

The Twelve Most Asked Questions of Christians

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Nathaniel Bronner: You need to have your work at A plus and you need to have your faith at A plus.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part five of the series titled, "The 12 Most Asked Questions of Christians" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5739, that's 5739. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:22 - 00:00:51)

Female: And now for 5739, "The 12 Most Asked Questions of Christians" part five.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to brothers of the word, because brother, you need the word. And today we are in the midst of the series called, "The 12 Most Asked Questions of Christians." And we're on question number three that I actually had to divide in to three parts of how did you get to heaven.

And today, I'm on that third part of that question. Some of the most controversial stuff I've ever run across, I tossed and turned that's why I've got my sleeve rolled up. I've got on my jeans and pants that I wore today. I don't have on the clothes that normally Lucrecia(ph) picks out for me. And I just got my own stuff on today because I got to work, I just do. Today is different, it feels different. I've been sweating over this thing because I don't want to mislead anybody and I want to deliver as best as I can the word of God.

Now, I'm going to start with Matthew. You've heard the Verse before Matthew Chapter 19, starting it to 16th Verse, the new King James version. Now, behold, one came and said to him, "Good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So, he said to him, "This is the question that is one of the 12 most asked questions that was directly asked of Jesus." And when I began answering the question, "How do you get to heaven?" God spoke to me, he said, "Only use the words of Jesus."

Now, you do understand that Jesus is the only mediator between man and God. He's the only way in. He is the ultimate authority. There is no higher authority than Jesus when it comes to getting into heaven because he stands at the door. You got to go through

him, by him in order to get in heaven. So, he is the ultimate authority. So, God says, "You just use the words of Jesus."

So here is the man who comes to Jesus, to ask Jesus that direct question, "How do I get into heaven? What must I do to get eternal life? How do I get into heaven?" And here Jesus answers him. First, he says, "Good teacher, what good things shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So, he said to him, "Why did you call me good?" No one is good but one. That is God.

That's deep (00:03:18) the humility that Jesus had now why he said this we can only speculate because so much of the other test and the other writing said Jesus was perfect without seeing, that's not what Jesus said. It is not what he said. He said, "Don't call me good. There is none good but the Father."

And there is the other scripture where it says, "Jesus learned obedience through the things that he suffered." You want to learn obedience if something you've been obedient with. So, Jesus said, "Look, it's his words, not mine." That's why God said, "You just his words." He said, "Don't call me good, there's only one good, that's the Father." So Jesus first of all, he put everything. He stood on the word of God. He placed everything. He said, "I can't do anything, I don't see my daddy do," everything he gave complete tribute to God.

(00:04:16), so, you look at even Jesus. He didn't put anything even Himself above God. No one is good but one, that is God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments. He said to him, "Which ones?" because you know there's 613 commandments. So the man who came to Jesus, "Which commandment because there's 613 of them. Which commandments?"

Jesus said, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bare false witness, honor your father and your mother and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

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Now, the problem with this, that's why I said I've been wrestling with this, those are not the 10 commandments, those are six. So, he asked Jesus specifically, "Which ones?" Jesus left out the first

one, he left out the second one, he left out the third one and he left out the fourth one. He started with the fifth one and even the tenth one which basically says, "Thou shall not covet anything of thy neighbors," he changed to thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." Why did he leave out the first four?

My mind is kind of like this, and it's like this because I've learned through experience and just through God's work to look at exactly what he said, exactly what he did. He said, "Don't put anything in it, don't take anything out of it." Look at the exact -- he left out the first four.

The first four commandments, "Thou shall have no other God before me. Thou shall not make any graven images. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Thy shall keep the Sabbath day." They are all really based in religion. The next six are not. It ain't don't matter what faith you are Those next six are valid. They don't matter what faith you are. The next six are Valid. The first four are Christian but (00:06:30) specific. The next six, they don't matter what religion you are. They are human values of highly appropriately between you and your fellow men.

Now, why did Jesus leave out the first four? I don't know. He did not say. But what he did say was, when the man asked him, "Which ones?" he named those six and then the young man said to him, "All these things I have kept from my youth, what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect."

Now, this story is repeated in the other gospels. It's repeated in Mark, it's repeated in Luke but the Matthew version is more detailed. Jesus says, "If you want to be perfect." Perfect is another level and I don't even want to be perfect. I'd like to strive(ph) for a bit, I'm not really perfect. I don't anybody who is, I just don't.

