

The Power of Love: When Love Turns - Part 3

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Nathaniel Bronner: You have to make a decision that you will operate in love.

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And now for 5835, The Power of Love, Part 3, When Love Turns.

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

And right now, we are in the midst of a series simply called, The Power of Love. And I want to talk to you today about the power of love, the subtitle, When Love Turns. Do you all know love can change on you? So, When Love Turns.

In Proverbs 21:21, the NIV version, the Bible reads this. It says, "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor." And this was actually this morning's verse in the New Version Bible and it's a deep verse. "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor." So, if you're looking for life, if you're looking for prosperity, you're looking for honor, number one, pursue righteousness, number two, pursue love, and it changes everything when can pursue righteousness and love.

Most of us, we've heard the story of Jacob and Leah and Rachel. For those of you who are not familiar with the story of Jacob, Jacob was Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the patriarchs. Jacob had gone away to a land to find a wife that his father had sent him and he saw this beautiful woman named, Rachel and he fell in love with her the first time he laid his eyes on her and he talked with her. Daddy say, "Look, I'd give you my daughter, but you have to work seven years for her." And he said, "Okay. Seven years is nothing to work for this woman."

That's something else. When you see a woman and you say, you work seven years for this woman and that's just nothing, I mean, this is --. You all say, "Real love." That's some real love when a man see you and he'll work seven years for you. That's some real

love. So, they agreed to that and Laban, who was the father of Rachel gave the daughter to Jacob and when he woke up in the morning after his wedding night, he discovered it was not Rachel, the beautiful one, but it was what Baba calls here, wicked eyes. It was the ugly sister

So, Jacob woke up in the morning with the ugly sister and he was understandably a little bit upset that he had signed a contract to work for this man for seven years in exchange for his daughter, but the man gave him the other daughter and he said it was against their custom for the younger daughter to marry before the older daughter, so we had to give him the older daughter first and he was upset about it. He said, "But I will still give you my younger daughter, but you have to work for me seven more years." And yet, he still was so smitten by this woman. He said, "In 14 years, it's just nothing. Fourteen years is nothing to work for you." And therefore, he had both of them. But what I want to talk about and when love turns, is that, when you go over in Genesis 49, what Jacob ended up saying was, "I want you to bury Leah. That's the ugly one. That's the wicked one. "I want you to bury Leah, with me."

So, even though Jacob may have started out and he may have been shocked when he woke up and -- did somebody of you had ever been shocked when you woke up next to somebody like that? I mean, I'm talking to some of you folks. Had you ever been kind of -- like the man said, he's never went to bed with an ugly woman but, he sure did wake up with a few?

Sometimes, when you got alcohol or something else in your system or lust in your eye, sometimes what you wake up with, that's another whole sermon about what you wake up with, is not what you went to bed with. But he ended up -- where in the end, he asked to be buried with Leah. And Leah had given him children and Leah had sinned about him. So, over time, love can turn and this was a case of where love turned and it became better and he wanted to now spend his eternity in the ground with Leah.

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And it's often easier actually to turn from love to hate. But today, I want to focus on really of turning true love not away from love, and I want to talk about one of the most miraculous love stories that I have personally encountered. And it had to do when I was

walking through this airport yesterday and I got a call on my cellphone and I reached up to my headset and pressed the answer button. And there on the other end was a woman crying. And when a woman is crying, sometimes, you cannot tell immediately who it is. So, I couldn't tell who it was. I could only tell that it was a woman crying on the other end and I had to listen for just a minute as she began to blurt out through the tears and to the sobs. She blurted out a land and let me know exactly who it was. And what she said was, "Phoenix is dying."

Now, most of you have no idea who and most importantly what Phoenix is. Phoenix is a cat. So, this story is actually about cat love. Do you know if you go into the grocery store, the pet food section is bigger than the baby food section? And do you know, a lot of people love their pets more than they do their spouses? Some even more than their children. So, love can sometimes encompass a whole lot of things, but this is a story actually about cat love. And the woman on the other end was my former assistant. She was my assistant about eight years ago.

And during that time when she was my assistant, I told her, "I am going to get a cat and I'm going to put the cat in the office." Because I'm an animal lover. I really like all kinds of animals. I've had everything from cats, dogs, turtles, fish, snakes, chickens, yeah, you're mad at chickens. I've had a lot of stuff. So, I said, "I'm going to bring a cat and I'm going to put a cat here in my office." And she said, "Mr. Bronner, I don't like cats. I am afraid of cats." And a couple of days later, she came and she said, "I'm going to tell you the truth. If you bring that cat in your office, I am never going in your office again, because I am terrified of cat." But I don't even get the cat.

