

Pt.7 - The Whole Armor Of God - The Armor Of Prayer

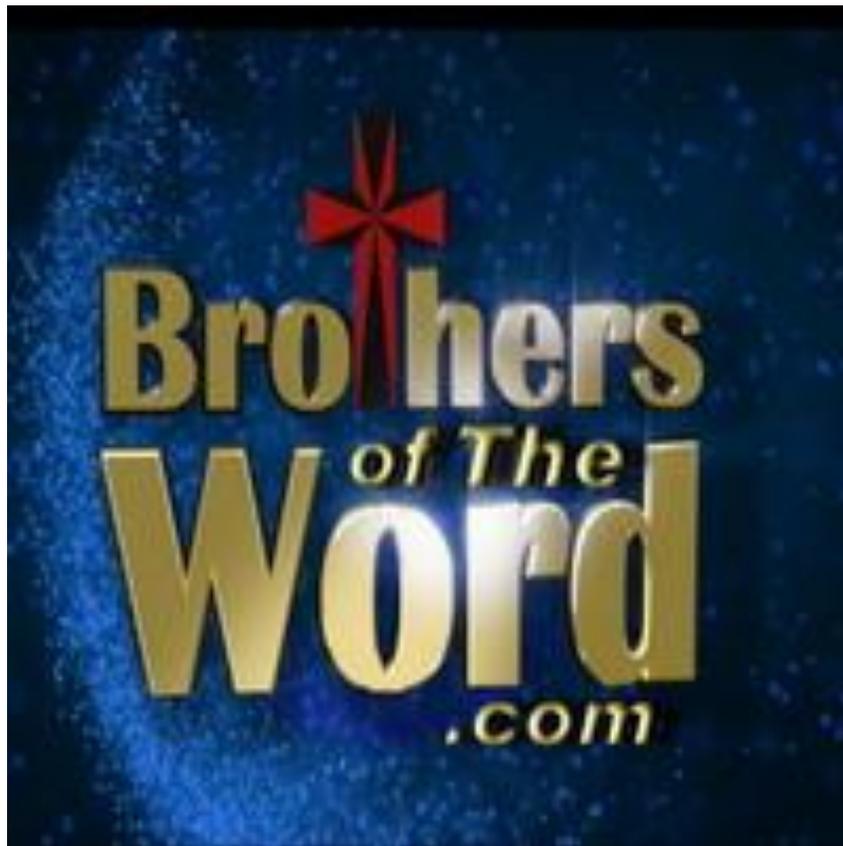
Sermon Title: **Pt.7 - The Whole Armor Of God - The Armor Of Prayer**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Everybody may not be called to preach, but everybody is called to pray.

Female: You are listening to brotheroftheword.com. This is part seven of the series titled, "The Whole Armor of God" subtitled "The Armor of Prayer" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5716, that's 5716. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brotheroftheword.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:25-00:00:53)

And now for 5716, The Whole Armor of God part seven, The Armor of Prayer.

Nathaniel: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. And today we will be studying again from Ephesians chapter 6 beginning at the 10th verse. This is the final message in the whole armor of God series. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and I preach to the utility belt of truth, on having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." That was Sermon 5706, Boots on the Ground. "Above all, taking the shield of faith," Sermon 5707. "Wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation," Sermon 5708. "And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," Sermon 5709. I took a break in the series and began again with 5713 which talks about the protection that you get from giving, and today, the Armor of Prayer, taken from verse 18 to the 6th chapter of Ephesians. "Praying always with all power and supplication in the spirit and watching their run through with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

I want to read that same verse from the NIV version, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." When Paul described the other parts of the

whole armor of God, all of them had a correlation to a physical piece of gear that the Roman soldier wore.

All of them had a correlation to a physical piece of gear whether it was a helmet, the breastplate, the shoes, the sword, the shield, they all had a physical correlation to a physical piece of gear except for prayer. There was no physical piece of gear that he related to prayer to. And it wasn't that there was not any additional military hardware. The Roman soldiers still had plenty other hardware, either on him, his person or either artillery, battering rams, all kinds of stuff that they had, but I believe Paul intentionally did not relate prayer to a physical thing because it relates to some of our modern military.

