you be dead because some might else was mad at you and if they could just do what they want to do, they can kill you and order the Lord and hail him back. So, if the natural man could take control the natural man and the natural flesh would rule but that’s not the way of God. You see, I don’t have to check, the difference between duty and desire, I don’t have to tell my kids to watch televisions and play video games. I just don’t have to tell them.

You know as of right, all right now dad, he said, "You got to give a couple of hours of TV end today, make sure you watch your TV, make sure you play." You don’t have to say to your kids that because they desire to do it. You have to tell them, turn the television off, turn the video game off, come inside and stop playing. You have to tell them anything that is of the flesh of the natural desire you don’t have to remind people. But the things of God we have to develop a discipline to have a diligence towards it. I don’t have to tell the kid, "Do your homework, not watch television." I don’t have to tell them, "Eat French fries." They want to do that on their own, what
I have to tell them, "Drink your water." Do you understand the difference between desire and duty?

So the things of God for most people they will fall into that category of duty because they are -- in 1 Corinthians 2:14 says it best, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." It's like French fries and water, French fries taste good, I'm not going to argue that with. All of the stuff of the flesh for the most part feels good for the moment. You got to just beat on folk all day long and you drink water, but French fries, I don't have to tell my kids about French fries, not a fight they get the super size. I'll have to tell them to buy a French fries. I tell, "Look, if you're going to eat French fries at least don't put it in the (00:09:04) you got to go through all this, but when it was something you desire, it's like nobody have to tell me to eat Mr Goodbar. I love Mr. Goodbar. I have to struggle like mad to stay away from Mr Goodbar. Nobody has to tell you to do something you desire. So seeking God often times fall into the category that moves into duty, but he says he is a rewarder of those who diligently seeking.

We are familiar with the verse that says, "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek." Now we've heard that verse so many times before, but I want to you to get that verse in full context, it's in 2 Chronicles Chapter 7 beginning with the 12 Verse, "And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever, and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments. Then will I establish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, 'There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel. But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them, then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them and this house."

God told them twice. First time he said, "Look, I shut up the heavens and shut up the rain and calls famine." You know what famine is? See, back in those days there were agrarian societies so then all their economy was basely on farming. When he shut up the rain, that’s what we call today a depression, your money ran out. Then he said pestilence. You know what pestilence it is? You see bottom line and then
that, so God say, "Look, I shut up the rain and your crop I calls famine, depression, I will send pestilence, but if you do what I say or I will bless you tremendously." And see usually what people have to understand within God's commands, it's built-in, there's not so much as God is doing, it's built-in to the action. Everything God tells you to do when you understand in the natural it makes perfect sense. So he didn't just see sickness on you, you don't broke any command and he calls it.

If God tells you certain things to do and you fail to do it built in it. You see, he created the law of gravity, but in the law of gravity he said, "If I do like this, I'm going to fall and bust my head wide open." That's not God doing that, I violated the law. So he creates the things even in his command so with in the command it self he is blessing or the reward. But here when God tells Solomon, "If you're diligent, I'll do this for you and they'll always be a king in Israel from your household, but if you don't all these stuff comes as a result of not obeying." He is the diligent seeker. How many of us when we honestly ask ourselves are just diligent about seeking God? Now we want the reward but how many are diligent seeking God? How is our prayer in truth?

And let me tell you another thing that's a brother point. Most of your true diligent seeking of God is not public. The true diligent seeking of God is not public. Most of you are true seeking of God is private but often times the results are public. The seeking is private, the results are public. Just like (00:13:43) food loss. Folk can you see what you're eating but he shows up in public. The seeking is private, the results are public. So in your private time what are you truly, truly do? We did a lot of anointing of people something God just had me to do this morning with the service and I know as I laid hands on one man, and I never heard of this before, I never heard God speak this to an individual, I laid hands of him. And he simply said, to tell this man, if he shuts off the screen for 30 days I'll open up the spirit to him. If he shuts off the screen for 30 days I will open up the spirit people just suppose. Turn to the person next to you and said, "Just suppose." Just suppose you spent as much time seeking God as you did with the screen and what kind of screen? Television screen? Computer screen? Phone screen? You know imagine it suppose you spent as much time seeking God as you did with the screen. Can you imagine and God said, "If he shuts down the screen for 30 days I'll open up the spirit to him." Suppose for 30 days you watch no television, you didn't get on the internet doing who knows what. Instead of Facebook you saw his face. Instead of texting you read the text of the Holy. Well just suppose for 30 days that God had me speak this to this man but sometimes what is true for one person it carries over to the multitude. Suppose for 30 days you shut down the screen. That's your phone, you didn't have all the fancy stuff, all you could do was talk on. Just suppose for 30 days you shut all your TV time, all your computer and internet time, all your phone, text and the SMS and all that for 30 days, you took all that time and sought God.
What do you think would happen to you and how would you be at in those 30 days? Then this is the interesting part, so many of you can see -- "Yeah, I can see that, I wouldn't be changed." That's the interesting part, but the real part is this, "I ain't given up my TV and internet for that. I mean I understand what pastor saying, I'd really do believe that if I shut this screen off for 30 days I believe I'll be close to the God, I have some spiritual revelation with God to be talking, I really believe what the pastor is saying. I really believe it. I know the truth." But knowing the truth does not set you free, only when you do it. So I'm not telling you to that, I'm just saying that's what God told me to tell the other fellow, but just suppose you did.

