

Pt.17 - Success Forces - Putting Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes

Sermon Title: **Pt.17 - Success Forces - Putting Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes**

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Nathaniel Bronner: When you start moving towards God, all kinds of blessing start opening up in your life.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is Part 17 of the series titled, "Success Forces" subtitled "Putting Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes" by Nathaniel Bronner. This sermon is number 5885.

(Music Playing: 00:00:20 - 00:00:32)

Female: And now for, "Success Forces" Part 17, "Putting Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes."

Nathaniel Bronner: Thank you for joining us at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

And you know the world is going through so much right now but the scripture just kept running through my spirit. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil because you are with me; Your rod and Your staff shall comfort me. You know, I've told you that every July, I'm taking off now and I asked God where to go for this past month of July. He said, New Orleans and I looked up New Orleans yesterday. Do you know Louisiana has the highest rate of virus infection of any state in the country when you compare rates of infection to population? He sent me right in the middle of the valley of the shadow of death but I still fear no evil.

When you're doing what God tells you to do and going where God tells you to go, don't worry about it. And there's been such a vibration here in the church today. I don't even see how a virus can live in the church but we don't want to be foolish. So, this is what I want you to do even in the midst of this virus pandemic is running around the world. Even when you're at church, you need to treat everybody as if they're testing positive. Just simple as that. So you treat everybody as if they're tested positive.

I love you but I'm going to love you from six feet away. You keep your mask on, you wash your hands, you follow the wisdom because a whole lot of preachers did. So you want to be wise with stuff. That's why God gave you so many of the health laws in the Bible to be wise with stuff. So, you just treat everybody because we're knowing more and more people who are positive but just because you are positive doesn't have to be a negative as long as

your immune system is strong but you don't want to spread it to anybody whose immune system may not be a strong. So we are practicing faith but we're also practicing wisdom.

After service go down, get your free immunity smoothie. Pick up your free bottle of seven shields for those of you who don't have it. So, we're doing everything humanly possible to make sure that we stay healthy because I believe we are supposed to be healthy as Christians. Christians are not supposed to be sick and I don't want any of us here sick. I'll come visit you in the hospital if you get in the hospital but I prefer not to. I prefer to see you here in the sanctuary.

And for those of you who are watching via electronic means, I understand the reasons why you're not coming out to the sanctuary. If you don't feel comfortable, by all means but we are taking maximum precaution. Number one, I know nobody in the sanctuary has a temperature and if you got to have a mask to go in Walmart, you got to have a mask to come in God's house. Simple as that. I want to also thank all of you who have been sending in your tithes and your offerings because you don't slack on any of your other bills and why should you slack on your duty to the house of God and most of you have still been sending in your tithes and your offerings and we really thank you for that because the expenses for the church is still going on. So we just thank all of you for being faithful.

God has been faithful to you, you be faithful to God. And I'm seeing more and more even among my children. I've got my third youngest son Christian who's now our minister of music and our youngest son George is sitting right there in the balcony and they came together because George said, he said, "Daddy, I want to get to church early" and then he said, "and I want to go on Thursday to hear Uncle Charles." He's 15 years old but God is speaking to him more and more and the angels are showing up.

And Christian has, when I came back from out of town, walked into the garage and he had his car wrapped with an orange wrap with do (ph) 42 and I noticed all the wrap was off the car. I said, "why the wrap off of the car?" And then I understood that he was selling the car. Now, I told my sons, I said, "Daddy will buy your first car but your second car, you get it back." So he was selling the car. I said, "Christian, why are you selling the car?" He said, "well," he said, "first of all, it's a little bit of 2C (ph) to me now."

He said, “first of all, it hurt my back.” Then he said, “I have to take friends to church and they can’t fit in this two-seater.”

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I’m getting ready to get another car myself because nothing wrong with the cars that I have but I do a lot of traveling now and I want a car that drives itself. I just do -- I get sleepy on the road and pass the dangers when you’re sleeping on the road. I just tell you that right off the bat. I get sleepy, I get bored so I either have a choice right now be either buying a Tesla or they have this little thing called a Commodore (ph) AI that you can put in certain model cars and it turns it into a self-driving car. With the car that I have, my current Lexus doesn’t have it where I can add this device so I have to get one a six years newer and I was going to buy one about three months ago and God said, “no wait three months before you buy another car.”

So, I asked Christian. I said, “Christian, what kind of car are you going to get?” He said, “I’m not sure.” I said, “Daddy will be able to buy another car in another nine days” because I got it down. I’m going to get one right on the nose. I said, “Daddy will be able to buy another car in nine days. Would you be interested in my Lexus?” He said, “what?” He said, “how much are you going sell it for?” Now the Lexus is virtually brand new. A lot of times when I go to places and the people actually think it’s a brand-new car. It has about 60,000 miles on. It looks absolutely brand-new. It’s got every single option. It’s a high-end luxury car. And I remember a few months ago when we went somewhere and Christian was driving, he said, “man this thing just drives like money.” So, I told Christian I was selling the car for just a little bit over what he’s selling his car for. So he said, “that’s a done deal.”

