

# The Causes of Lack

Sermon Title: **The Causes of Lack**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Anyone God truly calls for great destiny, He recognize they're willing to make great sacrifice.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:21 - 00:00:49)

Female: And now for 5773, The Causes of Lack, Part 5.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. Today, we are actually at Part 5 of a series called "The Causes of Lack." And if you have lack in your world and you're listening to this electronically, you need to go to brothersoftheword.com and just search on the causes of lack, and you'll be able to hear every one of these sermons that deal with the causes of lack absolutely free of charge.

Today, part five, The Causes of Lack, "The seed is not watered with sweat." The seed is not watered with sweat. In Genesis 3:19, the Bible reads, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou it bread. Until thou return unto the ground for out of it was thou taken. For dust thou art; and unto dust thou shalt return."

God ordained in the very beginning that basically man would literally eat by the sweat of his face, which basically means we don't really have to necessarily sweat to till the soil. Today, you've got tractors and combines, and all kind of mechanized things, but we do need to work.

So basically, God's principle has never changed and there's another verse that says, "If a man shall not work, he shall not eat." And we have tried to get away from a lot of God's basic principles, but we find that when we violate those principles, all kind of negative stuff starts to happen to us.

So, God ordained in the beginning that man should work for his sustenance or to provide for him and his family, we ought to go to work by the sweat of our brow.

Proverbs 10:4 says, "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in the summer is a

wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.” Proverbs 13:4, “The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.” Proverbs 14:23, “All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”

So, a lot of verses in Proverbs deal with it just in being diligent, just in hard work. You have to work. I know both Pastor James and Pastor C. Elijah, we were at a motivational seminar with Tony Robbins and Gary Vee. And Gary Vee came by and he said, “Look, all these motivation is fine. But all these motivation isn’t going to bring you (00:03:44), you all got to go to work. You got to work hard to get this stuff. You just can’t stand up and go holler and just feel good and think your business is going to boom, and think money is just going to flow to you. You got to go to work.”

So, it came from a man who was used to not just talking but doing, you got to work to get some of the stuff in your world. And some of us, we have lack in particular areas, simply because we refuse to put the work that it takes, and it takes work in every one of the major of the four areas of our life. Money, you have to go to work.

If you don’t go to work and you’re sitting on your behind and worrying about the government taking care of you, and I’ll tell you this about the government, the government takes care of a whole lot of people. The government takes care of people better than the church does.

If you just want to know the honest truth about it, you can’t come to the church and get too much money to loan. Sometimes we don’t help people, but we’re not going to keep helping you. The government is owing somebody, going to send you a check every single month, and you’re sitting down on your behind, the church is not going to do that. I know this church is definitely not.

But even the government will send you only just enough for you to eat. It’s not going to send you enough where you have sufficiency.

00:05:02

It’s only going to send you just enough where you can barely scrape back. So, if you want to really get to the point of sufficiency and abundance, you’re going to have to go to work. So, even in the arena of our money, it requires sweat. And oftentimes we got

ideas, we got all these fancy words, we got all these prophecies, we got all these stuff and yet we won't go to work.

If you don't go to work, you're not going to get it. That's just 99.9% of the cases you won't get it in every single area of our life. We got all this sickness, all this sickness in the Body of Christ and we won't sweat. We won't sweat. We go and lay around, slop around, eat as much as we want and expect to have help and then come to the church, want to get hands laid on us and all that stuff disappear, it didn't happen like that. I'm just sorry to tell you, but it just didn't happen like that. You're going to need to sweat. You're going to need to be in (00:05:58), sweating on somewhere.

See, a lot of times, we think and we say, "Well, you know, this stuff just ran in my family." No, it didn't just run in your family, it ran in your family because your family did run. And you get the same thing everybody else in your family got because you do the same thing everybody else in your family does.

If you don't sweat, you can't even have good health. If you work out six days a week, you'll never be sick. If you see me sick, you can guarantee one thing, Pastor didn't work out those six days a week. He didn't say, "If you pray to me everyday."

Now, we go to do some stuff. I called my mother the other day. I talk with her every day I called her. I think it must have been yesterday. I called my mama. I said, "I'm going to need my bicycle." "I'm in 32 minutes." So, mama is 84 years old and you see mama come up these steps, mama walks up these steps with no problem. Mama can walk two miles without breathing hard. Mama didn't have a cane. Mama is stepping good, but mama was on her bicycle yesterday and I don't know anybody more in love with the Lord or spend more time with prayer than mama. But mama got off her knees and got on her bicycle, because mama even understands.