So, I got the cat and the cat is in my office and I have a fairly large office, but the assistant's office is right next to mine and she literally -- she didn't come in the office. She would not come in that office. Until one day, she came to me and she said, "Mr. Bronner, I have made a decision and I am not going to let the fear of cats rule me." She said, "I'm going to come in your office. In some kind of way, I am going to overcome my fear of cats." Now, Phoenix is what's called a, Seal-Point Himalayan. Himalayan is a breed. It's a cross between Persian and Siamese. They have Persian hair, but Siamese markings. And the seal-point is brown. So, he had brown face and white fur. The cat was just beautiful.

So, she came in to my office and she looked at Phoenix and Phoenix looked at her and she went back out. And day by day, little by little, she would come in to my office and she would move closer and closer to Phoenix until she got to the point where she slowly began and she would touch her. And then, she began to rub Phoenix, and then she began to pet Phoenix, and then she began to feed Phoenix, and then, she began to clean out Phoenix's litter box, and then she began to pick Phoenix up, and then she began to rub and rock Phoenix. And before I know it, she had taken over Phoenix.

Now, all I had tell her, I said, "Wait a minute. This is not your cat." And that's another problem that some people get mixed up. It isn't your cat. And folk don't understand this is somebody else's cat and you're fooling with the cat it isn't your cat needs, both to be fooling with the cat, but you don't in fell in love with a cat, into somebody else's cat. See? Number one, I had papers on that cat. I had papers. I literally did. The cat was a pedigree cat. I had all of the documentation. I had papers on that cat. So, I had papers on that cat. I was paying the bills on that cat. So, I had papers on the cat. I was paying the bills on that cat. That was my cat legally, morally, spiritually, in every manner, but what happened, she began to spend more time and she began to spend more focus on the cat than I did. And as a result, even though it was my cat, you all say it's your cat. So, even though it was my cat, the cat changed.

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Now, I got papers on the cat, it is my cat but someone else was giving more attention to my cat than I was. Now, I don't have to break this down on a low level to you, do I? And I don't have to use another word for cat, do I? But someone else was giving my cat more attention than I was. And as a result, the animalistic nature of the cat didn't care that I had papers on him. Didn't care that I was the one buying the food, didn't care about all that. The nature of the cat, all the nature of the cat understood was someone else was taking care of her needs better than I was. And as a result the affection, the attention, the love of the cat turned. And with my assistant, her affection, her love, that which had been fear turned to love.

And see, some of you right now, you have fear and it blocks your love. You have fear because you've been hurt before, and when

you have been hurt before, it automatically creates a psychological wall that says because I have been hurt before in love, I would never love again. I will not open my heart. This thing hurt me so deeply before, I would die before I open my heart to another person. And as a result, will often go through life without love because we have experienced some negative stuff that has happened to us and we block love out.

So when my former assistant called me, this was the cat and what happened with the cat, I let her take the cat home on the weekends. So, when the cat came back to office -- now, I have the litter box all cleaned up. Normally, if the litter box is clean, the cat will use the litter box to do all their business in the litter box. The cat start using the bathroom on the floor. I said, "What is this mess?" So, the cat started using the bathroom on the floor and the cat was trying to tell me in another nice way. The cat didn't understand English, but she did know how to communicate. The cat was trying to tell me, I don't want to be here, because someone else in another place is giving me more love and more attention than you are. And the cat literally start leaving little reminders for me all around the office that she didn't want to be there.

So eventually, I ended up giving the cat to my assistant who said she would never come into my office if I ever got a cat. And when she called me in that airport in the other city, crying on the phone. She said, Phoenix is dying. The cat had developed a type of disease, it was not allowing her to process her food. The cat was nine or ten years old. So, it wasn't so much that the cat was just -- something wrong is with the cat. The cat was old. So if you're talking cat years, every single human year is equivalent to seven to ten cat years. So, this cat was getting close to a 100 years old. The cat is old, but it didn't matter to her about it. All she knew was the cat she love was dying and she said, "I've been to the vet every single day for the past month. And I've had the cat to the vet and the vet has done all they can do for the cat." And she told me how much money the vet bill was likely to be. It was just unreal. She said, I don't even care, I just love my cat so much. I don't want anything to happen to my cat. I need a miracle for Phoenix.

