

The Love of Money

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Nathaniel Bronner: When you can focus on giving instead of always focusing on getting, it changes your very spirit.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:22 - 00:00:50)

And now for 5838, The Power of Love Part 4: The Love of Money.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome of the Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. And even as I was sitting there, God just spoke. And He said, "Today may be one of the days that you're run over, because I'm going to float today." And I'm real strict; those of you know I'm real strict about the time. God says, "If you'd be out of here three out of four Sundays at 12:30, that's what time we're out of here on the dot." And I know some people criticize that; they say, "Well, God just float, yeah, but God is a God on time. If you studied nature, God is precise. Rich folk on time, poor folk late. Guess which camp we're going to be in." So, I am real strict about the time, but today, God spoke something that may flow.

A few weeks ago, actually it was two weeks ago, I was meeting with my sons. We meet once a week, whether it be to go out to eat, go out to have dinner or lunch, or whatever, and we'll sometimes do an activity, whatever it is, we study together, but once a week, I get together with all of the boys.

So, two weeks ago, I actually showed them a documentary. And as I was showing them the documentary, God began speaking to me, and He spoke to me five or six times. Because we meet on a Monday, and God says, "I want every person in your company to see this." Now, the documentary was pretty long, it's two hours and 18 minutes. At the end of it, one of my sons said, "Dad, I just got to go see them. I need to go see them live if they come. And that thing's so impactful, I just want to go see them." So, I call Suzanne up, and I said, Suzanne, "I want you to change our meeting." We have a meeting on Tuesday, every Tuesday at 10:00. I said, "For this meeting, I want to cancel all of the business stuff. No business at all, and I want every employee, including the temporaries to be in the meeting." The temps are

not ever in a meeting, but God says, “I want every person in your company to watch this.”

So, I had to block out about two and a half hours, because the thing is two hours and 18 minutes, plus the time getting in, getting it started. You’re talking two and a half hours. Two and a half hours that you’re paying for. Two and a half hours a day supposed to be working, and they’re just going to be sitting there watching a documentary. But you’ve got to understand where the source of all your money comes from. And I’ve learned when you’re not obedient to God, He just shuts off all your money.

So, he can open up the money flow, and He can shut off the money. So, I’ve learned the hard way. You all say, “The hard way.” If you all learned some stuff the hard way, I’ve learned the hard way when you are not obedient to what God said, God controls all the stuff. He controls every hair on your head. He controls everything. So, when you’re not obedient, there’s some prices to pay for that disobedience. So, I said, “I want everybody in that meeting, and we’re going to do nothing but watch this documentary.”

At the end of the documentary, I couldn’t even see all the folk, but many came to me who said, “Mr. Bronner, do you realize that half of the folk in that meeting were crying? And they were talking about how this thing had affected them?” I said, “I’m not surprised.” Because when God tells you to do something, even though you may not agree with it or understand it, it has a purpose that is usually what your little understanding. So, I’m not surprised that it affected people that heavily. And the thing about it, that was on a Tuesday. That whole meeting, no business, nothing devoted to money, nothing devoted to finance, nothing that would in the natural increase or affect business.

That Friday, we had movie night here, and as I’m leaving movie night, I get a text. The text is from an old friend of mine, and he says, “I just left some DVDs at the front door of your office.” So, I’m driving back, so I’ll stop by the office, see what DVDs he left me. I go to the front door, there’s this big box taped up. I take it inside, open up the box, and there is a set of business DVDs.

32 DVDs. 32 business DVDs about how to take business to the next level, by the same person who the documentary was by. I said, what in the world! I say, here I am, obedient by making the folk watch something, because some of the folk I'm sure didn't want to watch it, about making the folk watch something that has nothing to do with business, and just a few days later, God sends something to take your business to a whole new level by the same person. And then he texts me a couple days ago, he said, "I left some more DVDs at your doorstep." I went back, and there was another set of DVDs, of about 20 DVDs, about business to a whole new level by the same person. So, now I got about 50 DVDs about how to take business to a whole new level.

And as I began watching the DVDs, it's very similar to the series that we did years ago called, The 24-Hour MBA. The only difference is, when we talked The 24-Hour MBA, this was designed to take companies to the \$1 to \$10 million dollar level, because 99% of companies don't do \$1 million a year. It's rare to get a company that does \$1 million a year. 99% of companies don't do \$1 million a year, and about 80% of companies is just one person. So, The 24-Hour MBA was designed to take people from the level of up to a million to ten million. This set of DVDs is designed to take you from \$100 million to a billion.