I need to do some sweating on the seed if I want the fruit of health. Even in your relationship, it takes some sweat. You got to put some time and the focus in some part and if you don't put some sweat, you got to do some stuff you don't want to do, you got some other stuff you'd rather do. But if you don't put some sweat in it, your crop will never come up and it will die. And almost every one of these areas, when you add them, how much time had you

spent on your spouse. Now, you spent no sweat and yet you want a crop. Yeah, you're going to get a crap all right.

In every one of the areas where we have lack, when you go to check it, you will generally find we have not watered the seed with sweat. How many of you all have been to Kentucky Fried Chicken in the past year? Go ahead and raise your hand and say yeah, you've been to Kentucky Fried Chicken in the past year.

If you go to Carbon Kentucky which is where Kentucky Fried Chicken began, they have Colonel Harland Sanders' credo on the wall. And Colonel Sanders, he did not start Kentucky Fried Chicken until he was 66 years old. He was at the point of retirement for most people.

The credo of Colonel Sanders is called "The Hard Way" and I want to just read what's on his wall. It is comparatively easy to prosper back trickery, the violation of confidence, oppression of the weak, sharp practices, cutting corners - all those methods we are so prone to palliate and condone as 'business shrewdness.' It is difficult to prosper by the keeping of promises, the deliverance of value and goods, and services, and deeds, and denouncing the so-called 'shrewdness' with sound merit and good ethics."

"The easy way is efficacious and speedy, the hard way, arduous and long. But as the clock ticks away, the easy way becomes harder and the hard way becomes easier. As the calendar records the years, it becomes increasingly evident that the easy way rests upon a hazardous foundation of shifting sands. Whereas the hard way builds solidly a foundation of confidence that cannot be swept away, thus we build it." And that's what's on Colonel Sanders' wall of his first restaurant.

You know, Proverbs had a point about those who try to get richest the easy and quick way always end up in ruin. Colonel Sander said, "There is an easy way, and there is a hard way." And the easy way appeared and it's the way of the satanic word, it appears to be easy and prosperous. And it is in the short run he said, but if you check that thing over the years, it is the difficult way that's actually the easy way in truth.

He said, “We’re going to choose the hard way,” as we look at lack that we have in our life and the sweat that we need to put forth to do it. Sweat, sometimes, you have to labor over an extended period of time for this fruit to show.

As the offering was taken and as we came around for communion, I saw two of our four sons come by and they shadowed almost all of them, nearly six feet tall and that takes some time. And I could see just a whole lot of money walking down here. It takes a whole lot of money to (00:10:41).

But yet, what may appear to be a hard way is really the easy way. I want you to play the video dealing with just the bamboo. It’s fairly long, but I want you to listen to this thoroughly because it illustrates a point that we have to put forth effort for we want God’s blessing. Jesus said, “The birds, look at them, God takes care of them. But God does not put the food in the bird’s mouth. He puts the food in the earth, the birds spend all of their waking hours getting that food out of the earth.”

You don’t see a bird sitting there and then God just drop the worm in the bird’s mouth. No, that bird has to fly and pick and dig. God has provided it, but they have to go get it. Run the video.

Male 1:

I’d like to introduce you to the miracle of Chinese Bamboo. It all begins with the seed and with the vision of someone willing to wait. A Chinese farmer, usually struggling to survive and provide for his family, plants the seed and sets his hope and vision on all it will provide when it towers 90 feet above his head. With a heart toward the future, he digs hole after hole, plants the seeds then begins their care. Day after day, he carries water to the spots he has worked.

And because it’s human nature to want to see results, he carefully inspects the spots everyday, nothing. Knowing he has to feed his family, he plants other crops carefully sown around the spots that contain the real hope for his future. He continues to water them everyday, feeding them carefully and watching, nothing.

The other crops sprout within weeks, providing nourishment for his family within months, but provide nothing for the future. These crops will not make his dreams come true, they will simply provide for the present. The Chinese Bamboo seeds contain all

his hopes, his dreams. A whole year goes by, nothing. He continues to haul water. He stares endlessly at the spots but sees nothing but barren ground.

His hopes, his dreams, seemed so very far away. There is no evidence of life. Has the seed rotted? Has it died before it ever had a chance to grow? Another year goes by, nothing. His neighbors, those who don't know and believe in the miracle of the Chinese Bamboo, laugh at him. They mock his vision for the future. They look on to a scorn as he hauls buckets of water to the spots.

He begins to question himself, "Will it ever grow?" Is he pouring water in his life's energy into something that will reap no reward for him? Another year goes by, nothing. Three years of pouring water, energy and hope into the Chinese Bamboo, nothing to show for it, yet he's heard of the miracle of the Chinese Bamboo. He's heard of the huge rewards that come to those who believe.