If you want to be perfect, I don't even want to be perfect because I will just make some mistakes. I may even make something today. I just got some problems, I really do. A lot of people think that I am highly disciplined and I am (00:07:53) to everybody else but I don't live my life (00:07:56) to everybody else. I live my life to what God has told me to do. I have problems with doing what God has told me to do just in some of the basic things of life because there'd be some stuff I want to do. There should be some

stuff I want to do and there would be some stuff I want to do that's not quite in line with what God -- and it's just a simple thing.

I can relate so well to Paul when he said, "The things I should do and the things I don't, the very things I ought not to be doing, the very things I find myself --" can you all relate to that? Can you relate to that? So, I'm being real that's why I had to roll up my sleeve. This shirt has a fancy cost, so I put on no cover, I've been rolling up my sleeve because I'm being real which (00:08:32). I'm just being real with it. I have some issues trying to be perfect because this flesh is not perfect. I think I'm better than the vast majority but I just have some issues and I've seen my flaws and shortcomings and I wrestle with them and I try to get better and better and better and still I fall short. I just can't be perfect.

But Jesus told him, He said, "If you want to be perfect." He did not say if you want eternal life. He said, "If you want to be perfect." And there is a difference in if you want to be perfect and if you want eternal life, and this is one of those keys. "If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven and come follow me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Assuredly I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

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I got a problem with that, I really do. I'm just being real. I got a problem with that. "But pastor, why do you have a problem with that?" Because I'm a rich man. I got a problem with that, I earn in a top -- almost tenth of 1% of the incomes of this nation. I'm technically a rich man. I got a problem with that. He basically said, "It's hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom." I got a problem with that. I'm just being real.

And see, most people who I know trying to get rich. If they're not rich, they're trying to get rich. So, even if you're not rich, you're trying to get rich and Jesus said, "Plain as day, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven as a camel to the eye of a needle." I do research that verse because I've heard folks said, "Were that really was a gate in the wall, in Jerusalem, in the

(00:10:54). I can't find it anyway." Then like what Jesus say, it's almost impossible for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. So, I got an issue with that and I had to study that myself and find the instance of where a rich man was granted entry in the kingdom and that man was Zacchaeus and I'll preach the sermon on how the rich get to heaven.

So, if you're rich or you're trying to get rich, you need to go to brothersoftheword.com and listen to that sermon how the rich get to heaven and it explains there, because otherwise, I was going to be facing with the decision, do I give up all my money and not be rich so I can get into heaven, and see -- that's I will look on that rich young ruler and said, "My goodness, what a -- now, most of you all can't do it either. You can't do it either. So, don't look at that man like, "Oh, that's so terrible." Mostly, you all can't do it either, especially the more you have the harder it is to give up all your stuff. Most of you can't give up all your stuff. No, you won't even let somebody borrow your car for a day, much less give up all your stuff. So, this is real and this is what we face, but it's the word of Jesus. And it's in the words of Jesus, but actually, it's not just isolated with Christianity, the Hinduism is like that.

Some other religions when you do comparative religious studies, in Hindu, they're supposed to go to three phases of life. They have the youthful phase, the adult phase and once they get older, they give away all their stuff and take a bowl and just go out into society which probably any rich Hindus can do that either. So, it's just hard to do.

But in how the rich get to heaven, I go to the story of Zacchaeus, and it does say when it begins, Zacchaeus was a rich man. And yet Jesus told Zacchaeus, he was going be with him. So, how get Zacchaeus get the keys to get into the kingdom of heaven? You need to listen if you're rich or trying to get rich, how the rich get to heaven.

So, here as we continue with this rich young ruler, when his disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus look to them and said to them, "With man, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible." You just can't be perfect. Jesus knew it and he told -- you just can't be perfect. So, you can't do this on your own, but with God, all things are possible.

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed you. Therefore, what shall we have?" So, Jesus said to them, "Surely(ph) I say to you that in the regeneration when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed me will also sit on 12 thrones. Judging the 12 tribes of Israel and everyone who has left houses or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for My name sake." Now, I want you to understand this because nobody is ever preached on this on either.