So, God has already spoken, you're going to a billion, but I didn't even have the knowledge of how to go to a billion. I could see Him say, "Look, if you won't be obedient with two hours and 18 minutes, I can't trust you with a billion dollars."

I was sitting here in Bible study on Thursday, and I again heard God speak, "I want you to show that same documentary to the entire church, but I don't want you to do it on a regular service day, I don't want you to do it on a regular service night. You pick a whole new day, and you pick it 30 days from the date you announce that. And you don't tell them who it is, and you don't tell them what it is.

So, we're going to do this." And I was sitting here, looking at my calendar while I was sitting, and I said, "Well we could do this on a Saturday." God said, "I told you 30 days from the day you announced it." That's why you got to be obedient with some stuff. And sometimes you folk, what difference does that make? 30 days from the day I'm announcing, which is today, will be August 6. It's a Tuesday in August 6, so on August 6, at 7:00 p.m., I'm going

to show that documentary, starting at 7:00 p.m., it's going to run two hours and 18 minutes. And after that, I'm going to have all of those DVDs here, and I'm going to allow anyone who wants to check them out and go watch them, you can check out up to two DVDs, go watch them, you bring them back and check out two more. And this is for people who really want to take money to another level.

Now, a lot of the DVDs, they're by people who have made a lot of money in what they talk about passive income. You all know what passive income is? I particularly don't like to teach people about passive income, but it's what folk want to hear. You all know, sometimes, what folk want to hear isn't what you want to teach. Passive income is basically income that you get while you aren't working. Folk want to hear about some passive income. They don't want to hear about any bone-breaking, back-breaking, hard, sweaty labor. They really don't want to hear that stuff that takes you years and decades. They want to hear about, how do I get rich with just passive income? Well they got folk in here who have done it and who talk about how to get rich with passive income.

But I can tell you this, before God is going to give you any passive or active income, before God gives it to you, you're going to be in some obedience. So, this is what we're going to do, and He said, announce it every single week until the day it happens, so that's going to be on August 6. Now this may be live on television, so it's August 6, 2019, just in case somebody hears this as ten years down the road. It'll be gone. So, it's August 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., we're going to show that documentary. Afterwards you'll be able to check out any of those multiple DVDs if you want to watch them.

Now it's interesting how I was in the midst of preaching the series called, The Power of Love. But for the last couple of messages, God has interrupted those messages to bring another message. So, I'm now back in the series, back to the message that was due next. And it is interesting what that message is, because it ties in. Avey, if you could, just play the audio track, and let's see if people can know what this is. Some of you are going to recog -- That's all, cut it. Now, how many of you know what that is? Most of the folk in here, especially those of a particular age, all you had to do was hear the initial guitar riffs, and you know exactly what that is.

00:10:11

It's an older song back from the 80s. The O'Jays money, money, money for the love of money. So, actually the message for today that God had time right in the midst of when he wants me to announce about showing this documentary and to bring the DVDs about taking money to another whole level it's the part of the series about the power of love, the love of money. Do you all know the love of money real and a love of money is powerful. People cannot money, but money is powerful and the love of money is strong. Let no one kid you about that the love of money is thrown.

In I Timothy 6, beginning at verse 6 and these verses that we've heard multiple times but godliness with contentment is great game for we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief. Now the King James version says for the love of money is the root of all evil.

All of the other versions say for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. The all kinds of evil is actually more accurate to the original Greek translation. The love of money is not the root of all evil but there are some evil just had nothing to do with money, but money has a powerful root and it is the root of a whole lot of evil in the world. If there was not profit in it, there was not money behind, you wouldn't have the theft, you wouldn't have robbery, you wouldn't have businesses being corrupt and deceitful, you wouldn't have a drug trade. If there was no money in making and selling drug, you wouldn't have a drug trade.

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil but they're just some evil money hidden and they didn't do it. But for the most part, most of the evil in this world, you can trace that thing back to money. My dearest love, no words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since I broke our engagement. Please say that you take me back. No one could ever, ever take your place in

my heart so please forgive me. I love you. I love you. I love you. Yours forever. P.S. and congratulations on winning the lottery.

Money changes things. Money is a great influence on romance. Again, I remember years ago, there was this sports star and a lot of folks used to say he was ugly, but he just made all his money and is that you know with that kind of money that man just looking better. You know money make people look better, there's no two ways about it. Money just make folks look better. Money has a power without question that will affect soul and spirit. Money is powerful. Experts say that the average person thinks about money 50% of their waking time. How to get it, how to keep it, how to save it, how to spend it, how to find it. Whatever it is, we are focused heavily on money whether we've got a little amount of money or whether we have a lot of money.

