

Peace part II: Expectation

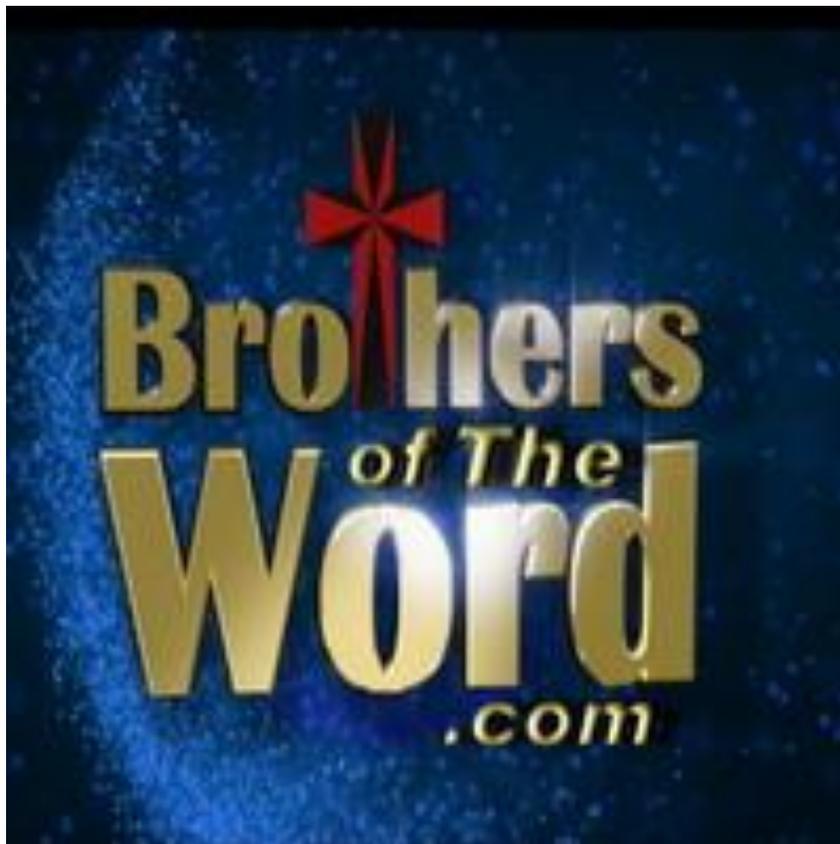
Sermon Title: **Peace part II: Expectation**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Your entire life is ordered around what you expect to received.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:21 - 00:00:50)

And now for 5821, "Peace part II: Expectation."

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brother of the Word because brother, you need the word. Today, you're in Part II of a series that God has instructed me to speak on and the series is just called peace.

So many of us, we need more peace in our lives and we're using the letters of the word "Peace" as the topics for each one of these messages in this series. Last week, we dealt with the letter "P" and "P" stood for prosperity because oftentimes when you are in lack, you can't have Peace. When you have bills that are due, when you got this just missing and that just missing, lack sometimes will cause a disruption of your peace and it is hard to have peace when you don't have sufficiency.

So, we talked a lot about prosperity and how it relates to peace in the last message. You can go brothersoftheword.com, listen to the entire series absolutely free. Last week's message was number 5820 and today is number 5821.

For "E" in P-E-A-C-E, the "E" stands for "Expectation." The biblical word for expectation is simply hope. My father used to say, "A man who has health has hope and the man who has hope has everything." Sometimes when we lose our expectation, we lose our peace because we get to the point where we're not expecting anything.

Back in the 1950s, a John Hopkins researcher named Curt Richter, he did an experiment of rats. Now, he can't do this today because the animal rights activists would just get all over him. But basically what he did, he took a big barrel of water and he got a group of rats. He put the rats in the water to see how long they would swim before they drowned. The rats swam for 15 minutes. They got tired, sunk to the bottom and drowned. Then he took a

second group of rats. Same type of rats at the same bunch. He took the second group of rats. He put that second group of rats in the same barrel of water. But the difference was, in 14 minutes as the rats were getting tired and as they were starting to sink, he got all of the rats out of the barrel. He took the rats out of the barrel, dried the rats off, heated(ph) the rats and let the rats rest. Then he put the rats back in the barrel. He wanted to see how long with the second group of rats last before they drowned. You would think, "Well, they wouldn't last but 15 minutes up."

