

Success Forces

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Nathaniel Bronner: Set your goals with the journey in mind because you're going to spend most of your life on the journey not at the destination.

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And now for 5795, Success Forces, Part 4: How To Set Goals For The Life You Actually Want.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of The Word, because Brother you need The Word. And today I'm actually in a series that God had commanded simply called, Success Forces. There are success forces in life that when we follow these principles it increases our probability of success just as there are failure forces and when we follow the failure force principles, it increases our probability of failure. We want to be successful in every area of our lives in everything that we do and now we're in the midst of just dealing with these success forces.

And Success Force No. 1, was called, Having Specific Goals and Success Force No. 2, was actually BBQ which dealt with those goals. Last week's message was called, Daddy's Home and it dealt with, the power of the success percentages that occur when simply, Daddy is at home. And today, Part 4: How to set goals for the life you actually want.

Now one of the things that we're going to do after this message, I want you to wait until tomorrow, I want you to formulate your goals, listen to this message, and you can go to Brothers of The Word dot com, hit the contact and I want you to send your goals in and we're going to actually have a volunteer here at the church. I actually asked Phyllis to do this, she's going to print up your goals, and she'll be able to give those to you. They'll be available in the resource center, but you got to send them because it makes a difference when you have them printed out where you can look at them.

There were huge difference No.1 people who had goals and No. 2, people who had written specific goals. The probability of your success and the power of your success changes tremendously when your No. 1 have goals goes to another whole level when you have them written out and when you have the specifics. So, we're going to help you with that to be able to put it in artistic form that you'll be able to get an 8x10 picture frame, frame your goals in that picture, so you'll be able to look at them every single day. And the more you look at them, the more probability you will actually get those goals.

And three things I want to tell you about, How to set goals for the life you actually want. I could list 10, but I'm just going to do three because generally, you can't remember past three. No. 1, its Youth, No. 2, set your goals for the journey, not the destination. And No. 3, pick carefully who you travel with.

No. 1, when you're setting goals for the life you really want, there's a study that was made that I first read about in the book called, *The Slight Edge*. And it said that, only five percent of people are truly fulfilled, that's one out of twenty, only five percent of people are truly fulfilled but those five percent all had one characteristic in common and that one characteristic was they took personal responsibility for everything that happened in their lives.

They weren't talking about "Well you know, I'm this way because of them and in this system, in the men and all these kind of stuff" this is the reason why you know folks trying, they get it out for me all these kind of stuff and it's because of them. No, the five percent of people who are fulfilled in life all had this one thing in common, they took personal responsibility and they didn't let anyone else or put the blame out on anyone else. So, if you want a life that's really what you want, you got to take responsibility for your goals.

Now, this does not mean that there are no external factors, because I'm aware there are all kinds of external factors. If you are a person of color yes, you will have certain things that are going to be disadvantageous to you, just as there are no two ways about that.

But, that is not a reason for you not to succeed because there are plenty of people of color who are successful and there are plenty of people who are not of color, who are not successful. It's a factor, but not "the factor". It makes a difference, but it is not "the difference." You are the difference. Turn to the person and point at, "You are the difference."

Audience: You are the difference.

Nathaniel Bronner: I'm going to tell you this, it's not in your religion. So, far no, not in your religion because it's a wide difference in Christianity, all who believe in Jesus, it's a wide range. You got all the way from the successful to the ones who are total failures and everything and all of them believe in Jesus. So, it's not even your religion that makes the difference, it's you.

God is the God of us all. It's you who makes that difference. And when you start understanding that and stop using the excuse. Like, I had an experience recently with the person we hired and I was in the interview on hiring the person, and I was talking with the manager after the interview and I said, "Well, I'm going to tell you now, this lady I really think she can do the job, but I'm going to tell you about her personality of what I've picked up. This lady probably is a little bit of a pistol. So, if you could handle the pistol part, she probably will work pretty good." But, I could pick up in her personality, she's a little bit of a pistol and when I asked her what happened to her last job, it was about what the other folks did.

We hired the lady. The manager called me on the first day, he said "Mr. Bronner, this lady is causing more confusion and commotion down here than a little bit, this lady is a mess." I went down to talk to the lady. She said, "This is the worst first day I've ever had on a job in my life!" I'm not tolerating her, I said, "Ma'am, if this is the worst day that you have ever had of the first day of your job in your life, you don't need to be here." Says, "No way in the world." and she starts backing up really because she knew what I was getting to.