Jesus said when you've left -- that's a lot of stuff to leave. He then left the money, the houses, the land, the mama, the father, the wife and the children. But understand what he said. He said "For my sake, not that you leave, for my name sake." There's a little bit of a difference there." So, he said, "Everyone who's left all the stuff for my name sake shall receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life, but many who are first will be last and the last first.

So, this is Jesus says, "Direct answer to the question, how do I get eternal life and then the answer is not overly simple."

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He told you obey those commandments and if you want to be perfect, move away from all the material things in the world. And I do understand that, it's just not easy. Now, let me just read Scott McKnight. He wrote an article in Christianity today. And this perhaps clearly outlands some of the theological discussion and controversy that exist, it's not preach but it exist in the theological circles.

Many biblical scholars and late Christians have noted that Jesus preached almost exclusively about the kingdom of heaven while Paul highlighted justification by faith. Some conclude that they preached two different gospels. Others argue that they really both preached justification. Still, other say, it's all about the kingdom. And this question was what gives, what's the truth? He says my experience is not unusual, many of us have made a move from Paul to Jesus and an increasing tension remains among evangelist about who gets to set the terms, Jesus or Paul? In other words, will we center our gospel teaching and living on the kingdom or justification by faith?

Now, this is a raising(ph) debate, it is raised for I don't know how long among theological circles, most of the modern evangelical Christians right now, it preaches primarily was call the Pauline Gospel or Justification by faith. So, what is the truth about this thing? And when you start researching it, you find some really controversy of stuff. Some folk just believe that Paul was way off, some folk believe Paul was spot on and it's a debate that raise society. So, I had to ask myself, "What Jesus say about Paul?" See, that's what really matters.

So, if you got to deal and you got to go by Jesus, what really matters what Jesus said, that's why God said, "You look at just what Jesus see." So, I had to go back and let me find out what Jesus said about Paul. And you know what happened with Paul who was initially call Saul, he was on the Damascus (00:17:15). Paul was killing Christians and persecuted Christians right and left. He was an orthodox Jew and Christianity was upsetting the standard Judaic faith. So, Paul was persecuting Christian right and left. He was killing Christians, right and left.

So, he got struck blind on the Damascus' road and as he was struck blind in X Chapter 9, I'm going to be with the 10th verse. Basic that Jesus talked to Ananias to go and restore Paul's sight. And this is those verses. In Damascus, there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision. Ananias. Yes Lord, he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street." I think that's the only street ever been named in the bible that I can -- plenty in cities and towns and all of that. That's the only street and the street and the street just happened to be a street called street. So, he tells you stuff even naming the street name. Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from (00:18:26) named Saul. That was his name before it was changed to Paul, for he is praying in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.

So, Paul is praying or Saul at that time is praying because he's blind. Do you know what stuff happened and you are brought to your knees in a second? So, he lost his sight and that was serious situation, it's serious even now especially back then. So, Paul was on his knees just praying. In a vision, he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight. This is what Ananias said, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. And all the harm he has done to your saints in

Jerusalem and he has come here with authority from the chief priest to arrest all who call on your name.” So, Ananias said, “What? You want me to go and heal this man who’s persecuting and killing us and all of the people who are calling on your name, this man persecute. You want me to go heal him?” Sometimes God will tell you to do some stuff that makes no sense at all in (00:19:51).

And I can understand Ananias’ point. But the Lord said to Ananias, this is the point, these are Jesus’ words, “Go, this man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

00:20:13

I will show him how much he must suffer from my name.” In other words Jesus said, “Look, this is the man I’ve chosen to carry my name to the gentiles, into the house of Israel and to their kings.” Jesus said, “I chose him.”

So, for those who criticized the Pauline Gospel and the Pauline doctrine, Jesus chose him, Jesus chose him. Jesus said, “This is my man, he’s who I’m standing, I chose him.” So, if Jesus chose him that validates Paul because Jesus chose him. Yet theologians still will question and argue about the so-called differences in the Jesus doctrine and the Pauline doctrine. And just reading the two without understanding, yes it does appear there’s a big difference in the two, but you’ve got to understand some things.