As a matter of fact, you would think maybe they wouldn't even last to 15 minutes because they had been in the water already 14 minutes and they had been in there once and they've got enough. So, then maybe wouldn't not lasted longer than 15 minutes. They lasted longer than 30 minutes. They lasted longer than an hour.

And the actual research is almost impossible to believe. The rats who had been pulled out, (00:04:11), dried off and allow to rest and placed back into the same situation where the first group of rats only survive 15 minutes, that second group of rats lasted 60 hours. They lasted 240 times as long as the first group of rats. And what it showed is, when you have an expectation of getting rescue, when you have an expectation of something good happening, you hang on. The first group of rats saw no hope and they saw the first one goes down, (00:04:51) to me hanging on in. (00:04:52) go and let go. But the second group of rats had been rescued. And they had seen themselves get (00:05:00).

00:05:00

And so when they got to 15 minutes, they said shoot (00:05:04) in it. When they got to 30 minutes they said no, I'm will keep on going because he might be just right around the corner. Add an hour, and two hours and even in 10 hours. They said, "we just go and keep swimming," because they had an expectation of something better coming. You have peace when you have hope that there's something better coming.

There's famous paintings and in the picture was a burned-out shack. And the shack was burned and there was smoke rising because of the freshly burned from a fire that burned the shack down and all that was left was the brick chimney. And many of you when you've driven to the countries and you see these old houses and the house all torn down and that was left is the

chimney. And all that was left of this house was just the chimney and everything was burned and smoked up and gone. And standing in front of the house was little boy and his old grandfather and the little boy was crying because all that they had was lost. And the caption under the picture read, "Hush boy, God ain't dead".

And for some of you in life, there will be some seasons and some time when everything appears to be burned out. When everything around you look like has collapsed or was falling down and I told you like the granddaddy had to tell that young boy. Because his granddaddy been through some stuff. Granddaddy had seen some stuff collapsed before. Granddaddy had gone to some calamities. Granddaddy had seen the situation where he was about to drown and (00:06:53) pulled them out of the water. Granddaddy understood some things and granddaddy told that young boy, "Hush, God ain't dead." And tell those of you right now who going through some things but you have lost your expectation of a positive for the future. "Hush, God ain't dead." And as long as you are still alive, there is hope. As long as you have breath your body, there is potential for you to do better and for salvation to come even in this life. Peace comes when you have expectation, when you have hope. And once you lose hope, you lose it all then you start going into the despondency. And I notice some of you right now, you're in pain. You're going through some really roughed up.

And sometimes when you're in the middle of this pain, you wonder not only if when will it end. The question, you want to ease, will it ever ease? And that's why there's so many young people today, they commit suicide because they have gone through much. They haven't tough (00:07:58) with themselves when they go to a (00:07:59) crisis, they just want to give up and blow their brains out. Because they don't understand this (00:08:04) will pass. And they don't understand it's going to get better and they don't understand the pain will one day heal. And I don't understand they will look back on this thing and laugh. And they don't understand to look back and thin this is the way it used to be. Thank goodness, I'm not there anymore. They will look back like a guest artist used to say. 25 years ago, he was on crack cocaine. And see when you get on crack cocaine, you just don't get on crack (00:08:29) after why you got on crack cocaine in the first place. So, you have all these issues. And yet, he can look back now 25 years ago and say supposed I had given up this. You see right

now the lifespan in the U.S. has dropped for the last three years. It is dropped during the last three years for two primary reasons. Number two has been the rapid increase in suicide. Both just given up. Lose in hope have no expectation for the future. So, number two is because of the increase of suicide. Number one it is because of the increase in opioid (00:09:10). People using Fentanyl and all of the stuff that's even stronger than Heroin. And a lot of it is overdose but a lot of it (00:09:18) put in too much in them and they just give up and kill themselves with it. Because they have no expectation for the future.

