

Peace

Sermon Title: **Peace**

Sermon Number: **5820**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

Link to sermon audio - <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/5820.mp3>

Link to sermon video - <http://theark.s3.amazonaws.com/vid/5820.mp4>



BrothersofTheWord.com

Nathaniel Bronner: We've got to learn that the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Female: You are listening to BrothersOfTheWord.com. This is Part 1 of the series titled, "Peace", subtitled, "Prosperity" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5820. That's 5820. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing)

And now for 5820, Peace, Part 1 Prosperity.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to BrothersofTheWord because brother, you need The Word.

And today I begin a new series because to be honest, at 10 o'clock last night, I did not know what I was going to preach on. I had no prepared message and no idea of what the message would be. I always go to God and ask God, "Lord, what shall I preach on?" but God had not answered me as of yesterday. And in the afternoon, he simply told me, he said, "I will tell you what to speak on in your 10 PM prayer." And it's been a particularly long day yesterday so I was actually in my prayer at 9:30 so I can go to bed early. And as I begin to pray at 9:30, I said, "Lord, what do you want me to preach?" He said, "I told you 10 o'clock."

So, I had to stop and I went back to the 10 o'clock prayer and as I begin my evening prayer and meditation, I heard God speak, "You shall speak from the third book of the Bible, from the third chapter and the third verse. No, I didn't know what there was. So, matter of fact, I just barely could figure out what the third book was much less the third chapter and the third verse. But the third book of the Bible is the Book of Leviticus.

So, Leviticus Chapter 3:3 reads, "And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering. An offering made by fire unto the Lord. The fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards.

We've rarely heard any message on the peace offering. We've heard a lot of message on the time. We've heard a lot of message on the first fruit. We've even heard some messages on heave offering. But I never can recall anyone preaching on the peace offering. And yet, the peace offering is the only offering that could

be given at any time the people wanted to celebrate the peace that they had gotten from God.

The peace offering was the only offering that a worshipper could actually eat. So, I began a series dealing with that one word that centralizes the peace offering and that word is peace.

Peace. Peace. And, as I've heard it and I began to meditate on it, God simply says, "This series will be for you and three other people in the ark. It will have profound impact on the four of you. I don't know who those other three people are. I remember, C. Elijah and James, we were at a Tony Robbins conference. So, a whole lot of people there. Perhaps four or five thousand people and I remember, Gary V. got up to speak and Gary V. gave a message and Gary V -- so, I will be honest with you. If you have ever followed him and know how he talk, he talks like a comedian because he uses a lot of street language and he said "I will just be honest with you." He said, "Even though there's about five thousand people in this place," he said, "About five all is going to putting the stuff I'm talking about in practice." And then he said, "C. Elijah, there's only going to be four or five about one out of every thousand of you, of everything I'm saying. I've seen all of you holler and get all feeling good. You're going to leave here -- but it will be about four or five of you who will actually do a thing with what I'm saying."

So, God says, it's going to be me and three other people in the ark who's really going to benefit from this series and is going to profoundly affect your life. Because, I know with me right now, it's a season of what I would call challenge.

Have you ever had a season of challenge? I see, when you go into a season of challenge, it's not just one thing. It's like one thing happen and another thing happen and I know in different area that you got business stuff that happen, you have personal stuff that happen and all that stuff affects your spirit and that stuff affects your body. You know the one thing after another so it's like a season of challenge. Are there three people in her who have a season of challenge and you just need some peace? List at least three.

So, I don't know which three will benefit from this series but there are at least three people and God says, "You and three other folks in the ark." This will profoundly affect their lives." And one thing about it for it to profoundly affect your life, you can't just listen to it, because a lot of times, we just listen to stuff. You know, if we feel real good about it but by the time we get home, "What did he say?" And by the time we wake up, you don't even remember the title of the series.

So, for three people, this thing is going to internalize to them and they will put it in practice and they will make some profound changes in life and one thing I got to remember since God did identify me and I know that I'm going to a season of what I will call challenge. It's not a bad season, it's just a season of challenge. And sometimes, seasons of challenges, they strengthen you to handle even a greater season of challenge. Or they strengthen you to where you appreciate when there is no challenge.