And then there’s argument that when Jesus die and rose, there emerged a new covenant and all of the old was washed away. But what did Jesus say when he came back? Let me read that to you. If you go to the last chapter of Messi, chapter 28 and basically these were the last words of Jesus as he has come back on the earth. Matthew 28 beginning at the 18th verse, this is the NIV version. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.” This is fundamentally the disciple’s commands. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. Baptizing them in the of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

Now, this is Jesus after he's been crucified, after he came back. He said, "Go, baptize the folk and teach them everything I have commanded you." He didn't change a thing. His words -- he didn't change a thing. He said, "Teach them everything I have commanded you." So, it gets real to understand it and it took me awhile to read and just go to the same and really try to understand the real essence of that question. "What do I do, how do I get to heaven? Do I listen to actually the words of Jesus, do I take the Pauline doctrine and I'm just saved by grace and I don't have to worry about these words, what do I do?" And there's a lot of confusion especially among people who read and do theological discussion and that is simple as it seems without and understanding. And these are the conclusions that I reached after reading and studying the words of Jesus.

The conclusions after studying the gatekeeper, the one who all of us most go pass to get to heaven, these of the conclusions. Number one, Jesus taught to enter the kingdom of heaven follow the will of God, first thing. Number two, Jesus didn't say that it was easy, he never did. Matthew 7:13, this was a scripture we all know and about the narrow gate for wide is a gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it. He didn't say it was easy. It's difficult the way that leads to life.

Number three, works, now calling Jesus' name alone will get you in. Works now calling Jesus, his name along will get you in. Matthew 7:21, not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my father in heaven -- I go right back to that first point. "Those who do God's will." Many will save me in that day. "Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in your name." If you notice, we got a lot of stuff going on the other side. You notice that it's not happened before. I told you, this is the most important message and the most important thing. James Christopher(ph) back on deep work in how to avoid destruction. You got more destruction with this message than any other message.

00:25:02

And that's the way stuff will work when there's really something you really need to know, there are destructions that will come to

try to take your focus and to take your mind. Do not be distracted when God is trying to tell you something.

Works now calling Jesus' name will get you in. Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of my father in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name and done many wonders in your name and then I will declare to them I never knew, you depart from me, the workers of inequity or yee who practice lawlessness. That's a heavy duty verse. But it basically say, "Even those who do great work, they're not guaranteed to get into heaven." And someone asked me after I dealt with that verse in the prior sermon and I've told people, they knew Jesus, but Jesus didn't know them. And he asked me the question, "How do I make sure Jesus knows me?" "That's a real good question. But unless you know, you can't get into heaven by works alone. They said, "Lord, Lord you can't get into heaven just by calling Jesus' name." So, there's some other things based on the gate keeper, based on the one who decides whether you get in or not, based on the gatekeeper, there's some other stuff.

Number four, there are levels in heaven. And there are several things Jesus says by no means will you enter the kingdom of heaven, there are levels in heaven. Let me try their best to illustrate the levels in heaven. Now, Jesus see it in several instances, "Those who did this will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven, those who do this will be least." He says it on multiple occasions. So, unless you know everybody in heaven is not the same, that's why when you pray the Lord's prayer, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." That's why Jesus says the things that you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, the things that you lose on earth will be lost in heaven, there are levels in heaven, there's greatest and least, everybody is not the same, it's the same as it is on earth. "On earth as it is in heaven" it's the same way. Did you know there are levels here on earth? The United States is viewed by many countries as paradise.

If you go to many countries and you do a lot of traveling, especially in third world countries, everybody wants to get to America because America is the land of opportunity, America is the land of paradise. They literally view America is heaven on earth and compared sometimes to their condition. And when I was in the Amazon, I've told you the story before when I was in the Amazon

and I was back to the jungle there were no doors on the hood, everybody just -- they didn't have anything, children were fascinated over and (00:27:59) when we were in Africa. You know what they gave us and told us to give the children is gifts? Did you all remember what knows where? Pencils, we took wooden pencils and children -- they were jumping up and down when they got a pencil. So, you try to give a child a pencil in America. They shout it up and down and almost shed in tears to get a pencil so that United States is viewed by many in the world as literally heaven on earth, but do you know there are levels here. And in the U.S., you can be on the bottom which is still bad for being on the bottom. When I was in the Amazon, and they said, "We're going to go to the rich man's house when we get out of the jungle."