There was once in a large city they have a program here they would send teachers in to children who were in the hospital. And one day one of the teachers who made the hospital rounds, she got call and said we need you to go and teach this little boy. So, the teacher went to the little boy's teacher to find out what lesson were they going through and what were they in the middle off. The teacher said, "We are right now, we're teaching about nouns and adverbs. And the substitute teacher who went to the hospice (00:10:01) teach him about nouns and adverbs so he will be up-to-date when he gets out of the hospital he gets back to school.

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When the teacher got to the hospital and when she walked into room, she was shocked because a little boy was burned over by 80% of his body, he had all his clothes and tubes. It just shock her up so bad, she was just stuttering and she just won't expecting that because a little boy just didn't look like he was going to survive and she told the little boy she was there to teach him about nouns and adverb but she just did a horrible job and when she came back the next day, the nurse at the duty station looked at the teacher and say "What did you do?" and the teacher "Oh, I'm so sorry, I was just so shocked. I was not expecting that. I was not expecting the little boy to be in such a bad shape and I was just stuttering. I know I didn't do a good job" She said "No, it's not that you didn't do a great job. We were just wondering because after you left the little boy changed" and he start having energy and enthusiasm and life and he just turn totally around and we are wondering "What did you do?" and the teacher says "I don't know what I did. I thought I did a horrible l job." So the teacher went in and asked the little boy "So look when I came to teach you yesterday, the nurses said that you've had a great change of attitude and enthusiasm. It wasn't something that I

say it?" and the little boy say "No." Where there's something that I did and the little boy said "No." She said "What was it caused you to have such a turn around and such a positive change in your spirit?" and the little boy said "because I knew if they said a teacher in to teach me nouns and adverbs they aren't expecting me to die."

God is not expecting you to die. At least not yet. So you have life ahead of you. You have expectancy ahead of you and when you get expectancy in your spirit, when you've get a positive view of what life host for you, it changes your whole view and it changes everything. Usually, when you can't sleep at night, when you don't have peace, you're expecting some bad to happen. When you had expectancy about something good, it changes your level of peace. Stephen Hawking is an astrophysicist at Cambridge University and now he died last year, but he was one of the most academic man on earth and a lot of people say he was the smartest man on earth. Now, I don't believe he was the smartest man on earth, he was a great academician, had absolutely brilliant scientific. But Stephen Hawking didn't believe in God and the bible says in Psalms 14:1 "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." The bible says no matter how many academic credits you've got, no matter what theories of mathematics and astrophysics and relativity you can explain. He says the fool has said in his heart, there is no God. But I bring up Stephen Hawking for reason. He didn't believe in God, but Stephen Hawking at the age of 21 was afflicted with ALS which is Lou Gehrig's disease and basically it was a disease that caused him to have continual and progressive muscular degeneration and for those of you who have seen Stephen Hawking on television, he was always in wheelchair and not only was in the wheelchair, he couldn't walk nor could he talk, so he had to use a vocalizer that he could only move with a little twitching of his mouth because he couldn't speak but I want you to listen to what Stephen Hawking said, he says according from an omni magazine article, he is too weak to write, feed himself, comb his hair, fix his glasses. All this must be done for him. He is also too weak. He use bathroom on his own. So imagine the position that he was in, yet this most dependent of all man has escaped involute status. His personality shines to the messy details of his existence. Having said this Hawking before he became ill at 21, he had very little interest in life. He called life a pointless existence resulting from sheer boredom. He drank too much and did very little work. Then he learned he had ALS and was not expected to live more

than 2 years. He is 21, found out he has ALS and the doctor says “You won’t make it pass 23.” The ultimate effect of his diagnosis beyond his initial shock was positive. He claimed to have been happier after he was afflicted than before and people are asking “How can that be?” He said when one’s expectations are reduced to 0, one really appreciates everything that one does have. Stated another way, content man in life is determined in part by what a person anticipate or expects from it. To a man like Hawking who thought he would soon die quickly, everything took on meaning. A sunrise, a walk in the park of laughter of children suddenly every small pleasure because precious, by contrast those believe life owes them a free ride or often discontent with even the finest of gifts.