You see, prayer is the equivalent of calling in air support. Anybody who has ever been in a battle and a in a war, sometimes it's the infantry gets pinned down, they get on the radio and they call in air support and the planes will fly over and drop bombs on the enemy. Sometimes you need some air support, you need some support that's beyond you. From beyond what you've got within your reach, you need some stuff that is unseen, that's untouchable by you. You need some air support, and that's prayer. And prayer has a power in it. You can do a whole year preaching on just the power of prayer. You can do series after series after series on prayer, so I only have just a few minutes today just to cover a few things about prayer, but I want to just show you even just with Jesus. Do you know Jesus never thought His disciples how to preach?

00:05:04

Never thought His disciples how to preach. Now, we would put preaching as the premier thing. He never thought his disciples how to preach, but He did teach them how to pray. He did teach them how to pray. Everybody may not be called to preach, but everybody is called to pray, and you are going to need some prayer. Trust me, you are going to need some prayer. The dictionary defines prayer as a request for help, or expression of thanks addressed to God. In the word here it speaks of just general request made to God. Asking God for something or thanking for what you got. Unfortunately, most of our prayers fit into that first category, asking God for something instead of thanking God for what we got. And I believe that as a body, we are not spending nearly enough time in prayer. We love God, we

love Jesus, at least we say we do. We say it all the time. It was the main two commandments that Jesus gave. Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and the second is likened to it. Thy shall love thy neighbor as thyself. But if you love God with all of your hear, with all of your soul, with all of your strength. Don't you know that whatever you love, you spend a lot of time with?

I've got four sons and when James has children, they are becoming interested now in the opposite sex and one of the things as they become interested in the opposite sex, they start spending more time. And they start sprucing up. My mother says she can always tell when her sons became interested in girls because they start taking baths. They start taking care of themselves, and they spend time with whatever they love. Can't get them off the phone. Texting all – when you really love something, when you really-really love something, see Elijah always says he can tell a person's heart by looking at two things. Looking at their schedule book where they spend their time, and looking at their check book where they spend their money. You can tell where the heart by looking at those two things. Regardless of what you save when you look at where you spend your time, it really will show you where your true heart is. Just a clock will tell you how much time are we really spending in prayer.

I've got a couple of kids; they really love video games. When they really love video games, you do not have to tell them. My wife does not have to tell them, "Son, you haven't played your video game much today. Would you spend some time playing your video game?" Sweetheart, do you have to tell them that? How many times have you had to remind them to play their video game? None. If it's something folk truly love, you don't have to tell them and plead with them and beg with them to spend time with something they love. If it's something you truly love, there's something in your heart that will demand you spend time with the object of your affection. So, if you love God, and that's a rough verse, it really is, I can't do it. I'm just going to be at it because it says you shall love the Lord your God with all. Mathematically speaking, all is one hundred percent.

Now, I'm just going to be honest with you, all your heart, all your soul, which is your mind and all your strength. I'm just going to be honest. I do not spend all my heart, all my mind and all my strength on God. I just don't.

I'm working on it, I'm getting a little better, but I just don't. So, when you really love God, when you really love Jesus, it's going to show with this clock. You see, whatever God has for us, it's always for us. It's for our benefit. There is a power that comes with prayer. Prayer brings you peace. It brings you clarity. Do you know my commands that I have every day, it opens with a 5:00 a.m. in the morning, I spend 40 minutes in prayer and before I go to bed, I spend 20 minutes in prayer? That thing makes a difference. I open and close my day with prayer and when I do that, do you know I never had to take a sleeping pill? When you close your day with prayer and some of you right now, you all can't sleep. You've taken sleeping pills; I will tell you the pill that you need to take is a prayer pill. So, before you go to bed, spend 30 minutes with Jesus.

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If you spend 30 minutes with Jesus, all of the anxiety that the world has placed on you that you see all around you, spend 30 minutes with Jesus. If you spend 30 minutes with Jesus, you hit the pillow and there is just peace that flows over you. Start your day with God. When you start your day in prayer, it strengthens you to be able to handle anything that comes. My wife was telling me the other day, the landscape fellow who comes and does our yard, he told my wife, he said, "Mr. Bronner looked like he doesn't have a care in the world." And I don't. And it's not that I don't have stuff, but if you open and close your day with God, Jesus says put your cares on Him. But how are you going to put your cares on Him if you don't ever see Him? How are you going to put your cares on Him if you don't ever talk to Him? So, you got to be with Him and you have to be connected with Him because cares never stop coming. And some of you say, "That's easy for you to say, pastor. You don't get no problem. Who are you fooling?"