And this was how she was crying over the phone about a cat that she said she wouldn't come into my office if I got the cat. Love can turn. Some of you are in situations now and you need your

love turned because for whatever reason, it is gotten cold or even may be antagonistic and hate has now replaced where love used to be. It has gotten to a situation where you may have somebody else in your situation and there is somebody from the outside who is providing was not being provided on the inside. And now, the relationship is starting to fill up with mess because they don't want to be there. So I want to just -- it's not a bible verse, but you know, the bible is mostly stories. That's what Jacob and Rachel and Leo, it's a story.

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So, the bible is mostly stories and if you're able to see the hand of God working in these stories, you can apply them to you. I want to tell you what the two things my assistant did to turn love and this was an extreme situation. Because you know, it's pretty extreme, you won't even go in a room with a person. That's extreme. Some of you at least would go in the room with him, but it was an extreme situation. She wouldn't even go in the room. So, what did she do? She did two things that turned love.

The first thing that she did, she made a decision. She said, Mr. Bronner, I am not going to let a cat keep me in captivity and fear. That's the first thing she did. She made a decision. Most of our fears are in truth unfounded. They're not based on what I would call silent logic.

Now, can a cat be dangerous? Technically, yes. Practically, no. I mean, you could have a situation where your cat could come and scratch you. The cat could be having infected nails, could give you an infection, you could get it and you could die, that's possible. But that is so unlikely. It's possible, but you're about to likely to get struck by lightning and win the lottery on the same day. It's possible but it is not likely at all.

And see, this is the problem that so many people in America have because so much of our stuff is fear based, that we fear the wrong things. When I was on the plane, I was looking at a series called Doomsday Preppers. And what this was about. It's about all of these people who go through these preparations for when the world is going to end and they had situations. I saw about five of the segments of people.

One of them, they were afraid to say, if five tornados are going to wipe this country out and we are preparing and we're prepping but if five tornados that just hit everything. Another man said, we're prepping because earthquakes are going to completely destroy the country. The other man said, we're prepping because terrorists are going to blow up the nuclear plants. All of the nuclear power plants are going to poison all of the -- the other man said, we're going to have a nuclear war and the other one said oceans are going rise because the ice caps are going to flood out. So, all of them are going through this preparation and at the end of each segment, it would give the experts probability. There is a probability, this is about 1 in 50. Probability of this is about 1 in a 100.

But as I looked at the folk, I said a word and they're going through all of this and they were spending all of this time, all of this money, all of this rehearsing on doomsday preparation. And one of the ladies said, they have doomsday preparation but they had to make sure they can have power or someway to keep their insulin cool because she had diabetes. And she was a fairly young woman. She had diabetes. She is about 40 or 45 and her daughter had diabetes.

And I'm saying to myself. They're spending all this time worrying about the end of the world, worrying about that if five tornadoes may came wipe them out, but yet, there was a 50 or 100 times greater probability that diabetes are going to wipe them out. So, often, we are afraid -- a cat is not going to bother you. I don't care how terrified you are. A cat is not a -- if you got a mountain lion, that's a whole different ball game. That's a whole different ball game. If you're talking about that kind of cat. I'm not speaking about a mountain lion, which is technically a feline specie. That's a whole different ball game. If you're up in Arizona where mountain -- that's a whole different ball game. But a domestic, traditional, house cat is just not going to bother you but some people are paralyzed with fear over something that in truth is not going to harm you.

So, the first thing she had to do. She had to make a decision. So, if when you're in a situation where you need love turned. The first thing you had to make a decision and you have to make decision and the decision is simply this. Am I going to do what needs to be done to change the situation?

Let me give you a little key here. You cannot change the nature of the cat. Some people said, you need to get this cat changed. The cat wasn't going to change. She couldn't change me. I wouldn't go and get rid of the cat and if she had come to me and said, Mr. Bronner, it's either me or the cat. That actually happened when I got married. I had two Himalayan cats when I got married and my wife who did not like cats says, it's either me or the cats.

Now, see it's a good thing some of you all don't have to answer that question later on, down in marriage. But there was no question, I had to get rid of my cats. But you've got to understand what you have the power to change and my assistant did not have the power to change my opinion with the cats. She did not have the power to change the nature of the cat. What she had the power to do was to change her. And she made first of all a decision and the decision was, "I would do what is necessary to overcome this fear."