I said, "This is the worst day you've ever had in your life on a job, this is not the job for you. If I were you, I wouldn't even think about staying here." And because, "I am not even thinking about keeping you here." And I called up HR I said, "Look, get rid of that lady. Do not wait until the end of the day. Get rid of that

lady right now.” because I see right now why the last company got rid of her. Even though she is qualified, her spirit is not going to fit in this place, but she was saying, “Its them, other folks, it’s them.” So, when we understand, when we take control, when we take responsibility, that what happens in my world is due to me, it changes everything because now, you have the power to act and you have the power to correct the stuff and you take that responsibility on yourself.

See, man’s first words in the Bible, Genesis Chapter 2, verse 23 and Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother and she’ll cling onto his wife and they shall be one flesh.” These were the first words spoken by man, recorded in the Bible. He said, “Basically, this is the bone of my bone, flesh of my Flesh, this is me.” That’s what Adam said.

When you go on and when you look at his second statement, Genesis Chapter 3, beginning in verse 9. “Then the Lord God called Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So, he said “I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom you gave to me, to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate it!”.

His first statement was, “This is me.” His second statement was, “It was them”. His first statement, “This is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh. You shall lead your mother and your father and you shall cling together and be one flesh.” His second statement was, “That woman”. He went from “this is me” to “that woman” from, “this is me” to “that woman”.

And thus, began the fall. Simply, because I really believed that Adam had just passed up, if he had just taken responsibility, I’ll fire the man not too long ago because of that. He had basically found some property in the plant. He knew he would not take the property and when he was confronted about it, he lied. And then, when told that lie and he had to tell another lie and he ended up telling about six to seven of the lies, because he had to tell one lie to cover that lie, then another lie to cover that.

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I fired him because of lying. If he had to just come and said, "Look I found it. I knew it wasn't mine, but ain't nobody claiming it and I took it". I wouldn't have liked it, but I wouldn't have fired him for that. I fired him because he lied. It was the reaction to the transgression that caused it. I believe that if Adam had just, "First, look Lord, I will be honest with you that was just me. That was just me. I messed up, I know what you told me, I messed up. Yeah, I know the woman did it, but if you put me in charge of this thing. Lord, I was the blame, I had full authority, I knew not to eat that fruit, I could have not eaten that fruit just as good as anything, I just messed up Lord, would you just forgive, I just messed up."

I believe if Adam had done that, I think God would have had a different reaction if he had just repented. But, that's not what happened, he said, "There's the problem, right over there, do you see that woman right up that's naked, well she ain't naked anymore, well she was naked, she was naked. So, you see that woman who was naked right, that's why I'm in this mess right now, that's why I'm hiding, what's why I'm sh-- because of that woman right over there.

So, the first thing, but just the beginning of man, he refused to say, "This is me" and he wanted to blame all his problems on somebody else. He didn't have to eat that fruit. So, you don't have to eat that fruit, you don't have to go that path when you understand this is me, it changes your direction in life. It's not going to change the way you talk because you're not going to be here to talk about somebody else and how they are the reason for your circumstance.

Male: Right.

Nathaniel Bronner: This is you. So when you understand that it makes a big, big difference. When you just say those two words, "It's me, it's me, it's me." It changes a whole lot of stuff.

No. 2, set your goals for the journey as well as the destination. Too often with our goals, we only focus on the destination and to be honest about it, 99% of life is the journey. You know, we're moving towards something, we're advancing in a direction. It's not just when we get there, it's the journey. So, set your goals

with the journey in mind because you're going to spend most of your life on the journey not at the destination.

Ask yourself this, "How do I want to spend my time?" "What makes me want to just jump out of bed?" "What do I want to learn?" "Who do I want to hang out with, or talk with or work with?" And set your goals based on those answers, so that your journey is joyous. Too many folks have set that a destination and the destination has not included the journey. They've set a destination, "I want to be a millionaire" but they're stuck on a career or a job that they just can't stand, they hate going to work, they just don't like it.

One of the movies that we saw at movie night was called "The Life of Noah Dearborn" and it was about this old man, he was a 100 and something years old and he worked on a farm, but he was just as happy as he could be. And they were trying to get him to move off the farm because they wanted to put this big development, his farm was smack in the middle, he wouldn't sell it because the money just not important, he had all the money he needed.