Sweetheart, do I have any problems? Absolutely, I got plenty of problems. It's not that I don't have any problems, but I've connected with God and when you are connected with God, and when you give Jesus your burdens, you really don't have any problems. That's why you all know when I was over in Greece, crashed in the street, I'm lying in the street, blood flying over everywhere, didn't know whether I was going to live or die, it won't bother me a bit. Worse shape of life wasn't bothering me a bit. I'm sitting there just as calm as I can be, looking at my blood

flowing down the street and that's serious. And there's no exaggeration, I was just as calm as I could be, because I was connected and the worst that could happen to me was, I die and go to heaven and the worst that could happen to me.

So, I wasn't worried about it because I didn't within that morning. See, when stuff happens, I mean that's good to get with and then, but it's a whole lot better to already be with him. That prayer makes a difference and that's why it said final armor. It protects you against all this mess in the world. Some says yes, a lot of mess going on. There's always been a lot of mess, there's nothing new about now. Mess has always been in the world; mess will always be in the world. You have got to spend some time with God in prayer and you need to do that every single day. If you just gave God as much time as you gave your reality show on TV, God says, "Seek my face." If you just gave God as much time seeking his face as you gave Facebook, do you realize how much better the church would be in? Do you understand that?

So, how can you say you love God as much as you spend time seeking Facebook more time when you're seeking God's face? That's why I say you can tell by their schedule book. Folks, we need to spend more time with God and when you spend more time with God, it changes your spirit. It changes your world. And you see we naturally request from God, but oftentimes we forget to thank God. And I realized this about myself with my prayer. When I begin to shift my prayer more from asking God for something, to thanking Him for what He had already given me, I start thanking other folks around me more.

See, how you relate to God determines how you relate to everybody else. That's why Jesus, first you love God, then you love your neighbor. First, you love God, because if you don't love God, you won't be right with your neighbor. So, when you start thanking God, then you will begin seeing what other folks do for you and you start thanking other folks. I almost thanked my little lump of sugar every day. She's so good to me. I had a situation, Prophet Dexter called me in the office last week and his voice was a little hesitant when he dialed me. He said, "Pastor." He said, "I got an email from you and the email said that you were just sitting there looking at your phone waiting on me to call." I said, "No, prophet, that wasn't you. That went to my lump of sugar. Somehow, that was an email chain on somebody in church and prophets name was anything and I thought was replying to my

lump of sugar and it went to prophet. I said no prophet trust me. That was not for you, that was for my lump of sugar.

I wasn't sitting here, waiting, looking at my phone waiting on you to call. I'm waiting on my lump of sugar to call. But I noticed when I became more thankful with God, I became more thankful with everybody else. And I was able to shift my mentality from always asking for something to just thanking for what you already received.

00:15:12

The story is told about two wives and they were doing their laundry in the laundromat, and they were both mending their husband's pants. And one wife said, my husband is so miserable. Nothing goes right at work. And he can't even find anything good on TV. Our house is a place of total despair. When we go to church, the song leader is terrible and the pastor is an idiot. The other wife said, my husband is so excited. He can't wait to go to church. He loves the sermons. We laugh all the time and really enjoy our family, and it all got very quiet in the laundromat as the women continued working on their husband's pants. One was patching the seat of her husband's pants, and the other was patching the knees. One was patching the sit, the other was patching the knees. And I don't have to tell you which is which. People when we spend time on our knees, and I know some of you, your knees may not be as good as they used to be, I understand that. It doesn't matter whether you're on your knees or not. I often pray just driving I communicate with God. And I can't shut my eyes driving. Don't be stupid now. The pastor told me just to pray all the time, you barely did not express. They're going to close your eyes and talk to Jesus. You're going to see Jesus, don't do that.

But I have my eyes wide open, but I still thanked God, praised God. No matter what, this thing becomes a habit, it gets in your soul, it changes you and it will change your world. Well, some people may ask a question, "Well, since God knows what I need, do I really need to ask Him?" That came from Matthew 6:7, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Yet Paul says, pray always with all prayer and supplication.