Because you know, if you never had any tough times, you don't appreciate when it's moved. You see, if you live in a tropical climate, if you're from one of the Caribbean countries where it's just always warm, you don't appreciate the sun. Because it's sunny every day. But when you had a cold snap, and see the cold snap that we have today, didn't particularly bother me. I parked in a lot down the street and I walked up, it's freezing outside right now but it didn't bother me at all. You know why it didn't bother me? Because after I take my hot shower every morning, I take an ice-cold shower. And I've taken ice-cold shower and I turn just nothing but cold water and the water just freeze. And I've stand there and I've turned slowly around three times in that shower. And the water is just freezing, by the time I get out, my skin is ice-cold but it invigorates you and don't you all try it because it can kill you.

I mean, it literally can. I mean, that doctor's right, "Do not try that unless your heart is really strong," because the first time the blast of cold water hits you, you start breathing hard. By the time I turn around the third time, I've normalized but it prepares you and it prepares your nervous system to handle some tougher stuff outside. So, when I got to the cold weather, it didn't feel like anything because it was nothing compared to that cold shower.

See, some of you have gone through some stuff and the stuff that other folk be hollering about, "You're looking at -- shoot, that is

not nothing. You should see what I've gone through. Man, what you've hollering about is nothing."

So, sometimes, God will send you through a season of what I will call challenge not to punish you or to upset you but to strengthen you and to prepare you both to be able to handle and appreciate. Because both of them are just as bad if you can't handle it or you can't appreciate it. Because what you do not appreciate, you often will lose.

So, you need to be in a position to both handle whatever is coming and to appreciate whatever is coming. So, we begin today with a series simply called peace. And I'm going to take the letters of peace and each letter will be the title of the focus of one of the messages in this series. So, today, we begin with the letter P of peace and P stands for Prosperity.

Some of you may say, "What prosperity got to do with peace?" A whole lot. A whole, whole life. Because one of the things that upsets and destroys most people's peace is when they're running short of money. You don't know running short of money can mess up your peace? Not only can running short of money mess up your peace, money is the number one cause of divorce.

When you look at the reasons for divorce, money is number one. In almost every case of where we've had to deal with a divorce and counseling, there's never been a case where there's been a divorce where there hadn't been money issues involved. So, prosperity is not just money but money is a component of prosperity and when your money is fine, when your money is short, when you can't pay your bills, that will mess up your peace.

So, prosperity is the first subject that we're dealing with today, dealing with peace. In the book, balancing the tight rope, the author relates to a survey where they survey 200,000 college freshmen, 76%, that's a little over 3 out of 4 listed financial prosperity as the most important thing in their life goals. 3 out of 4 college students when they asked what their life goals were, number one was financial prosperity not getting close to God, not being fulfilled. Number one was financial prosperity. Isn't any wonder why in the presidential election, the economy is always number one? And you know, when we had a president that look liked he might strengthen the economy, they didn't care what his morals were.

They're like, "If he's going to bring him some money." They didn't care what he was doing. He could curse, condemn, graft, he could do everything. They didn't care what he did as long as it look like he might strengthen the economy.

00:10:06

[10-20 continuation]

So sometimes, we can get all off balanced by focusing on of what we call often prosperity and we ignore some of the other things, but prosperity is a real thing and it is something that you absolutely need and it is not just what you have. It is how you view it and how you manage with your have and that's the real kind of root of prosperity, it's not what you have. It's how you view and manage what you have, because you could have a whole lot of money and not be prosperous.

You can have a whole lot of money, your relationship's all torn to pieces, you can have a whole lot of money, your body is all riddled with sickness, you can have a whole lot of money and you live into depression every day. Money is only a component of prosperity and the only amount of money that you truly need is enough. Do you know that in the two scriptures that perhaps of the best known and most memorized scriptures in the bible of any length, there are only two of them, now some people will memorize a 91st song like my mother but it is very few folks know that. But most people would know two sets of scriptures. They'll know the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd song.