One day, he stands over the spots and he cries his frustration and fears. The spots reveal nothing, the barren ground seeming to mock him. Yet, the wind was first hope to him. He sighs and hauls yet more buckets of water. Another year goes by, nothing.

Four years. Four years of hoping, wishing and diligently tending his dream. Surely the miracle will happen now. His neighbors have quit laughing, they no longer even care. Yet, they talk quietly among themselves of the farmer who isn't quite right.

00:15:01

At this point, the farmer isn't even sure. Yet, he's fallen into a habit so he continues to water the spots. He continues to feed them. It's simply what he does now, but no knowledge of reward, just the simple now unspoken hope that life resides beneath the spots he so carefully tends.

Another year passes, nothing. Five years, the farmer is tired, tired of hauling buckets, tired of growing and tending so many other crops to feed his struggling family, tired of trying to keep his dream alive, tired of seeing no results day after day. He stares hopelessly at the spots. There cannot possibly be life after so many years. He must have watered them wrong. He must not

have fed them correctly. If only he had done things differently, there would be growth.

Despair rocks his soul. Five years, he has poured into his dream, into his hope for a better future. His dream mocks him. The vision of a better life for his family melts away under harsh reality. Tears filled his eyes as he grabs for the last hope residing in his soul and slowly lifts the bucket to pour water onto his dream.

After five years, he realizes it would be folly to give up. Then comes the morning when the whole village has jolted awake by the cries of joy from the farmer. They watched startled from their windows as he runs down the dusty road calling for his family to come see.

As his family races back up the road after him, the rest of the village pours from their houses to see what has this crazy farmer so excited. They find the family clustered around the spots talking excitedly. From the edge of the road, they can see green sprouts thrusting out from the barren ground. They seemed to be growing before their very eyes.

The farmer is dancing. “The miracle has happened,” he cries. “The miracle has come.” The spots become the place for everyone in the village to come, watching in amazement as the bamboo grows and grows and grows, 5 feet, 10 feet, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90. In just six weeks, the bamboo has grown 90 feet tall. Five years of nothing and now this, 90 feet in six weeks, it is truly a miracle.

The farmer stands to the side. He is aware all his dreams have come true. The harvest of the bamboo will provide all he dreamed of for his family. The bamboo that will replace what he’s harvested springing forth from the deep roots forming during the last five years will provide for generations to come. He also realizes the lessons he has learned are far more valuable.

He learned to plant a dream. He learned to do the daily things that would make it a reality. He learned to ignore those who said, “It couldn’t happen.” He learned to push past his own fear and doubt and keep taking action. He learned to have faith when there was no reason to have faith. Now, he smiles every time he walks through the village. Everyone is hauling buckets of water

to their own spots gazing over at his towering 90 feet tall bamboo. They know what can happen because of him, because of his willingness to blaze the trail, and make his dream come true.

What about you? What are you willing to do to make your dreams come true? How long are you willing to work? How long are you willing to take action? How long are you willing to push past your fear and doubt? How much faith and belief are you willing to have? I hope your answer is one that will help you achieve all you dream of in life as you continue to dream, do so knowing that someone believes in you enough to send you this movie. Someone believes in you, enough to make sure you understand the miracle of Chinese bamboo because they believe you can create miracles in your life.

(Music Playing: 00:20:21 - 00:20:42)

Nathaniel Bronner: And so much of our stuff is like that and I want to just deal with one quick story of the bible. You all know the story, but there's a revelation in it, you haven't seen. One of the longest stories in the bible was when Isaac found Rebekah and I will just briefly give you a little history of it.

Abraham the patriarch, had the promised son, Isaac and Abraham was old. He felt like he didn't have much time left. He was a very wealthy man and Isaac his son, did not have a wife and told his servant Eliezer. He said "Eliezer, I want you to go to this other land because I don't want my son marrying a Canaanite. I want you to go to this other land and I want you to find Isaac a wife". The story is in Genesis, Chapter 24 and I wanted you to read this portion beginning at the 11th verse.

And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time. The time when women go out to draw water, then he said "Oh Lord, God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, here I stand by the well of water and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water".

Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, please let down your pitcher that I may drink and she says "Drink and I will also give your camels a drink". Let her be the one you have appointed for your servant, Isaac. And by this, I will know that you have shown kindness to my master. And it happened. Before

he had finished speaking that behold Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.

Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin. No man had known her and she went down to the well, filled her pitcher and came up and the servant ran to meet her and said "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher". So she said, "Drink my lord" then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand and gave him a drink and when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also until they have finished drinking". Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water and drew for all his camels and the man wondering at her remains silent, so as to know whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous.