Now, supplication, that's personal request whereas petitions are generally request to prayers for others. But Jesus says, don't be like them. Well who are the them? He's talking about the hypocrites and the heathens. It's okay to ask God for what you need, but don't just ask is all that you talk about.

See, there's nothing wrong with asking God for what you need, but that shouldn't be all you talk about when you ask God. If you spend more time and see God has given you more than what you are missing or what you think you're missing. So, if you spend a time focusing on what you have been given, you'd be surprised how you will get more. And see, sometimes when you get into that and Jesus says, you know whatever you ask in my name – well that stuff gets kind of deep. Because you all know a lot of the prayer you've asked in Jesus name, you haven't got any of the stuff, you know that just as well as I do, why? Now understand that from a father, and that's why it's got to be in the will of the father. Because I had an incident even with my children recently. We've got a super nice work out room at home. Got all of the latest state equipment, they go in there work out all the time. I only asked, look, all I ask you to do, just make sure you leave the work out room like you found it. You all know that didn't work all the time.

Sometimes I go up at the work out room all – so recently what happened, I have a speaker in the work out room. They clogged their music to and listened to music while they're working out. So I went up there, plugged up my phone, turned on my music and all I heard was a little bitty tiny sound. I was like what's wrong with my phone? I found out that it wasn't the phone, they have fried the speaker. So, the woofer of which is where the main sound comes from was totally fried and only the little twitter was working, so just a little bitty tiny sound so I asked them, who fried the speaker? They said Noah did it. Noah, did you fry the speaker? Did you fry the speaker? So, Noah fried the speaker. So, I ordered me another speaker. And I put a little sound on the speaker that says, "Do not use this speaker unless you check with daddy." Now I want to explain to you why I did that. And so far, none of my sons have come to me to ask me about using the new speaker because they know they fried the old speaker. So, they haven't checked with daddy yet. Now, I could have bought the speaker, put the new speaker, thrown the old speaker out and just says, here you go son, here's a brand-new speaker. Here's the speaker for you to use.

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But I didn't do that. I have the capability, but the wisdom says these are my children and they have to learn responsibility. So, if I just put the speaker there, they would have a tendency to fry the new speaker in the same manner they fried the old speaker. So there are some things that even though God has the ability to give you, the wisdom of a father says I cannot give them this, because if I give them this, it will cause a repetitious patter, it will not teach, it will not train, so I have to withhold somethings for their own benefit. I understand that just as -- see, some of us are asking God for a new speaker when we fried the old speaker and we got the new speaker; we'll the new speaker. And some of you will say, I'm not asking for a new speaker, but you're something else you're going to fry.

So, what you're asking for the Lord, give me a new husband, now you have to fry the old one. Lord, give me a new wife, and you're going to fry the old one. So sometimes God knows that he cannot give us things until we are mature enough, that's why it must be in the will of God and the will of God is always in the wisdom of God, so these are just some of the things that have I gone over, yes I have. Oh well, so some of these things we know that God has to withhold from us simply because it is a wise for him to give us so many things that we want out of our own desires that just won't be healthy for us. Nothing lies outside of the reach of prayer, except that which lies outside of the will of God. And the king was in his throne room one day. He was holding a counsel with his advisors. So he had all of the noble men and the wise men of the kingdom and the leaders of the kingdom and they were in the midst of a meeting, and all of a sudden a little boy burst into the room, ran towards the king, and one of the new guards tried to stop the little boy and the little boy went around him and he ran. And as he was running towards the king, the guard says, "Wait a minute, don't you understand that's the king, and you just can't run up to the king."

And the little boy ran and he ran up to the king and ran and hopped in the king's lap, and the king embraced him and the little boy looked back over the new guard. And he said, "Yeah, he is your king, but he's my daddy." And there's a difference when you have a relationship with daddy. Yes, he's the king, yes, he's God

almighty, but He's your daddy. But how are you going to have a relationship with daddy.

There's so many men and women today and they all say, "You know, I don't have a relationship with my daddy because I never talk to my daddy." When you talk to your daddy, you will have a relationship with your daddy. But often we blame early fathers, and it is their fault because they're not there to be with the children and they're not there to talk with the children but the Heavenly Father is available.