Ted Turner gave this advice when he was speaking to 300 ultra rich philanthropists. He told them this, he said, "Keep a few hundred million at least because you never know things could really get tough." Now see that relative but it is real. I remember years ago, Reverend and I used to say it is not the love of money is the root of all evil, it's the lack of money is the root of all evil. He had a point because the lack of money causes tremendous amount of issues. It's the number one cause of divorce. Money problems are the number one cause of the divorce. You mean you see people going to divorce, they get money issues even if your romantic situations, money has a tremendous influence on that. So, it makes a difference about how we view and how we handle money. And it's a delicate balance in Christianity.

The question is how much do I focus on money? And churches even often heavily focus on money because you need money simply to operate. One of the best ways not to love money is to give money away. It helps detach you from money, and if you can learn to be more generous, it takes away from the attachment and the hold and the grip that money will have on you.

00:15:03

The story is told of a man who just had a horrible dream. He said, I dream that the Lord took my Sunday offering and multiplied it by ten and this became my weekly income. In no time I lost my TV, had to give up my new car and couldn't make my house payment. So, I had the question for you, if the Lord took your

offering multiplied it by ten and made that your weekly income, how much would you make? We want God to bless us with all of this but yet so many times we won't even give God back what He's due.

An elderly woman, once she's done shopping and she was coming back to her car. When she got her car, she saw four men sitting inside her car. So, when she saw the four men sitting inside her car, she went in a pocketbook pull out a great big pistol and pointed it and said, "You get out of my car right now." And the man saw a woman -- all four doors open it and all men and took off down the road and the lady was kind of shaken but she put her groceries in the back seat and got in the car. She put her keys in the ignition, but the ignition wouldn't turn. So, she's just struggling it just went crazy and she looked up and she saw her car four or five cars over. And she said oh my goodness, I've gotten in the wrong car.

So, she took the key out took her packages and put it over in her car and she drove straight to the police station. And she drove to the police station, and she walked up to the desk sergeant and she told the sergeant what -- and the sergeant just went laughing and the sergeant went to laughing because sitting over on the other bench were the four men. And they come coming and reportedly we had this little grey-haired lady with thick glasses came out pointed his below pistol and carjacked us. And so, this is the point, she thought it was her car but it really belongs to someone else.

We think our finances and our money is our own. But it really belongs to God. Some of you don't just carjack God's money. And we think that it is all ours. So, we have to sometimes look at money to understand this is all God's money. But the love of money is a delicate balance because we need it. We have to have it in so many instances, but we need to be at the point where we have money without money having us. And there are some keys with this. I had a man this morning, he e-mailed me, and he e-mailed me to say that he had the money to pay me back for a loan that I had given him and I had loaned him several thousand dollars.

And he said I've got your money I can now bring you your money and pay you back. And I heard God speak this no, because a man had been going through some difficult financial times. You all

ever known anybody going through any difficult financial times? He had been going through some difficult financial times and God said no. Tell him to hold on to the money but do not spend it, but to hold on to it until you ask for it back and tell him whatever he does, no matter what comes up Do not touch and do not spend that money.

And God says this he says keeping that money in his account will change you. Do you know it changes you when you just get it moving and your money changes you when you just got money in the account? You know I mean you go to the ATM and you pull up and you see your balance there, and if that balance is big, you just feel better because the balance is big. Sometimes we've got money like that in our account, but that's God's money. And when we view it that this is not mine, this is God's, it changes the way we feel view and think about money and it'll change us from loving the money because we now we understand this is not man.

I realized everything that I have. God gave it to me. And sometimes we get confused because I work real hard for it. I know a lot of folk work real hard. Some of the things you were born into, you were blessed with intelligence, you were blessed with drive, you are blessed with certain situations that allow you to achieve and sometimes you just enhance them. Look, we're in a situation now, there is a money anointing that to be honest about this owners' right. There are just no two ways about. Some of you all may be jealous over that got too bad. The business now we get more money in the bank than we've ever had. Sales are at a record level, stuff which is happening but we recognize we're in an industry that so many other companies are down and we've had our national sales person sit there and talk with buyers and he said, Look, we just don't understand what you all are doing.

00:20:00

Every other product line in our whole chain is down but yours, what are you all doing? We don't understand -- and they don't understand the divine providence. They don't understand the favor in the hand of God. Working on you but all the other commies working hard, all other commies God smart folk.

They have sometimes much more resources, much more advertising. They got much more than we do but we got to the hand of God on us. So, when you have the hand of God, there is

the blessing, there is a force that goes on. But you always got to realize -- now we've got this new product that's come out. Our miracle lotion is starting to take off, it's starting to boom but I didn't create it.