You know what differentiated the rich man's house, he had electricity because he had a generator. That was the rich man. He had a generator to make electricity. The poorest home in America has electricity. So, we have stuff here that even our least is above the best in other places, but there are levels. So, Jesus who said, "The least and the greatest in heaven, there are levels in heaven." And I've told you, I don't want anything on an average basis. When I get to heaven, I only want to be on the bottom in heaven. I really don't, I want to be at the top, I mean (00:29:32) the great, but I don't want to be on the bottom even in heaven, because heaven has levels. So, that's one of the keys of understanding this, is that Jesus says, "Those who teach to obey, everything God see it, shall be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, those to teach, not to obey everything God said, don't be the least. And that's one of those prime things to understand is there levels and Jesus, based those levels, based on following God's will or not following God's.

00:30:05

We're not the Pharisees and the scraps, they actually top the law. The problem is, they were corrupt on the inside and that's why Jesus told him, "Outside, you're white as snow. On the inside, you're dead man's bones.

So, it was an inside thing so law will not save you, but getting closer to God's will takes you higher in the kingdom of heaven and following God's will. So it's a critical point is that (00:30:31) do try and to understand all of this stuff. There are levels in heaven and there's some things that are really difficult to understand

then Jesus called the little child with him, set him in the midst with them and said, "I surely I save you unless you are converted and become as a little child you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven (00: 30:55). Therefore, whoever honors(ph) himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven whoever receives one little child like this in my seat(ph), my name receive me so, it's not as simple as it may seem.

Mathew 5:19, "Whoever breaks least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven." John 3:3, Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." And he then defined born again. He said, "You must be born of the water and of the spirit." You remember when Nicodemus went to Jesus in the night and Jesus told him, "Nicodemus, what that mean?" You know what Jesus answered? He said, "You are master of visual and you don't know this meaning of this?" He didn't explain it.

Now, if you ask 10 preachers what it means to be born again, you probably get 10 different answers because it's not clearly defined. Works do not determine whether you're going to enter the kingdom of heaven, but his is one of the big points and this is the thing that I was able to distil out of all of this. And it comes from literally the last words of Jesus in the book of Revelation. Revelation is the last book of the bible. Chapter 22 of Revelation is the last chapter in the last book of the bible.

So, when you look at Revelation, there's one particular verse that made things clear to me. And there is some what I recall, "Upper level mystical stuff dealing with the kingdom of heaven." But there was one verse that made it clear to me with the discussion between works and salvation and grace and faith and the commandments. There was one verse that made it clear or clearer. And when you look in Revelation, Revelation was written by John on the Isle of Patmos.

And when I went to Greece, it was my year to choose the brothers troop. We take our annual trip every year with all of the brothers. So my year, God spoke to me, "You go to the Isle of Patmos," and that's where I had my crash(ph) on the Isle of Patmos and I don't spit blood on the Isle of Patmos, but we were there literally in the cave where John wrote the Book of Revelation.

And in this last book, this last chapter, Chapter 22 of Revelation, “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life as clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God and of the land down the middle of great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life bearing 12 crops of fruit yielding its fruit ever month, and the least of the tree are for the healing of the nations no longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and the lamp will be in the city and servers will serve him. They will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need a light of a lamp or the light of the sun for the Lord God will give them light and they will reign forever and ever.” The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy in truth. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets send his angels to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

And then Jesus said these are in red, “Behold I am coming soon, blessed as he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.” And John continues, “I, John am the one who heard and saw these things and when I had heard and seen him, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.” But he said to me, ‘Do not do it, I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers, the prophets and all who keep the words of this book worship God.’”

Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book because the time is near. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong. Let him who is vile continue to be vile. Let him who does right continue to do right and let him who is holy continue to be holy.

Now, Verse 12 is where Jesus speaks, these are in red, the 22nd Chapter of Revelation, Verse 12. “Behold, I am coming soon. My reward is with me and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” King James’ version says, “According to his work. I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Verse number 12 in the last book in the last chapter of the bible, Jesus says, “I’m coming with reward in my hand and I’m going to dish out those rewards based on the works that you have done.” It’s not my words, Jesus’ words. And this is Jesus’ words after he has ascended. “I’m coming with reward in my hand” and get the key difference, who he is talking to are the folk who are saved.

He is not separating in this point the saved versus the unsaved. He said, "I got reward in my hand and I am going to give you every man his reward based on his work, based on what he has done."