This is another key difference in the diligent seeker. There's a verse in the Bible says, "Consider the ways of the ant thou slugger, how he toils but neither with God." Basically what the Bible says is this, "The ant will store his stuff, he goes about it, he does it without being told to do it." The diligent person will find a way to get it done and to find God. When your heart is really turn in that way the diligent person will find a way to get to God. There's something about it that changes when you make up your mind." And that's Proverbs 6:6 where he says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard and consider her ways, and be wise, which having no guide, overseer, or ruler." That was a -- ant that he never preacher. Provided her meeting someone and gather her food in the harvest. The ant has no God or overseer, self-discipline, self-discipline.

How many of you have a problem with self-discipline? Raise your hand if you have a problem with self-discipline, I have a problem myself. I have to struggle with stuff I just do on stuff that is duty. I don't have to struggle with the stuff on desire. I just have to struggle with the stuff of duty. No one has to wait the ant up. No one has to wait the ant up. No one has to stand over the ant making sure the ant does what the ant is supposed to do. No one has to beg the ant to get the work done. Suppose, just suppose we were like the ant and we did what we needed to do.

Now the Olympics are currently going on, and we had a young lady who won the gymnastics for nominal performance, but you know all the stuff that's going on the main thing they're talking about. You all know, oh yeah exactly. People, that has to do with desire not duty. If she had been focusing on her hair she never won, and a whole lot of us focusing on dead stuff. There are two parts of your body that's dead, your hair and your nails. That's why you can cut them but you don't feel a thing, there is no blood supply, there are no nerves, it's dead. I wish been all this time focusing on dead stuff. And because you -- if the woman had been focusing on her hair she never would have won a thing. And we got only -- folk you put thousands -- not only on the hair business that's what my family business is, if anybody on that to talk, I'm not saying your hair or not they look nice, but I'm saying is, you need not make that a priority. Some of the men married a women (00:19:25) called the woman tell her I'm going to mess up her hair and she fool out, lose the man
standing in front of the judge at divorce court with good looking hair. So you need to make sure -- you need to get your priority straight.

And when you are a diligent seeker then you learn to seek after the things this woman say, "I want to be an Olympic world class gymnast." And she say, "I got to move 20 hours away to get the training that I need, I'm focused on this things, I want to be the best in the world." And all of her friends with the pretty hair with a nice wigs and all the color in their hair will tell that I don't know by the heart and she knew what she needed. She was a diligent seeker and now, they will pay her just a million dollars just to do a hair commercial. You see what diligent gets you. But one of the things about the principle people, the world will not understand the true diligent seeker because most of the people are not going where the diligent are going. So you have to break away from the crowd and to understand some things and have some priorities in your life. You got to be a diligent seeker and seeking God there was no greater reward than you can have that when you seek God's face and he begins to hear and he begins to answer.

Some of you sitting out here right now, you all have and you know you're loaded with gifts and you're loaded with talent and you get destined ahead of you which is ten times where you are now but you worried about your hair. You got stuff in you, God has spoken and bring some life into you about some things but you're worried about your hair. And you're spending all the times on your hair and on your nails that it applies to me to, some of the men got 24 inch rims on a shiny car park in front of mama's house. You understand what I mean? So when you focus on stuff that has no power on stuff that is dead and that becomes your main focus in life, you got to change your focus on what you're seeking.

And we just left a press conference yesterday and they have this survey and they were talking about, they asked 1,500 women, five choices and it say, out of these five which would you want least? And only one I remember there had like root canal, OB/GYN doctor visit all this constant and then they say, bad hair day. And all of the women said they would rather have a root canal than a bad hair day. I said, "Oh my goodness." So people, our focus often times is on dead stuff and God, Jesus has said, "I bring your life and life more abundant." The diligent seeker people we need to truly ask ourselves, do we want to be rewarded and are we willing to be a diligent seeker? And sometimes to be a diligent seeker we would have to turn off the screen. We may have to let our hair just poof up a little when we’re praying. And that's probably dead screen and we spent as much time seeking God as we did on our hair, we probably be in pretty good shape because God to be honest about you is not worried about what's on your head. He is worried about who was in your head.