And God says, "I'm going to take you to the next level but you get to always recognize this is me, not you." And when you ever get to the problem when you confuse your blessing that you have caused it, you're heading for a downfall. Now it doesn't mean that you don't have to work. Because when God gave the stuff, he put it wrapped up in what? That would be a whole lot of work -- when he put his little keys and little guys as it changed and turned the whole direction. He said, "Don't do this, do this, don't change this" and he would give guidance that would make a difference and without that guidance, we got a product right now that Pastor James is working on.

When I went back to pray over the product, I heard God speak and I went back and told Pastor James, God said this product is ready but it needs a total revamp. So, we see it now, we're doing a total revamp but God says look without my word, it would have been dead. You all have had this product out for five or six years, not selling worth a quarter, without my word, it would have been dead.

Some of you just need the word, even your money just needs the word but let me give you this example. My third son Christian, he has my smart car that I used to drive and a few days ago. He called me by 10 o'clock at night. When I saw his number, I said is something wrong? Because Christian is not calling me at 10 o'clock at night -- and there's something wrong.

He said daddy, my engine started smoking and I'm over here, I didn't (00:21:58) sitting in the parking lot and it won't crank. I said the car is overheated, he said yeah it got hot. And it cut off? Yeah, it cut off. I said that means the engine is seized, sure enough, it won't crank, engine seized, took the car into the dealer. He said it's going to be \$7,200.00 to fix is. Daddy, we're dead.

So, what I did is this, now to be honest about, I got the money, I could have bought Christian another car. What I did was this, I went on eBay, found a motor, got the motor, the motor is about \$1,900 got the motor, the motor is on the way now. They're going to put it in. It's going to take them two to three weeks or two to

three weekends to get that motor in. Because they got to take the old motor out but the new motor in. And my oldest son is going - - I'm the one that have to put the motor in a car, it's going to be a good learning experience and everything.

But you said pastor, why did you do that? Why didn't you just buy him or get a mechanic to put it in because it's the same reason God can't give some of you just a whole lot of easy money. And I consider myself a good and a loving father. It's the same reason your good and loving father just cannot give you a whole lot of easy money. It will spoil you. But see, by the time Christian gets still fooling with it, staining knuckles a few times and making some error, then getting that -- then finally get that thing, he'll have a whole new appreciation for that smart car after he's put that motor in there, than he does right now.

I can guarantee you this, he won't burn the motor up again either. So God will sometimes send you through some things because he cannot give you certain things lest ye become prideful and lest you start thinking with my own power I have done this thee. And you start revering the thing more than the one who gave you the thing in the first place. So God wants to take us to a whole different level but there in first Timothy.

Paul outlines basically a three-step processes that gets people trapper with the love of money. First is the desire for money, there in verse 90 is people who want to get rich. Then there is the deception of money, people who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires.

They think if they get money, all their problems in life are just going to be soft. I'm here to tell you folk, it just didn't work like that. Do you even notice that even amongst suicides, the suicide rate among very poor people is not as high as the suicide rate among middle and upper class? And you would say to myself like anybody is going to go kill themselves, it would be the folk who don't have any money. You hear about some folk with all these big money, they overdosed on drugs, shot themselves? He said, why do they take their lives? Because of the illusion.

How many of you buy potato chips? Does anybody buy potato chips? Do you know when you buy potato chips, you get this big old bag of potato chips, you know the bag is big, bag is tight.

00:25:06

But what is mostly in that bag? Air. So you got this big old bag of potato chips but what is mostly in that bag is air, that's the way money is. Money has some substance, there is no question about that, there is substance with money, but most of the stuff with money is an illusion. You think about, get this money -- if I get this big house, if I get these fine clothes, if I get this nice jewelry, if I get this shark(ph) car, then I am going to be happy. That is a part of the deception, if you base your happiness on money and it just don't hold up. You're happy for a minute but a few months after you get the stuff, it's all back to the same.

And matter or fact, you're in worse shape because now, if you got plenty of money, you can't get any pity. You're not just going to get pity if you got lot of money, you're not going to get all pity. You're a fool, you got all that money (00:26:09) I don't see what you're complaining about. You can't get any kind of pity if you got a whole lot of money. You can't get sympathy, I don't care what's wrong with you? You can't get any pity if you got plenty of money. So sometimes, when you get to a certain level, it's not as easy as people thing and it's like a bag of potato chips.

There are some substance in it, but most of it is air and you got to understand the love of money so that's why Paul said, number 1, the desire for money. People who want to get rich. Number two, the deception of money, fall into temptation and a trap. And into many foolish and harmful desires. And number three, the destruction of money. That plunged me into ruin and destruction for the love of money is root of all kinds of people. Some people eager for money have wandered from the fate and pierced themselves with may griefs.