Now, this is the part, everybody who's been in church has heard this story multiple times. But this is the part that most people don't realize. First of all, a camel can drink up to 40 gallons of water at one shot. They can go across the desert and they can travel for days. I've been on a camel when we were at Egypt, I was on a camel, pastor James was on a camel, C. Elijah paid \$5 to go up on a camel, when he got on the camel, the man said its \$5 to go up, its \$20 to come down.

So, C. Elijah has been on a camel and he wouldn't let him down and the camel was mean and looking back and snorting at him. C. Elijah had to get that man \$20 to get down off of the camel. But this is the part that I want you to understand. Now even if they had been traveling across the desert, they were hot, they were tired, even if the camels were just half empty, they still would have drink 20 gallons of water. The part I want you to understand is in Genesis 20:14, the verse before I began reading.

Then the servant took 10 of his master's camels and departed. He had 10 thirsty camels. So he said, "Lord, let the woman who is to be for my boss's son, let her not only say will you give me water, but I will go and get water for all of your camels". Rebekah went and drew water for 10 thirsty camels. You have to understand, they didn't have electric pumps back in that day. So you can work and just like flipping a switch and just run in the hose to fill it, no, no. You had to go and crank the reel and bring it up and bucket by bucket, she had to fill roughly, even if the camels were

only half full, 200 gallons of water. By the time Rebekah finished that, she was sweating.

00:25:02

So here, the servant knew that God's vision and his instructions. "I'm going to send you a woman who would not just give you water, but has diligence enough to draw 200 gallons of water for your camels" and then the servant knew. If a woman was diligent enough to draw that much water for the camels, how in the world would she take care there husband? And see, most people have missed that, they thought that Rebekah just brought a little cup of water for the camels. Now, that's 200 gallons. Sometimes, when we want the promise, when we want to move to this next level, it takes sweat. You cannot easily do this. It takes sweat and it takes time.

And I understand the miracle of the Chinese bamboo. It was miracle but in science. It looked like a miracle to -- it's just science. Even when I started my business, God blessed it all the way through, but it took seven years, before I got my first pay check. It took two years longer than the Chinese bamboo. Some of your worlds' going to take time to manifest what you really want and what God really has in store for you, but you're going to have to sweat over that thing. You're going to have to draw 200 gallons of water. Some of your relationships are dry right now, because you didn't put water on it. You've not drawn any water and you've got to work at this thing. Nothing in life that's worthwhile comes easy and without a sweat. And we just want to -- "Lord, send it to me. Send it to me Lord, pour it on me". God generally doesn't work like that and you found when he does work like it, that people have put in so much work behind it. There's always a back end story of it.

People, I don't want us to have lack in our lives. But I want us to understand the principles that are necessary for us to eliminate that lack. And I spend an hour and pray every day, so I'm a praying man, but I'm a working man. Right after I get off of my prayer, I go to work to get done what I need done. Actually, I don't go to work right after I get doing my prayer. I go work out then I go to work. It takes sweat in every single area of my life and even when I leave the house, my little lump of sugar, she's often times seating at her desk and I'll go and give her a big wet sloppy kiss

right on her. She does it “Oh you put on this stuff” that’s your water from the well.

So sometimes, you’re going to have to water up some stuff. But life takes sweat for us to get what God has destined for us to have. And for us to move where we want to be, Gods knows time and timing. We had a guest artist today, he sweated during his singing. And there are some of you right now and you have lack in particular areas and there are a lot of reasons for lack. That’s why there’s a whole series on the causes. Because there are a lot of causes, but the message today was just because the seed has not been watered with sweat. In other words, there’s a lack in some areas and you know that you have not done what you should have done.

There are some cases where it’s external, but today’s message was the seed is not watered with sweat. There are cases where you know you have not done what you were capable of doing and should have done. That’s absolutely nothing that can be done about what you did not do. They do a thing about that. It just nothing can be done about it. If you were supposed to have done it 10 minutes ago and didn’t do it, there’s nothing going to be done about what you did not do in the past. The only thing that can be modified and corrected is from what you do right now and forward. That can change and that you have full control over, there’s still going to be some external circumstances, there always are.

I think about we’ve had such a great music today. You know, I was in the music business. I was in the music business, yes I was in the music business and I remember the choirs sing one of the ways you can tell when you really have a good voice, if you’ve even been paid to sing. If your even been paid to sing, it separates you and that’s a whole lot of truth to that. But it’s not full of truth, because they offered me a lot of money. They’re saying, “You know back when I was in the music business they offered me \$7,000 to come open for the group war(PH). Yeah, that’s 15 plus thousand dollars today. So, they offered me \$7,000 back in the 80s to come open up for the group war. I turned it down. You know why I turned it down, because I did not want to spend the sweat to get prepared for a live performance. I didn’t want sweat. And I knew that’s going to take a whole lot of work to transition from studio to stage. And I didn’t want to spend a sweat.