Now I want you to run the clip of just couple of minutes of Stephen Hawking, I want you to see this man, the condition that he is in and yet the man said he was happier after he got sick than before.

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But I just wanted you to see a little of that. He said that he realized when he had very little time left, every minute is precious. Do you realized every minute of your life is precious. Now everyone listening to me right is in much better physical shape that Stephen Hawking. You can brush your teeth, you can eat, you can walk, you can use bathroom, you can do a whole lot of other stuff. This man had to be pushed around, couldn’t even talk and the thing about it, he didn’t even have Jesus, do you understand that? This man didn’t even have a belief in the spiritual, he died last year and he died thinking that he was going to a void and everything will just going to be black and there would be nothing else in exist. He didn’t even have Jesus and who is in (00:18:21), but he said he learned to live appreciating and expecting another day of life as even the doctors said he is going to be gone in 2 years. He lived another 55 years. He died at 76 and this is what the power of first of all appreciation and expectation can do, this is what the power of that can do and this man did it without the belief in God. God was there, he just did without a belief in God. So if he did it without a belief in God, what are you be able to do and there’s such a power that comes where we can learn to be expectant about things.

Isaiah 30:18 in the amplified version says this “Therefore the Lord earnestly waits, expecting, looking and longing to be

gracious to you” and therefore he lives himself up that he may have mercy on you showing love and kindness to you, for the Lord is the God of justice, bless, happy, fortunate to be in, to all those who honestly wait or hope in him, who expect and look and longing for him for his victory, his favor, his love, his peace, his joy, his match is unbroken, companionship, when you have expectancy or when you have hope, there’s a peace that come with that because you know it’s going to get better. I want everybody to just say this with me, “God is good, and something good is going to happen to me today.”

(00:20:00)

Do you know you need to get up and you need to say that every day in the morning? “God is good, and something good is going to happen to me today.” And do you know when you say that, when you believe that, when you internalize that, do you know that’s exactly what happens? See, the first part had nothing to do with you. God is good. even when you bad, God is good. So, the first part has nothing to do at all with you. You just recognize that God is good. But the second part, God is good and something good is going to happen to me today. You know, when you look for stuff, that’s what you find.

I used to have a close friend of mine. He would always find money on the ground. I rarely ever found money on the ground. And then I understood why. He always found money on the ground because he was always looking down. See, I’d known everybody looking down are at the negative -- he always would find because he’s always looking down. But he had a negative, pessimistic view of life. And as a result, he found where he was looking. So, when you look down, you go down, you think down. But when you look up, when you have expectancy, it changes your world and it changes what you receive.

Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Your entire life is ordered around what you expect to receive. Get that real clear. Your entire life is ordered around what you expect to receive. Do you expect good things to happen to you, or bad things to happen to you? How you answer this question, it determines how you live your life. Expectation is a reflection of what we believe about God, about ourselves and about others. See, I believe God is good. I believe God is good, I

believe I am a child of God, and I do not believe a good Father is going to give me bad stuff. I just don't believe that. So, I expect good.

And the other big thing about it is, when something bad happens to a person with positive expectations, they immediately began to examine and ask why. Perhaps it is something out of order. Perhaps this is a blessing in disguise. Perhaps there's a lesson somewhere that God wants us to learn. Perhaps this is a stepping stone that we need to put under our feet. The bottom line is, when a person who lives in faith and applies that faith to the future, they live in expectation and they see everything is some positive.

You all remember when I had my worst experience of the last few years when I had that crash over in Greece. I'm laying down in the street, bleeding to death. "Lord, if I die, so be it. I'm in Your will". When I'm in the hospital, oh, this is a wonderful experience. I've never been in a hospital before when I'm on a stretcher. I've never been on a stretcher before. This is an adventure! And I asked the Lord, "Why did I have to go through that, Lord?" "Because you need to learn how to face death without fear." Even when the worst thing that had happened to me in the longest I could remember, even when that happened to me, I asked God, "Lord, why did you send me through this? What's the lesson in this for me? What's the benefit?" No matter how painful it is. See, the pain that you have, sometimes that pain has benefitted you, it has taught you, it has strengthened you, and it has made you able. Because sometimes it imparts wisdom and to somebody else to help them not to go through the stuff.