The fault is on our end, and we're not there to talk to daddy. Daddy is waiting on us all the time. My child, when will you spend some time with me? I hear you say with your mouth that you love me, but when will you spend some time with me? And when we ran over today, I had said in my mind I'm going to make sure we're out of here on time, but like the time – you got to spend some time with God. You got to spend some time with God, and see I've got a big clock. This clock is huge, but I wasn't looking at it. So, if you're not engaged with it, if you're not connected with God, you missed daddy, and you go through life with the lack of a father, not because the daddy is not there, but because you cut off communication. Prayer is your protection. It is your armor, it is your piece, and it is so much in life if we only open up the door and open the window and just talk to God.

But you need to do it on a regular basis, not just when you are in trouble. Talk to him when things are going great. Talk to him when the breakthrough has come. Talk to him when you're not hungry. Talk to him when you're not in distress. Talk to him when you're not crying. Talk to him when you're not worried. Talk to God, when the times are good and you'll find that when you talk to him and when you thank him for the good times, you will find that your bad times have a tendency to just get less and less, and less even when it looks like to the world you ought to be in a mess.

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To everybody looking at me down in the street, I feel like I was in a mist. I was just as happy as I could be, because the physical stuff would never hold you. Your money would never hold you, and I think getting rid of the hit to a level a financial prosperity is just unreal, but that will not hold you. So many folks with

millions in the bank end up committing suicide. You can have a body that is absolutely in peak condition, my Brother James had one of his classmates who was a physical trainer, he was in tiptop, ripped muscular condition, what happened to him? Committed suicide. Your body could be phenomenal, your money could be – all of the things will come to naught when you don't have a relationship with your daddy. And the way that you get a relationship with your daddy is to spend time with your daddy. And if you don't spend time with your daddy, you cannot tell me that you love him, because whatever you love, you spend time with. And that blessing flows upon you.

He is the king, yes, His Son is the king of kings, yes, but He is my daddy and He is my friend, and I will spend time with Him every morning and every night. And as you spend the time, God's protection and His peace and His prosperity and His word, shall flow over you.

James:

Amen. We thank pastor for that awesome message on prayer and I did not have the realization myself that there was no physical armor on that armor scriptures. That was very enlightening and I think this is a message that we all needed today that we all could be spending more time in prayer, talking to our Heavenly Father. With the heads bowed right now, if there's anybody in this place and you recognize that you have not been spending the proper time with your Heavenly Father that You should. You don't have the relationship that you know you ought to have. He's been there available for you but you've been too busy dealing with the issues of life and working and dealing with kids and dealing with the internet and social media. You just haven't spent the time and put the time into that relationship that You know you should have and you want to just rekindle it today and ask for forgiveness and restore right relationship to your Heavenly Father. That's agreeing with your spirit today, we're going to ask You to come forward and we just want to pray with you today.

There is a second appeal that you can come for the first or the second, you've been hearing the word of the Ark of Salvation. God is leading your heart to join these body of believers who want to become a member of the Ark of Salvation. So, either one of those two calls, you want to rededicate or dedicate your life onto God, or you want to join the ark of salvation. Either one of those appeals, you can come at this time.

Nathaniel Bronner: Pastor James, I believe you asked on that first appeal for those who were not spending proper time with God, and they wanted to rededicate time on to God, which is a little bit different from rededicating your life to Jesus. You've already dedicated your life to Jesus, you just haven't spent enough time with Him. So, for those and you want to dedicate the time, to spend more time with Jesus, to spend more time with God. You know Jesus even had an issue with the disciples with that. He said can't you tear it with me an hour. And when you read it, they fell asleep twice, not once, twice.

So, it's not necessarily the easiest thing in the world, and sometimes I don't want to get up and pray. Sometimes, after a long a day, I don't want to do it. So, it's not that you're going to necessarily want to do it all of the time, but you recognize he's your daddy, he's your friend, and you want to spend time with your daddy and you want to spend time with your friend. People, every minute that you put in with God returns hours of benefit. It really does. It's not wasted time; it's invested time that has a return beyond what you can even imagine. So, if you know that you haven't been spending enough time with God, and I can't specify what the specific time is for you. For you, you just may need to spend five minutes a day because you're haven't been spending any time. You haven't been spending any time with God, not anytime.

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And it's not just about here in the church, but when you get home, and especially those of you who are parents. Your children know how much time you spend with God, even though you think they may not see you, they know. So, you want to rededicate the time. God gives you 24 hours a day, 84,600 seconds a day and all He asks is spend some time with me, every day, my child. That's your daddy. Spend some time with your daddy.