00:30:02

We miss out on so many opportunities, because we don't want to spend a sweat. We lose a lot of stuff, because we don't do what we know we should do. So, I want to just ask today and that's why I was here in Garcin(Ph) and we were going to be over the time of our standard, but it's not the time of our standard, because he gives us one grace for Sunday a month and this is that Sunday. And you want to not necessarily lament the past, because there's nothing you can do about the past. Nothing, nothing, but you can do something about today. You can do nothing about yesterday, but you can do something about today and if there is a particular area in your life that you're experiencing lack and you recognized that this lack is really, because I didn't do what I was capable of doing.

The reason I don't have that \$7,000, because I didn't do and I could have done it. They wouldn't have asked me if they hadn't heard the music and I could have done it. I don't have the voices that you all have, but I could have done it and I could have walked away with that \$7,000 check. Could have put it in the bank, it had been worth 50,000 right now, but I did not want to spend the sweat to get it done.

So I want to ask for anybody right now and you want to just say, "Lord, I want to draw those 200 gallons of water". You know how much work that takes to draw up 200 buckets of water and dump it in a trough? That's why I say there was a lot about their story that we don't realize. That's a lot of work. But anyone, God truly calls for great destiny; he recognized their willing to make great sacrifice. Because you generally will not have great destiny without great sacrifice without some sweat. It is not a "no sweat universe".

So for those of you and you know and you said "Lord, I got these lacks, but I know it" and people we all fall short. There's no perfection in human flesh but there is better. There is better and whatever your area is, whatever your lack is that you know that "Lord, I didn't do what I was capable of doing. I did the bare, bare, bare, bare, bare minimum just to squeeze by. All I wanted to do is just get over and get by and do as little as I could to do this thing". You did as little as you could, you often get as little as you can get.

So we want to go to another level. That's what this is all about. It's not about being perfect, it's just about being better. That's all, I've got a program right now to where, I want to get my garage straightened out and clean is just a myth. How many of you all got spots in your house, it's just a mess? It's just a mess, "Got all these stuff, I don't need most garage space, I got eight garages at my house, I literally do. I don't need 12 garages, I don't need more garages and I have the brains and capability of organizing my garage".

How many of you all just got some areas in your life, there is so much stuff, it just boggles your mind and you start on it? So this is what I said I would do. So, "Lord, I'm not going to tackle all these things all at one time. It's just too much". I said, "I made a promise to do two things". Number one, every day I would straighten up a little something. Ever since I made that commitment, everyday when I come in to the (00:33:25), I take something, I straighten up, I made two commitments.

Number one, I would straighten up a little something, not a whole lot, just a little something. And I would add nothing else to the mess. What I'm doing with my garage is if you can just do that with your world, that'll change some things. If you just straighten up a little something, because don't go trying to change 50 things only at one time, no, no. If you just change a little something everyday, make a little something better everyday and if you don't add to the mess, sooner or later, my garage will be totally organized and spotless just by sticking with that principle.

So all of us, we have those garage areas in our lives of one form or another and God just wants us to take us to another level today. I believe that in my soul and he wants to get rid of all this lack that we have in our lives and in our worlds. But he wants us to have revelation and understanding, so that he can pour that upon us that we need to make and keep the changes. See it's not like I haven't had my garage straight before. Some of the areas that you all have lack in your life it's not like you haven't had those areas straightened once. The problem is, God will grace us and grants us to get them straight and we don't change behavior and it ends up in the same mess that it was before. So, I got to straighten up a little something everyday and don't add to the mess.

And I want you to just bow your heads and raise your hand and open your hands, because I want you to receive and just repeat after me.

00:35:00

Dear heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus. I stand here before you in lack and I recognize and realize that a major cause of my lack is me. And Father, even though I recognize that there may be external things that the real big reason and the only reason I can deal with is me. And Father, I stand before you to make a commitment, to declare, to decree, to yea even demand that as I do, it shall be done. And Father, I make a commitment to change as of right now, the things that I can do to reduce and remove this area of lack in my life. Father, I have accepted your son Jesus and I open my heart to his power with the understanding that in Christ, I can do all things, who strengthens me. I declare, I decree, I demand and I shall do. In thy son Jesus' name I pray, amen. Amen, amen and amen.

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00:38:00