Expectation changes what we get. God is good, and something good is going to happen to me today. You need to get out of bed with that statement. "God is good, and something good is going to happen to me today." And not only will you see something good, you're going to see a whole lot of things good because you see what you look for. You really do! If you look for the good stuff, you will find it, and I can guarantee if you look for the bad stuff, you will find it.

Do you know if you look in the mirror, and you look for the flaws, do you know you will see them? There's absolutely no question about that. but if you look in the mirror and if you look for the good stuff, do you know you will see them? And even sometimes two people can see the exact identical thing, and they have exactly

opposite reactions to it. “I see a wrinkle. Oh, my goodness, look at this wrinkle. Ohhh!” “I see a wrinkle. I see a wrinkle. Oh, my goodness, that’s wisdom!” Or, “It’s one wrinkle here, but all the rest of the skin around the wrinkle is smooth. Thank goodness, all the rest of it not wrinkled!” “I see a gray hair. Oh, my goodness!” “I see a gray hair. I don’t see but one gray hair! Oh, my goodness!” Two people can see the identical thing and based upon their framework and what they expect, are they expecting something good, are they expecting something bad?

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It manifests based on what you are expecting because you will often frame it that way.

So, if you start seeing things in a positive light, and if you understand Jeremiah 29:11, we’ve heard this verse over and over, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.” That’s the God I serve. Because God is good. and something good is going to happen to me today.

As a matter of fact, some more good is going to happen to me today, because it’s already been a bunch of good, it has already happened to me today. Something great is going to happen to me today. I’ve got so many expectations. As a matter of fact, my brothers and I, we have almost, I don’t know whether it’s genetic or what, but we’ve got this optimistic viewpoint, that we just think, just be. And we just think, “Oh, this is going to be the biggest thing, this is going to be the greatest thing, ever!” And because of that, it keeps us living in a constant state of anticipation for tomorrow. It really does!

Now, a lot of this stuff just didn’t happen like we think at all. Not at all! But it does not dull our enthusiasm because that was not as great as we thought. “Oh, but this next thing coming, that’s it! this next thing coming, that’s it! That’s the bomb! That’s it!” And because of that, it keeps us at peace. It keeps us hopeful, it keeps us joyful, because I truly believe that God knows the plans He has for me. And He has plans to prosper me, not to harm me. Even when the stuff hurts me, it’s not a plan to harm me. It’s usually a plan to teach me, and to keep me from going in the wrong

direction. He knows the plans. And His plans for His people are to prosper us.

God is good. And something good is going to happen to me today. You need to make that your daily statement when you wake up. And you'll be surprised how that will change your world. Now it does not mean that something that appears to the world negative won't happen to you. It didn't mean that. stuff going to happen. And it's going to be some rough stuff that will happen. You're going to have some folk close to you to die. There's just no option. But what are you expecting?

See, I'm expecting to die, but not for a long time. And even if I did die today, I am expecting eternal life. And I am expecting a reward in heaven. A lot of the stuff I work on is not even for my earthly bank account, it's for my heavenly bank account. I don't get paid for this. I don't get one penny preaching. That goes in my heavenly bank account. So, if something happens to me today, if I drop dead right now, ain't no need to crying for me. Because I have an expectation that on the other side of this body is a way better body and a way better life. That's why I'm not afraid of death. Now, I'm going to prolong, as long as I can, I'm going to hold it off, because I've got a mission. But I'm not afraid of death, because I have an expectation that on the other side is better than this.

See, Stephen Hawking, he had to develop a mentality of enjoying every little squeeze and every little thing out of his life, because he didn't think there was anything beyond this. I do. So, I squeeze everything out of this life, and I still know once I've squeezed everything out of this life, I got a whole brand-new rag on the other side, unsqueezed.

So, this is what the power of expectation does for your world. And if you don't get anything else out of this message, but there is one thing, and God did say about this series about peace. He said there would be me and three and three other folk who this will have a profound effect upon. And it will change your world. God is good, and something good is going to happen to me today.

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Amen!

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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 iwanttogive.com, that's iwanttogive.com.

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

(Music Playing)

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