So, they sent one of the high powered lawyers out to talk with him and the lawyer went and he just said, "I'm not going to sell my property." So, I'm getting hurtful right now and get me some wine. He said, "You got whiskey, I'll make one." He said, "You make wine?" Still, come on, and I'll show you. So, he went out there and he showed him all of his contraption for making his wine, he has some apple wine and the big, high powered lawyer, he said, "Try some." He tasted, "Oh." He said "this is just so good." He said, "I've always wanted to be a wine maker." And you know he said, "Well, why don't you?" then the lawyer, he said, "Well, why don't you?" He said, "I've always wanted to do it." He said, "Well, why don't you?"

So the big, high-powered lawyer went back to his employers who had employed him to go out there and try to get the man to move and said "I quit, I'm going to make wine." And that's exactly what he did. He had achieved his destination, but he did not enjoy the journey that he was on. He had the power, the prestige, the money, but he was not fulfilled in what he was doing. And this is the critical part, "What makes you want to leap out of bed? What gets you fired up? If you're doing something every day, if you've only set the destination just in terms of finances, and if you have

not considered your journey, you have a goal that you would not be fulfilled with, consider the journey, it makes a huge difference.”

Ecclesiastes 5 beginning at verse 18 says this, “Even so, I have noticed one thing” This is Solomon who wrote Ecclesiastes The man with the greatest wisdom of anyone who ever lived. “I have noticed one thing at least that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them and to accept their lot in life and it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it.

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To enjoy your work and accept your lot life, this is indeed a gift from God. God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past.” That’s some deep stuff. That’s some deep stuff.

He said, “Eat, drink, and enjoy your work”. How of you plan on eating today? Now, the drinking, that could just be some apple juice or maybe some apple wine. Don’t get drunk, he just said, “Eat and drink, and enjoy your work.” And he said, “God keeps these people so busy that they don’t have time to brood over the past because everyone has some painful stuff that is happened to them in the past.

But, your joy is not going to come from you sitting there brooding over the painful stuff that has happened in your past. Your joy is from one coming from enjoying the stuff that is happening right now and there’s a lot of good stuff happening right now. And then, maybe some negative stuff, and some painful stuff, that has happened in your past, but when you can enjoy your work and eat and drink.

When you got a lot of negative stuff in, you can’t even enjoy your food because you can’t digest it properly, because you start having all kind of stomach issues. So, when you can just have your good meal on the good side and meant, your food is an enjoyment, it really is. So, Solomon knew what he was talking about when you can eat, drink, and enjoy your work.

And they found this thing in medical studies in the book that I read called “The Great Cholesterol” where they talked about this one community where they just had amazing health and they

couldn't understand what are you folks doing and they had to send all of these scientific researchers and find out what was it that they really, what was causing their great health? And what they found, they found that the people just had great fellowship. They would sit around, and talk for hours every day and each had awesome, closed knit friends. They ate, they drank, and they enjoyed their work and their life.

So, the journey is critically important and you can enjoy your journey regardless of what you're dealing with. You see, in college my goal was to get a chemistry degree. Well, when I talked with my oldest son he's a chemistry degree. Well, when I talked with my oldest son, he's a mechanical and engineering major, and he was telling me that his school, the number one DWF course, how many of you all know what DWF mean?

DWF means courses that you even make a D withdrawal or failed in, basically, you don't pass because you need at least a C to pass. So, you make a D, you would just withdraw out of the course or you just flunk the course. See, this the number course that has DWF, is chemistry. So, I majored in the number one DWF course. And I believe, I was the happiest man on campus.

I had the hardest subject, I was the first black person to ever graduate from that school with a degree in chemistry. And I believed, I was the happiest man on campus. I had the roughest curriculum, but I was the happiest man. Why were you so happy, because it's not circumstances that will determine your joy.

That's why Ecclesiastes talks about, stop worrying about your light in life, everybody got a different light. So, no matter what course load you have, it's a matter of how you view that thing that makes the difference. And everything I noticed, by the time I had graduated, there were a whole lot of students and they were just complaining about the professors were prejudiced. And they would say, "The professors are just prejudiced and just failing me and all these kind of stuff, they're just grading my tests wrong, and they just got always bad here".

When I got up to my upper classes, you were able to get prior tests so, you could study prior tests from those courses. I got some of those prior tests and I looked at some of those tests. And when I looked at those tests, I said, "Wait a minute, these are the same students who claim the professors were so prejudiced". I look at

their answers they had, their answers were wrong as three left feet. I said, "If anything, they were leading them, but they were blaming the professors for their failure." Don't ever listen to a student talking about this about the teacher.