Most people would know those two scriptures and when you look at the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd song, both of them start out with prosperity. Both of them if you look at the Lord's Prayer, it begins after you get through praising God, give us this day our daily bread. That is your material sustenance. The 23rd song begins with the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Do you know how deep that verse is? I shall not want. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. I shall not be in lack then shall not be anything that I'm really desiring, that I don't have. Do you know how deep that is? The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. So, prosperity has to do with us not being in lack. It does not have to do with you being just a multimillionaire or billionaire or having 10 houses. Prosperity has to do with you having

sufficient shelter. Prosperity has to do with you having your daily bread, with you not being hungry as posed as having a food and being content. Prosperity has to do with you not being in want. Our problem becomes when we lose our peace is because we want so much. We don't want just a house. We want a huge house. We don't just want a car. We want a fancy, shiny car that everybody can "ooh" and "aah" when we drive by.

So, I want sometimes get us into trouble but when the Lord is your shepherd, you shall not want and one of the things about being in God is it starts to move you away from so much of the material things because we lose our peace because we are so focused on all of this material stuff and the material stuff would never bring you permanent joy and permanent peace but it will bring you peace and joy for a season but you get used to it. You move to a big house. That thing is nice for the first six months but after that, and this is what all of the psychologists and all of the psychological surveys will say, anytime that you take a big leap, there is a huge amount of joy that comes with that but it fades soon because you moved to a big house, everyone else in the neighborhood has a house just as big as yours.

So now, it becomes the norm and there is nothing exciting about it. We've got to learn that the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. How many of you all want some more stuff right now? Let me just be honest. How many of you want some more stuff right now? That's just about every hand in the place. What happened to the 23rd song with the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want? And some of you saying but Pastor, you raise your hand. It's the most of all want, I got some stuff I want. Now, I don't have anything that I particularly need but I do have some stuff that I want but the closer I get to God, the less stuff I'm needing.

I'm starting to clean out my closet because I got way more clothes than I need. I was watching Craig Groeschel with Life Church and he actually showed a picture of his closet and it looked just like mine. It was not a huge closet and he had two racks of clothes and Groeschel said he had a principle about his closet. He could not add anything he has to his closet without first taking something out. In that way, it kept him balanced and when I saw that I said, that's exactly what I'm going to do, because right now what I'm doing is squeeze in and my clothes are so tight, you know, I have to -- you know what I'm talking about.

00:15:09

We have so much in America but yet even though all of the stuff that we have, we still want more and it is hard to have peace when you still want more and we have to get to a point where we satisfied with what we got. We just want more and more and more and more stuff, so the first part of peace is prosperity but the key with prosperity is understanding when you are truly prosperous and when we understand, when we are truly prosperous, it reduces our need to constantly want more.

When we understand that God has blessed us -- if you drive a car, you'll richer than 97% of people on the earth and you have to travel a lot of places to understand. If you have a car, you are richer than 97% of people on earth and not only do you have a car, many of you got a house for your car and the house for your car is better than 95% of the housing on earth. You got a garage with a roof and most of the world lives in huts and shacks and places without a whole lot of heat. Your car has a home better than most of the people on the earth but yet we still want more and as we get closer to God, our peace will get better. And that's why Jesus was called the prince of peace. He was not called the prince of prosperity. He was not called the prince of stuff. He was not called the prince of money. He was called the prince of peace but yet when they follow Jesus, they had to leave all their stuff behind. Some of us need to leave some our stuff behind and we need to learn how to be happier with less stuff.

I am working on it myself and I am fine in it. I just don't need a whole lot of stuff. Most of you, if you see me out in public or even when I come in the church, it looks like I got on the same pair of pants every day, because I wear black cargo pants 95% of the day. People, it's not the same pair of pants. I actually have 18 pairs of those pants. I really do. I don't spend time trying to decide on what I'm going to wear and I rotate them so they're always clean but it looks like to the world, I wear the same pair of pants every day. No, Pastor makes no time in his world trying to decide what I'm going to wear in the morning.

Most of the time, I get on those black cargo pants. I have all the same type of shoes and they're not the same pair, they're the same type cause some of us, we lose our peace just on what we going to wear. I'm serious. We sit in there in front of the closet fresh, we got to just all these clothes, all these shoes, frustrating, talking

about, I have nothing to wear. What you mean is you have nothing to wear that they have seen in the past three months. That's what you mean.