Now I am not a poor preacher, I believe without question, (00:27:05) right on to say that money actually God has given you -- he says, I want my children rich, but I won't them rich stuff easily. In First Timothy 6-17 a few verses down. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth which is so uncertain but to put their hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Some pauses, God richly provides you but you don't put your faith in stuff. Because stuff can change and either the stuff can change or you can change from the stuff. So, you don't put your hope, you

don't put your faith in material things because it is nothing to put your faith in and it will not hold up. I want to leave you just to see -- the root determines the fruit. You are free to choose the root but you're not free to choose the fruit.

Let me explain what I mean by that. If the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, if what you are doing is because of the love of money, the root of the thing is the love of money. And it's like if you go out in your yard to plant a seed, you're free to choose the seed which produces the root. You're free to choose the root but you're not free to choose the fruit.

If you go out and put an apple seed in your yard and you put an apple seed there, that apple seed is going to produce an apple root. You can choose whether to put an apple seed, or peach seed, a tomato seed, some okra seeds, some turnips or whatever you want to put in there. You're free to choose the root but once you choose the root, you're not free to choose the fruit. The fruit is coming from the root you've chosen. So if you choose, you say I'm going to love money, you're going to get all the fruit of the love of money.

You're free to choose your root but you're not free to choose the fruit. That fruit is coming from that root. And I believe that is one of the reasons why God has you to -- render a certain portion back to him. God has other ways that he could provide for his church, he really does. I believe the major reason is to keep you from getting so detached because when you can let go systematically of a certain amount and when you can focus on giving, instead of always focusing on getting, it changes your very spirit.

You won't get any tithers(ph) who are thieves, you just don't. There is no way in the world you're going to give your money to God when he is stealing your money, it doesn't happen. See, because they have different roots. When you're faithful to God, it's a different root. If you're stealing from God, you don't have a problem stealing from man, you're setting up at your job -- you don't have a problem -- they have no problem with that because you just stole from God.

00:30:01

So, if you have no problem stealing from God, you have no problem stealing from man. If you change the root, you will

change the fruit. And I'm not saying that just because you start giving that your money is going to increase, that's a fallacy. Your money may not increase but your joy will.

I was talking with Pastor James and I was driving last night. I said, "Man, I am just so full of joy. I just feel phenomenal! I'm just bubbling over stuff it's just going phenomenal and it's not due to money." Now, money is at an all-time high, but I've been feeling like that for a long time. It got nothing to do with money. There's just so much you can spend anyway. But there's a joy that comes when you're not attached to whether stuff is up or down when you're independent of the material items in life. But I do believe just like I want all of my children to have no financial problems but I do understand some of them will have to go through some financial problems to learn. So, I want all of my children to be financially prosperous but there's a possibility that if they don't do right, they won't be and that thing just works that way. So, people who love money can get a whole lot of money but they just won't have a whole lot of joy because money just doesn't bring it.

I told you my son, Christian and I, we're going to create an album together and I asked Christian, I said, "Christian, of my old songs, is there anything you want to rerecord?" He said, "Only one, dad, there's one I'm really, really impressed with." I said, "Which one is that?" It's called Million Dollars. And the song is not what the title seemingly implies because the real title is What Good Is A Million Dollars. What good is a million dollars if I don't have love? It gets mighty cold holding gold. So, there's a part of life where when you become free from material, God can then trust you with abundance.

You all know the story of the person here who came into a huge amount of money years ago but they were in absolute fabled tither already. God could trust them with this amount so now, if I can trust you with this amount, I can trust you with this amount. But if I can't trust you with this, why do you think I can trust you with this? Can God trust you and are you carjacking God's money?

Bow your heads. Dear heavenly Father. Father, I realized that you are taking us to a higher financial level. I thank you for that. But Father, I pray above all that you keep us grounded, you never let us forget the source, you keep our ears open so that we may do as your bidding tells us to do with the resources that you have

given us. Father, I pray that even those here now who are under the sound of my voice, whether electronically or in person, and those who have desiring a financial breakthrough, Father, I pray that number one, you keep this within your wheel and you only give them what they can comfortably handle. So, I pray right now for their increased capacity to handle for as you bless them, they can become a greater blessing to others and to the world. They can become example that will lead people of how to live when they have been abundantly blessed. Father, I thank you for the increased level. I thank you, Father, that you shall give us increased guidance, increased instructions, and as we are obedient, so shall you prosper us in thy Son, Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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(Music Playing)

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