So, what I saw was this, Paul is absolutely right, we're not saved by words because we just can't be perfect. We're not saved by work, we're saved by grace, but we are rewarded in heaven based on those levels, based on our work. Because Jesus said that, not me, Jesus said that and he didn't even say, but just a few more words after. Let me just read you the words that he says after. So He almost closes the bible with this. After he said he says, "I Jesus have sent my angel to give you the testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David and the bright morning star," and I think that's about all Jesus says after that except for the last word, "Yes, I am coming soon."

So, the very last words of Jesus he told you how he is going to reward you and he said it's based on what you have done. So, I've told you this to sum this thing up, how to get to heaven. First of all, do what God says and the closer you do what God says, the higher you will be. That's kind of that way in the Earth. The more diligent you are with stuff in the Earth, it's the same way. The closer you get and the more you do to what God says for you to do, the higher you will be.

You have to believe in Jesus, He is the door, He is the truth, He is the way and light. No one end of the kingdom except by Him, so you got to believe in Jesus. You've got to have faith. You're not saved by works, but it does appear that your level of reward is determined by that.

Let me tell you an experience I had years ago. I've been publishing Mountain Waves now for a long time and I was actually looking at the account of the donations that we had in Mountain. We exist probably been 10 or 12 years ago and as I pulled up the account, the balance in the account was almost \$55 trillion. I said trillion, not million, not billion, trillion. See, a million is a thousand, thousand. A billion is a thousand million and a trillion is one thousand billion dollars.

So, I'm looking at this account, it's saying 54 trillion, 900 and some billions and such as -- I was like, "What in the world?" So I contacted the processing company that handle the account. They

said "There is nothing not wrong in our system." They said, "Your account is accurate."

00:40:05

I said "No way it's accurate. (00:40:07) it's 55 trillion dollars. Do you know the whole gross national product of the United States is nowhere close to that? This is almost 10 years all in money produced in the United States and this what you're saying I got?" He said "There is nothing wrong with our system? So what your account shows is accurate." I said "There's no way." (00:40:24) I'm just sitting there just laughing. And I heard God speak. "That's your heavenly bank account." And it's same in earth. We're all blessed, we're all children of God but we've got different bank accounts. We're all blessed. We're all children of God but it's different levels of bank accounts.

Right now, some of your bank accounts will not (00:40:51) hundred dollars and some of you, you can write a check for a hundred thousand and won't blink. We all got bank accounts, we're all in the land of opportunity and the promise land as viewed by the rest of the world but we have different levels of accounts.

So I'm worried (00:41:09) if your check right is going to clear. Others, you are in (00:41:14) you're going to write a check on because you got so many. It's different levels of accounts and that's why Jesus see it, don't store your treasure on earth where (00:41:27) corrupt and thieves break in and steal. Put your treasure in heaven. That is my conclusion after going through all this and rolled in up my sleeve and (00:41:37). And it's basically (00:41:40). You need to do what you need to do in wisdom, and what has God has seen it. God provides the grace on the stuff you cannot do and the errors you make and he provides a covering for that. He sent Jesus for our sins.

They actually had it in the Old Testament, that's what the sacrifices were for. And they had to kill an animal, there was a river of blood flowing out of the temple trying to get rid of the folks' sins. So it's the same principle, he gets sent ,the lamb for all of our sins but we still need to do what we supposed to do and we still need to do what God tells us to do, we still need to be right. And our works determine the level of reward because it's not all the same in heaven just like it's not all the same in earth and I

don't want an overdrawn account in heaven. I don't want to have to write a check in heaven and be worried about how I'm going to make it because it's different. (00:42:38) with the Holy Ghost but some of us worry about how are we going to pay our bills.

So the levels of accounts down here are not all even nor will they be in heaven. That's what I said, put your treasure in heaven. Do you think everybody got the same treasure in heaven? And that's why Jesus said in that Revelation 22:12, "I got the reward in my hand and I'm going to issue these rewards to every man based upon his works." So do what you're supposed to do. Follow the word of God. Build your treasure in heaven. And trust in Jesus. Call on His name.

And I want you to listen to C. Elijah's last message called "Super Abounding Grace." It's message number 7741 and it's so powerful and it talks about the grace of God because he's given me just grace to no end(ph). He really has. But my blessing increases the more I am obedient. My blessing increases the more that I am obedient. And that's why God spoke another level. I'm beginning to see that clearer and clearer. He wants to take us to another level. He didn't even want you in heaven on the bottom. I want you at the top. I want you raise -- but first you get to get in there. First, you got to get in just like getting in the United States. You basically not going to stop. Even on welfare in the United States still do pretty good but I rather not be on welfare.