So now, you got to have a new set of clothes that no one has seen you in lately. A matter of fact, you all think Pastor wear the same thing every day so he got, what are you doing with -- because I don't spend any time trying to figure out what I'm going to wear. Now, woman can't do that. Man can, a matter of fact, a lot of time, women can wear their hair the same way every day much less to say, in clothes but it adds to frustration and it reduces peace. The more you have to worry about pleasing what other folk think about you.

I'll look good in my black pants and my black shoes and my black shirt and I don't wear about what anybody got to say about Pastor that got on the same -- I know the truth and even if they were the same clothes so it's plentiful got to wear the same set of clothes everyday so the thing is people, we've got to get over some things about prosperity if you ever truly want to have peace daily with your material stuff. You cannot be worried about what people think about what you've got because most of us get in financial trouble trying to live up to the expectation of other folk and we have more stuff than we need and more stuff, a lot of times than we can afford but yet, God wants us prosperous.

Psalms 1, says blessed is the man who does not walk in the council of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of markers but his delight is in the Law of the Lord and on his law, he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does, prosperous. Whatever he does, prosperous but a key to that verse is this man meditates on God's word day and night so whatever he does, it's going to be in line with the word of God. If you're meditating, if you're thinking, if the word of God is in you, that habit and whatever you do is going to be in line with the word of God. So, it's all in the land of God's word and whatever he does, prosperous.

We're so familiar with what John said in third said in 3 John 1:2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Now, what John meant if you will read the NIV, “Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

God wants us prosperous, but I do not believe God wants all of us to be millionaire. I just absolutely don't believe that because God knows most of us cannot handle it and God knows most of us with a whole lot of money, it would make us worse. So, often, He has to keep us at a level that keeps us seeking him, but He does not want you in lack and most of us are not in lack if we live the proper way.

The first part of peace is going to be managing what you have well and appreciate what you have. It's how you view it and how you manage it. Most of us who say, “I just need more money. I just need more money.” No, you need more management ability and appreciation of that which you do have.

And if we learn to appreciate that which we do have, it changes everything about us. So, peace begins with understanding, “you are rich.” I remember I wrote an article called “Of Course I'm Rich” and I was 21 years old when I wrote that article. And it wasn't like people though it was when they saw the title of it. It was I recognized I have been blessed. I had health. I had clarity of mind. I had enough to eat. I had shelter. I had clothing. I was rich. Everybody in this room right now who's listening to my voice is rich. You're not hungry. As a matter of fact, most of you are struggling trying to diet. Am I not telling the truth? You are not hungry! You're struggling because you got too much to eat and you're struggling to diet.

Have any food raiment. Now listen to what Paul is having any food and raiment. So, most of us are struggling because we have too much food and most of you had a problem trying to pick out what to wear today, not that you didn't have any try to pick out what to wear. So, we have an excess. So, when your mind changes to where you understand, I am blessed. And not only I am blessed, I am tremendously blessed. It changes your view of your prosperity. Instead of I want more. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” I shall not want. I shall not want. It changes our prosperity view of ourselves.

Turn to the person next to you and tell them, "I'm rich. I'm rich!" And that's not being facetious, it's real. If you're sitting up in a sanctuary right now, you are more than likely rich because you have enough and too much of most of the basic stuff and many of you going to put this more of a but, but. And it is the "but" that messes up your prosperity and it does that with people at all levels. They just want more and more and more and it is never enough. You see, that's one thing that closer you get to what I will call the end of days. The closer you get to the end of days and less important all this meant.

My momma, 85, she just gets excited about getting a new car. Momma just don't give a hoot and momma can go out buy her new car today, cash if she wanted to. Momma just not excited about buying a new car, it's just not owned her agenda and momma is happy. Every time I talk to momma and I talk to momma almost every day, do you know what momma talks about 95% of the time? Momma says, "I am so blessed. I am so blessed, I've got four sons in the pulpit."