No, I'm not saying that sometimes it's not the teacher, but 99 out of a 100 times, it's not the teacher, it's me. And that's the way it is with most of these stuff out of light, it's me. And sometimes even as a group of people, we've got to get away from all these blaming other folks for all our issues and it's not that other folks have not caused some of the issues, but they're still the past stuff. You got to deal with where you are right now, and what you have to work with is trying to write too much no history about it. And I know all this stuff has happened in the past. I know all about the institutionalized stuff, but you got to deal with it, you got to deal with it right now.

You got to Hollywood, you got to work with right now. You got to pound what's in your hand right now because I am around too many different people of all different persuasions and racist, and all those same problems perpetrate and they go through all races period.

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You got to deal with what you got in your hands right now. People, when we complaining about the standardized testing these years are racially biased and are bad. You know the number one folks who tested highest in this country, they're Asians right now. English is not even their basic language. So, if anybody got anything to complain about, about the test being biased or culturally biased, it's the Asians.

It's not even their culture or language at all, but they come in here buckle down, steady, and ace the test. And we're complaining about the test biased and it maybe a little biased there's nothing you're going to do to change what Princeton sends out on the SAT tests. You need to study and understand how the bias works, you need to know the answer because one thing I will tell you, math is not biased.

See English maybe biased, but math is not biased. So, we have got to get away from this mentality of this other folks causing our problem. That's going to be one of the main things that will help

you reach your goal. When you understand it's me, it's my responsibility and I'm not going to blame this, I'm not going to blame my lack of joy on someone else.

And the third thing, you need to travel with the right people. It makes a huge, huge, huge difference. We worked out yesterday, I work out each week three days a week with Ringo Maxx, who is our trainer. And when I started my workout, and I actually, I told you before I asked my second oldest son Josey. I said, "Josey, will you work out with me? Daddy wants to get his body on another level of condition. You got the best buddy in the house, will you work out with daddy?"

No. 1, I picked who I travelled with carefully. I picked the best buddy in the house to travel with. Josey and I started working out, we got Ringo to start training us, it wasn't too much longer after that my oldest son says, "Can I start working out with y'all?" And recently, my third son said, "Can I start working out with y'all?"

So, yesterday at the gym, I was there, my oldest son was there, my second oldest son was there, my third oldest son was there and all of them drove separately and even one of James' son was there. And Josey is the one that I had picked who had the best body, he was pushing things to another level. Ringo was training us and he had on this machine and Josey says, "I'm going do 20 pound more than that." and Ringo looked at him and he looked at me and Josey's winning and he did it. And then Ringo said, "Shoot, man. We can't get little Josey, he'd beat us, whatever, we have to step up a lot."

So, we had to step it up. And on the last exercise, Ringo he has these barbells and it would be three different weights, it would be a lighter weight, and a medium, and a real heavy weight and we do 30 reps, we do light in 20 with the medium and 10 with the heavy and that ended the workout for the day.

So, Josey's winning, he did his 30 reps with delight and then he did 20 reps with the medium and he did 10 reps with the heavy and I was looking and I said, "I'm tired. I'm ready to go." Let me try to get mine too, and it won't be ready to hit the showers after this and he and Josey says, "I'm going to back this up and do it again." And Ringo, looked at me and I looked at Ringo and he said, "Back it up, and do it again?"

So, Josey started with the heavy weight and he did 10 with that and then he went to the medium and did 20 and ended up -- and it forced Ringo and myself to take it to another level because who you travel with will determine where you go. So, these three things, the most important is recognize, it's you. When you start taking that personal response, don't blame anyone or anything else. Don't even blame the devil, nor the devil ain't made you do it.

Do it a good bit of that yourself. I mean, I know some people under some demonic influence, but everyone of the folks I know under some demonic influence, they don't put themselves in that position to be around demons and almost in the middle of the demonic den. I don't know anybody just walking around and doing right all holy and pure and a demon just has goner. It may have happened, but I don't know one.

Everybody I know who filled up with some demons got them demons because they were around folks with demons in the middle of some demonic nest snorting some coke. You have them demon don't get in you and you snorting some coke. That ain't no surprise. So, I'm not saying it didn't happen, we're totally righteous folks this demon just hopped on. I'm not saying that didn't happen. What I am saying is, "I don't how of many cases when that has happened."