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The second thing she did, she took action. She took action, she started slow, and she made a little bit of an advance every single day. She first started by just coming in there standing (00:20:11) looking at the cat. She moved a little closer, a little closer, a little closer, then she tapped him, touched him, rubbed him, feed him up. And before she knew it, she was in love with Phoenix.

Those two things, you make a declaration, "I will live in love. I will love them." And number two, "I will do what is necessary to bring about a change on my end." Don't worry about that, and that's the problem most of us made. They ain't making no changes. That wrath is still the same wolf, still the same witch. They've always been. They ain't making no changes. You have to make a decision that you will operate in love. You make the decision and then you do the action. And if you keep that up long enough. See? Let me give you an example just even -- most people in America, we struggle with weight. I went out of town, I gained four pounds while I was gone. That's why I didn't take my communion, I'm fasting today. You got to get rid of that. But the point is, see, stuff grows. Do you realize if you gained an ounce a day, just an ounce a day, just one little bit of ounce. An ounce a day is almost two pounds a month. It's about 25 pounds a year.

So, do you realize that in two years if you just gained an ounce a day, you weighed 50 pounds more.

All it takes is just a little bit every day in a certain direction. And if you keep that up before you know it, it's big. If you do a little something to turn love every day, before you know it, that little something has become big, before you know it, you're in love, before you know it, you can hardly make it without the person, before you know it, if you keep doing just a little bit every single day. And she never would have guessed that eight years later, the very cat the she would not even go in the room with, she would be on the phone breaking down because Phoenix was dying. Love can change things, it can change you.

I want you to, Abe, just play the video I've got. This is actually when I got my latest --

(Video Starts Playing)

I am here with Toby. And who do you ask is Toby? That's Toby right there. Toby is a two-month-old male, Persian, long-haired cat and I just got Toby today. I've always loved animals. And the science behind pets is really quite amazing.

Science finds that when people own pets, they live longer, they have lower blood pressure, they just really bring a whole lot to you. One thing about pets, they don't judge you so you don't have judgement, you don't have disloyalty. You can trust most of them, but pets really helps us. Some of you may need a Toby or whoever it is or whatever it is. Pets really do help. You never come home alone if you got a pet in the house.

So, this is Coach Bronner with Toby and I will see you tomorrow.

(Video Ends Playing)

And that's Toby. I actually have two cats. Both of the cats were spiritual. I was in my prayer one day and I saw this orange kitten sitting on my shoulder and the vision. The second cat I had to dream about and I ended up with both cats. The second cat is Sierra, which is not a pedigree cat. It's called, "The Blue Russian." But the difference between the two cats, Toby is pedigree, expensive. I had to get him shipped from Ohio. Toby

was an expensive pedigree cat. Sierra was a rescue and their personalities were radically different.

When I got Sierra, she was fearful, she wouldn't come to you. If you pick her up, she'll scratch and bite you. She was just a mess. And I told God, I said, "Lord, I want to get rid of this cat." And God says, "No, you keep the cat." So, I had to develop a way that I had an automatic cat feeder that put food out several times a day. I turned that off and I will put the food in the bowl and stand by the food and Sierra would run up to get food and she would see me there and run back the other way. So, three times that day, she would run up, see me, run back the other way.

The next day, she was a lot hungry. So, she would see me, she run up and she would stand and look, and she didn't eat. By the time I got to the second feeding of the day, Sierra had to make a decision. She said, "I got to go up to this negro or I'm going to starve." So, she made a decision. So, she came up and I will reach out. She would draw back, but she was hungry. So, she came up and slowly over time little by little her fear began to ease and now she's now the most affectionate cat. Now, if I had to only keep one of them and I had to choose between the two, it would be like Rachel and Leah. This is the second picture. That's Toby on the left. That's Sierra on the right. Both of them are sitting down to give a look out in the window. But if I had to keep just one cat now, it would be the rescue. It would be the one who was full of fear to start with. Because little by little, she was changed and the love changed her.

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Some of you all got some Sierras in your world and they're rescues. They've been abandoned. They've been hurt and because of that, they're just hard to deal with. But if you put a little love on them and some of you, you had a rescue. So, if you just keep putting love on them, if you keep putting a love on them, love changes people, love changes animals, love changes the fear and it changes the hate, and it changes the violence. Love can change so much. It is the power of love. And if you make a decision and then if you do, you will change and you will change your world and you will change the people around you. He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of The Word. You can go to brothersoftheword.com and listen to this entire series, The Power of Love absolutely free. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the word. Amen. Amen.

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