And momma will go down blessed and it ain't none of it material stuff. Momma said, "Oh, I am so blessed because I got this big old house." No, momma does not mention any of that stuff. Momma goes down blessed, "I am so blessed. Oh, I got my health and I got my strength and I got four sons in the pulpit and even one son, I got who's not in the pulpit. You told me four years old that this was going to be the president." So, God told me what he was going to be even then, Halleluiah! And she goes right down to this with that stuff. The closer you get to God, the less you will focus on all of the material stuff, the clothes and the cost and the jewelry. And all that stuff is going to fade and didn't matter in the long run anyway. You can't take a bit of that to heaven with you. And most of you can leave behind, and when you do leave behind, you leave for fuss and then fighting over it.

So, when we learn true riches, it will change something and it will make difference. There was once a king and he went out from his kingdom to just go out among all of his subjects and he saw a beggar there on the street. And the beggar held up his arms, bowl and the king stopped. He looked at the beggar and the beggar was expecting the king to drop a whole lot of money in his bowl and the king looked at the beggar and he said, "What will you give me?"

00:25:02

And it shook the beggar, “Why the king asking me for something? Saying what will you give me?” So, the beggar went in his bag and he handed the king three grains of rice and the king took it and walked on off. And when the beggar looked in his bowl, there in his bowl, the king had left him three golden grains. And the beggar said, “Oh my goodness, I wish I had given him all of that.” Because he returned to me, my little worthless grains of rice with grains of gold.

As we get wiser, we’re going to realize and wish we had given the king more. We spent all of our energy, all of our effort, all of our time, all of our focus and stuff is going to rust and rot. And that’s the idea of what we think prosperity is. You see, we spend our time talking about getting a blessing, not understanding the difference. It’s not the same getting a blessing and being blessed. A beggar on the street wants to get a blessing, but that same beggar on the street could be blessed. It’s more important for us to be blessed and to get a blessing. And virtually, everyone under the sound of my voice is blessed, but we still won’t.

And is within that won’t that are the seeds of our discontentment. It is within that won’t that messes up our peace because now, we’re focused of what we do not have. That’s what we want basically is. A want is a focus on which you do not have. Peace, joy and fulfillment is a focus on which you do have. And when we switch that, it changes our whole life and we look at what we do have, instead of what we won’t, peace. I used to have on my checks, peace is the most valuable possession and money can’t buy. It was on everyone on my checks, peace is the most valuable possession and money cannot buy it.

God wants you in peace. God wants you prosperous. The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. For the rest of these series, we will go over the other letters of the word peace and I believe that God has spoken by the end of the series that will be at least four people including myself who will be profoundly affected by this. Even this first message, I’ve got to go back and re-gear and rethink about my wants and stop worrying about all what I’m going to get and just spend more time praising God and be thankful for what I already got because you already got a whole lot. You really, really, really, really do. Your problem is you think you don’t have as much as somebody else. That’s what your

problem is, “I don’t have as much as they do.” It’s plentiful. I don’t have as much as. What I got to do with anything?

See, you may not have as much as they have in terms of something but you probably don’t have as much as they have in some negative stuff. See, that’s the other thing I’ve learned. I don’t want all the stuff they get. I don’t want all the stuff they’ve been through. You have to take the whole package. I remember TDJ is talking about at one time. He said, “A lot of people want my ministry but they don’t want to go to what I went through to get my ministry. They don’t want to deal with sleeping in the car all those years. They just want a big old building. You don’t want to sleep in the car all those years.” So, you’ve got to realize you know where you are, what you’ve been through, what you got. You don’t but anybody else but you can change places with them anyhow.

So, you might as well learn to be content and recognize your own prosperity. It’s not really what we have, it’s how we view it and how we manage it that makes the difference. Prosperity is the first part of peace of simply getting to the point where we understand the first verse of the 23rd song. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

We thank you for joining us today at BrothersofTheWord. You can go to BrothersofTheWord.com. You can listen to the entire series on peace. If you need more peace in your life, you need to go and listen to the series absolutely free. Thank you for joining us today at BrothersofTheWord. Because brother, you need the word.

Female: You are listening to BrothersofTheWord.com. This was Part I of the series titled, “Peace”, subtitled, “Prosperity” by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5820. That’s 5820 to listen to over a thousand free messages or to send this message number 5820 to a friend, go to BrothersofTheWord.com.

Male: If this message has been a blessing to you and you would like to help support this ministry, go to iwanttogive.com. That’s iwanttogive.com.

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

(Music Playing)

00:29:59