See the devil influences, but it don't make you. So, there's a difference or the devil had made you do it. So, when you understand, it's me, it's not even the devil. You've never heard "Beats, I'm what the devil did." That ain't no devil, that's me.

Male: Right.

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Nathaniel Bronner: Don't even put the blame off on the devil. "Oh, it is Satan, yes. or that's your flesh." Paul listed all of them these are works of the flesh, just about all the stuff that we are dealing with works of the flesh. I have issues with my own flesh. So, when you understand it's me, then when you set your goals with the journey in mind. Now, your journey is not going to be everyone else's journey. Somebody, I think from the arc passed me on the expressway this morning where I passed, you know.

But anyway, I have my top down and most of 95% of the places I go, I have my top down, even if it's 100 degrees outside. Most people cannot ride with me in that kind of heat. My journey is not everybody else's. If I'm riding with my wife "Now, pull that top off and put that air conditioner on. I won't ride on a blazing heat." And ain't nothing wrong with that because of most eagles wouldn't want to ride riding on it. I love the sun, I take in my vitamin D, I will ride 95 percent of the time in full exposure to sun and went that's my journey.

So you cannot judge your journey on someone else's journey, but you do need to plan your destination based on the journey. Based on what suites you, based on what makes you fulfilled in life. And it doesn't mean it's all going to be pleasant because some of the stuff are not going to pleasant, just like they're working out. I don't love working out, no. But, at least make the journey pleasant and so, if you're around folks, just like a "We had a good time yesterday." So, even though, the working out was hard, it was sweating, you're out of breath by the time, we had a good time because you are around folks who make the journey pleasant.

It's me, set your destination with the journey in mind and then, choose who you travel with. Those three things, it's a lot more, but those are some of the three of the most critical things, those three things will not just help you get to your destination it will help you live and enjoy during the whole journey.

Life is a journey it's not just a destination. My ultimate destination is heaven, but I don't want to live in hell waiting on heaven. No, I want my journey on earth to be joyous, and full of joy, and it is, but that thing is a mindset even when I got DWF courses. It's a mindset. So, nobody can tell me -- well just because it's rough that I got to be miserable, no you don't. No, you don't, that thing is a mindset. Surround yourself with those people. Take it upon yourself, a full responsibility, and set your journey.

And people I believe we're headed for life, and joy, and fulfillment, and success, that we've never known. I think we're just moving towards another level that's what God told me. He said, "Your second half is going to be better and more fulfilled than your first." Now but, all naturally, they don't make sense. He told me that at 58-years-old, for most people you'll say "That over the hill." That

affects some folks says, "So far over the hill you can't remember seeing the hump."

So, that's what folks say, "It's over the hill." I ain't over the hill, but I've set my goal to get in better shape than I've ever been into my life and I'm heading for this, so don't worry about other folks and even though yet nature is against me, there's no two ways about, it's harder to do stuff now, because I am 62-years-old. I'm eligible for social security right now.

So yup, you can't just lie to yourself and say, "I'm just the same as I was at 20." No, you're not! No, you're not, I'm dealing with some DWF over a lot of my best friends are dead. So, I'm dealing with some tough courses. When you're in your 60s, your body is not the same as it was, but still it's up to me. And it's up to me and it's up to what I do in terms of whether I'm going to be as barely making it or whether I'm going to be full of energy and to do things that young folks can't even do because even working out with my sons, I got more 22, 19, and 16, and we're alternating on which one is the strongest and got more endurance.

They don't just leave daddy, they don't just leave daddy at all. Daddy be giving them a while. See, one thing about it, Josey said, "Daddy I'm doing to this next level, I'm going to do this." But the thing about it, daddy did exactly what he did. "So, Josey, you got to bump it up next time if you're going to lead daddy." So, don't let circumstances no matter how heavy or tough they are, don't let it stop you from doing what you want to and what you need to do. It's you, and yes, you can do all these through Christ who strengthens you, but He strengthens you and when you understand it's you, you are responsible, you can chose whether to eat that fruit or not, you can choose whether to listen to the serpent or not that's up to you.

00:29:54

It's is you who choose your goals with the journey in mind and choose who you travel on that journey with very, very carefully. I thank you for joining us today. You can go to Brothers of The Word dot com and you can listen to the entire series called "Success Forces" absolutely free. I wish you much success in life. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need The Word.

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