When you really read the original law, God's people they won't even allow to cut their hair. They say not only could you not cut your hair, you couldn't even trim
your beard. And maybe God knew something that, I'm sure, maybe God knew that
he let any people start working on their hair all that time be sitting up in the mirror
working on their hair. So, maybe that’s why he may have commanded them, "Don’t
you even cut your hair nor trim your beard." So God knew but often times we focus
on things that are dead and he wants some life in our world, some life into our spirit
and just perhaps some of you may take this message to heart not everybody but just
some. And you may cut that screen off for 30 days and that same amount of time
that you’ve been spending on the screen spending that time before God and watch
what happens when he begins to breathe new life into your life and take you to
another level.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother you
need the word. Amen. Amen and Amen. The Diligent Seeker. People, I wonder
where I could be if I were more diligent about God’s death. I’m just being honest
with you. You're not -- the way I am. I wonder how and where would I be if I was
just more diligent. Sometimes we’re only truly praise sincerely when we have
trouble. When stuff is going wrong we're going to hit the fan, and we covered in who
has been here. Then we pray heavily, "Lord get me out of this mess, ease my pain,
help me through it." Then we are pleading, but what would I be if I truly, truly,
truly was more diligent and it's not that I'm --I’m going to tell you I'm not that
diligent, (00:24:41) right after bed. I got so far to go and there so much more I could
do if I would have more focus on God.

I'm not going some preaching (00:24:53) I'm in the prayer all day long. I'm seeking
God all wherever I walk, I said, "God's step." No, we struggle -- I talked to too many
preachers. No, no, no, we have the same struggle and problems as you do. I need to
be more diligent because I have just seen the reward and see the thing is built-in to
the action. There's not even sometime that God has to come down and do. When you
spend more time pointing, it does something to your spirit and it changes your spirit
and you're able to react and interact different to the world because you prayed up, it
does something to your spirit. When you missed your prayer you get tension,
irritable and all these kinds of stuff. But when you spend time with God there is
this peace that flows over you and nothing that happens in the world upsets you.

The reward is built-in to the action and so there's not any God blesses a curse as
you is built-in to the action. So if we treated our neighbor better, if we love thy
neighbor as our self, the reward is built-in to the action. I need to be more diligent.
We are on 42 right now and 42 forces us in a manner to live like we ought to live all
the time, but I need to do better, I need to do better. So many of you need to do
better too because when you become more diligent and you become truly a seeker of
God he has given by his word that’s an unclear promise that he has to reward you.
God didn’t have any choice. He said, "I'm going to reward those who diligently seek
me."
We've got about three minutes before the service ends. I'm not going to call for salvation, but what I am going to call for, for those of you who want to make a new commitment to be more diligent. I'm first in the line. For those of you who want to make a new commitment to be more diligent with God. Starting today, and we know people when -- and it is not saying that you haven't been seeking God, it's not saying that you haven't been praying, but some of you had been praying on a C level and you need to move to A level. Some of you have been using 10% of what you know you could do for God and you want to use 90% of what you know you can do for God and the stuff changes the results in your life, it really does. It changes the results in your life.

And I know as I follow God's commands there is something about it that just -- it changes me and it influences everyone around me. The diligent seeker, we've been saying that verse over and over now for the past six months, but yet to move to where the reward is. I believe God has the ability to award me beyond what I can even ask or think and I got to pretty heavy imagination, I can think of a whole lot of stuff. He said beyond what you could even ask or imagine. Can you imagine that? God rewarding you beyond, but you got to be the diligent seeker. The true diligent seeker and just as I was hungry yesterday, for God, you don't need to be hungry you need to be hungry. And as a difference say, when you have missed lunch you're hungry or you missed the week you're hungry. There is a difference and we need to be hungry for God that when we wake up in the morning we go to sleep at night and see when you truly diligently seeking God it does not let you ignore or forsake your earthly duties. You actually become better at it, because you don't forsake the things on earth, the responsibilities that you have just because you have chosen to become more diligent.

And as I say this prayer, this will be our dismissal prayer and you will be dismissed to move into the diligence that you have covenant. You're not making this mean. This is between you and God, so it had nothing to do with me. This is between you and God. So I'm going to say I because this is me. Bow your heads. Dear Heavenly Father right now, I realized and recognized that I have not been as diligent as I should be in seeking your face. Father I've been lazy with your word, I've been lazy with your prayer, I've been lazy carrying out your commands. Father sometimes I have look upon them with drudgery instead of with joy and father I realized that you are the greatest father in the universe the only father. Father I realized that you are a full of nothing but love for me that you know my potential, that you know what I can be and you want me to achieve my greatest and most powerful potential that could possibly ever be, but father I know you're waiting on me to do what I need to do. And father today, I commit to you a new commitment, a fresh commitment that as of right now even before I leave this place, father I will serve you with the renewed fire and a renewed diligence and that would you speak unto me father that I will do. And now I pledge to you right now to be the good son, to
give it all that I have to be hungry for you and your word and to see your face. And thy son Jesus' name I pray. Amen.