This is trying to take you to another level in Christ. And Jesus is heavily work centered because He knew when He said "I'm going to base my reward what I will give you based on your work." So He knew that and that's one of the reasons why He was so work centered. Paul is more grace centered because he knew we needed grace just so you can get in the first place. So when you're able to look at the picture of both of them, there's really not a dichotomy between the two. You need both of them. So you need to have your work at A plus and you need to have your faith at A plus.

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But you need to have both of them because faith without work is dead. So that's basically it. It's not a nutshell. We actually over time, I knew were going to run overtime today. I knew it because this one simple subject, we have more distraction than ever that

didn't surprise me because this is some of the things more important in there for your salvation.

See, the higher levels of anything require more effort. They always have, nothing different about it. It's like that in heaven and earth. The higher levels of anything have always require more effort.

As the longest term I have live in on in very long time, but it's worth it and I just believe it. I want you into heaven. And you know it's kind of -- we take communion today, this is a good example. This is my communion. Now, everybody gets a glass and a cracker. I got one, two, three, four, five, six crackers and two glasses of wine. Someone, "Pastor, why you get that much?" Because there's no limit on how much of the blood of Jesus you can get. There's no limit and I recognize it. It's tradition that you get one cracker and one glass of wine but I've always got several crackers and I got as many glass of wine that my hand will hold because He recognize the choices.

And you see Jesus say there was a new covenant when you read. Yeah, He did say there's a new covenant. And you know what he said in the new covenant? This is my blood that is the new covenant. I want to double dose a new covenant. So I got me a double dose of his flesh. I actually got six full dose of his flesh and a double dose of his blood. Get all (00:46:59) as you can get. It changes your world, it changes your life, changes your relationship, changes everything around you but it's what we got to do. Jesus, he really wanted all about doing. He really was but he also understood don't have that faith doing. Don't have faith doing.

If you're not above describe (00:47:19), you should as you're not getting into heaven. Don't have that fake stuff, don't be just doing it because the folk can see you. No, no don't have that fake stuff. That still needs to be real. It needs to be real. How do you know it's real pastor? Because you do(that) that way in private. That's how you know it's real. You do that way in private. You do that way at home. It didn't make a difference how you stand to people. No you do that way in private. You do that way when nobody sees you. That's the real you. When no one is looking at you. That's the real you. How are you that way? And that determines the real essence of what's inside you, not how you are standing up and dressed up in front of folk. How are you in private? That's why

Jesus knew you all don't want to be on the stuff I did in public, all this folk to get (00:48:11) all his money and inside when you get home, you are nothing like that. We need to be real with it. Don't play church. We need to be real with this thing because heaven is real and that's why I said when I got to high as "h".

Now, when most people hear that term, they think instinctively that they're as hell. No, I'm high as heaven. But instead folks think I'm high as hell because there are more folks high as hell, they're high as heaven. So you got to make sure you got the right high, because the wrong high will take you in the wrong direction. Mama, you got something you want to say? Okay.

Female: I was sitting there tears in my eyes because you have to know the man. When he was a teenager, we were members of the (00:49:30) church and once a month, they were praying out (00:49:39). Nathaniel was in high school and he gave more money than his mother and father put together in high school. Dale Bronner's ministry started because he recorded all of his messages and put them on tape.

00:50:05

He has been so grounded and (00:50:10) getting the gospel out and the mother have lived with even glory enough. What he is preaching, he lives(ph) it. And the founding of this church, he was the one who came and took up the (00:50:36) carried it to the finish line. These were wooden floors, wooden benches, (00:50:45). But he wouldn't give that to God. He wanted to give the best for God. And he asked God and God told him what to do, how to do these, (00:51:00), the carpet, the window (00:51:00) just four and he gives even (00:51:19).

So I want you to know as the mother and when he's talking about giving, that's what he knows, that's who is that's why God has blessed him. (00:51:38) by God.

Nathaniel Bronner: We thank you for joining us at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This was part five of the series titled The 12 Most Asked Questions of Christians by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5739. That's 5739.

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Nathaniel Bronner: If this message has been a blessing to you and you would like to help support this ministry, go to iwantogive.com. That's iwantogive.com.

Female: Listen to brothersoftheword.com often because brother, you need the word.

00:52:54