James: Thank you for responding to that appeal on you. In that same spirit I want to ask you to just say your own prayer to the Heavenly Father. He's listening. Spend this time right now talking with him. Make it your own commitment in your life of your own time.

(Music playing 00:31:07 - 00:33:22)

Nathaniel: Can those of you standing there, can you sing along with him, sing along with him.

(Music playing 00:33:30 - 00:35:45)

James: The rest of the congregation, you all can just stand where you are and we'll just pray right in that thing.

(Music playing 00:35:51- 00:36:05)

James: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we just thank You for moving in this place, oh Lord, for moving in the hearts of Your people. We thank You for the new dedication of time, Lord. Oh Lord, it's all power of time anyway. It's time that's all Yours, oh Lord. You are eternal, oh Lord. With the beginning and end, oh Lord. Tomorrow is not promised, oh Lord, so we're just borrowing Your time anyway, oh Lord, and we give it back onto You today, oh Lord. We give ourselves away unto You, oh Lord, and we just repent, oh Lord, for every distraction that we've allowed to come into our lives, oh Lord. We repent, oh Lord, for time that we should have been spending with You, oh Lord, but didn't, oh Lord. We repent, oh Lord, for sleeping in when we know we should have been up praying, oh Lord.

We repent, oh Lord, for every television show, oh Lord, that we watched, that we knew we should have been praying, oh Lord. Lord, for every bit of internet time, oh Lord, that we spend, oh Father, when we know we should have been spending it with You, oh Lord. We just repent today, oh Lord, and we want to get it right, oh Lord. We want to restore, oh Lord, that time of ours. That we squandered, oh Lord, that it was Yours, oh Lord. And Lord, we just thank You for not leaving us, not forsaking us, oh Lord.

For in human relationships, oh Lord, somebody is not spending enough time, oh Lord, somebody going cheat or leave them, oh Lord, but we thank You, Lord, that you've never forsaken us, oh Lord. That you still have loved us, oh Lord. Even when we haven't shown You the proper love, oh Lord. Thank you, Lord, for that You are not like unto man, oh Lord. We thank you, Father, for never giving up on us, oh Lord, giving us time to get it right, oh Lord. Thank you, Father.

Thank you, Lord, for even though you're running all of the universe, oh Lord, causing the sun to rise, set, oh Lord. Keeping planets into orbits, oh Father. That You still, oh Lord, take time for us, oh Lord. You're still waiting on us, oh Lord, to listen to us, oh Father. And we repent, oh Lord, that doing now our small things, oh Lord, if we've gotten too busy for You, oh Lord. That when we're too busy for God, we are too busy, oh Lord. But we thank You for this message, oh Lord. Thank you, Lord, for Your quickening within our spirits, oh Lord. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Lord, for grounding us back into our connection, oh Father. The source, oh Lord, of all blessings, the source of all the favor, oh Lord. You are our source, oh Lord.

You are our source, oh Lord. We thank you, oh Lord. Thank you for this reconnection. Thank you, Lord, and we just pray, oh Lord, over Your people, oh Lord, that you'll refresh them, oh Father, and their time of communion with them, oh Father. That You will speak with them, oh Lord, like never before, oh Father. That as they spend time with You, oh Lord, they'll find their problems less when it come up, oh Lord. They'll find solutions, oh Lord, that that which has been worrying them during their waking hours, oh Lord. I pray, oh Lord, that as they spend time with You, oh Lord, that they won't even have to ask You, oh Lord, for things that the children will be covered, oh Lord.

That their bills will be covered, oh Lord, as they spend time with You, oh Lord, the direction will be given, oh Lord, that clarity will come into their vision, oh Father. We thank You, Lord. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us entrance unto the Throne of God, oh Lord. Thank you for that privilege, oh Lord, to press beyond the veil, oh Lord.

00:40:06

To go into that holy of holiest place, oh Father. We thank You, Lord. Thank you, Father, we don't take it for granted. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and amen.

Nathaniel: We thank you for joining us today at brothers of the word. Because brother, you need the word.

Female: You are listening to brotheroftheword.com. This was part seven of the series titled, "The Whole Armor of God" subtitled "The Armor of Prayer" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number

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(Music Playing)

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