Now, this is the point, when you start moving towards God, all kind of blessing start opening up in your life. It just happens and it’s not just financial. My son George started his first class with the Harvard Diversity Debate Group yesterday and it’s a class that James’ daughter Genesis has completed. They have won the championship for three years in a row of all international debate teams worldwide. So, they go through this rigorous training that’s really, really rough. And when I picked George up yesterday, I said, “George, how was your day” because the teacher

told us and said, “look don’t take your children anywhere when you pick them up because they’re going to be worn out.”

And I asked George. I said, “George, how was the class?” He said, “it was fantastic.” He said, “I just loved it” and he says, “I see myself developing more in the next month than I ever have in my life.” And he was just a beam (ph). You see, when you start moving towards God, doors start opening up, things started happening in your world and it just makes a difference and you don’t have to be old to do it. George told me, he said, “Daddy I want you to know about Isaiah.” I said, “who is Isaiah?” He said, “Isaiah is a boy that’s in the Harvard class with me and we’ve been talking on the phone” and he says, “Isaiah listens to your messages.” He says, “Isaiah -- and I just finished the longest series that I’ve ever preached called the Plagues of Egypt which was 19 messages.

He says, “Isaiah has listened to every single one of the Plagues of Egypt.” I said, “what?” I said, “how old is Isaiah?” The Harvard Debate Group basically, it’s a high school group but everybody in the group is accelerated because they take 25 kids out of thousands of applicants so everybody is accelerated. I said, “how old is Isaiah?” George says, “Isaiah is 12.” So if a 12-year-old -- and I talked on the last message about the prelude to this coming series, the second part of Success Forces. Success Forces was the longest series I’d ever preached prior to the Plagues of Egypt which has 16 messages. If a 12-year-old can listen to all 19 of the Plagues of Egypt, anybody over 12 ought to be able to listen to the 16 messages of Success Forces that have already been preached and I’m going to do eight additional ones so that there will be a total of 24 Success Forces.

So God has a plan and I’m just seeing it just within my own family. See, some of you are trying to start businesses, you want to have breakthroughs in all kinds of areas but you won’t get right with God. You won’t do what God tells you to do and when you do what God tells you to do and I have problems with this myself. I had hurt my knee a few weeks ago and I heard it last, we’re just doing some just mild but when I went on the trip that the company just came back from and I was limping because I’d hurt my knee again and I said, “well the reason I hurt my knee really big one because I twisted it.” God says, “work out six days a week, you never be sick.”

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This hurt knee is a sickness. I don't care how you slice it. I had missed my work-out for two days when I hurt my knee. So God hadn't broke his word to me. So I was -- my knee was hurt because I had missed my work-out for two days. And he said, "pass the two days, [00:10:18] not make that much difference." Well, God says, "work out six days a week, you never be sick." I missed two days, my knee twisted. So all I got to say is, do what God tells you to do and even blessings will happen to you that you don't even expect. My son was trying to figure out what kind of car could he buy with the money for the first car. He had no idea he'd be elevated to that level. God has some levels of elevation for you and he's just waiting on you to just do what he's told you to do.

So if you're watching by television, if you're here in the sanctuary, some of you are watching by television cause it's convenient and God has told you, you need to be in the presence, because even though you heard a lot of the vibration going forth that's coming over to television or coming over your phone, it's not the same as sbeing here and you're going to be safe here. That's the other thing. We're separated. Nobody has a temperature. You don't hear anybody coughing and everybody has their own mask so you're just as safe here. And plus, I've just been hearing about so many people, they're testing positive and they haven't been anywhere.

We had two cases last week and the people said, "I haven't been anywhere. I don't go out to the grocery store. All my groceries are delivered. How I test positive?" Look it, it's better to have God surrounding you and be in the presence. If he lays it on your heart to be here and if he didn't put it on your heart to be here, you stay right where you are. But if he puts it on your heart to be here, you get on in the house of God and it's going to get worse. There's no question about it. It is going to get worse but this is where our faith is truly tested. Now, I am not saying to do anything foolish so we're going to have social separation. We're not hugging. We aren't shaking hands. We're not getting close. I don't want you Hallelujah in anybody's face. No spitting on in anybody.

So we are going to be fully just like the doctor has suggested so you're not taking any risk but you're in the presence of God and you're in the presence here where you know, no one at least has a temperature. So we're getting ready to go into the second half of Success Forces. Avy (ph), if you would, just go ahead and play the video. It's a short two-minute video that I want you to see that kind of outlines the Success Force that we're going to talk about today.

[Video Playing: 00:12:43 - 00:14:20]

Today, we are going to be dealing with the Success Force of Putting Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes. It's psychologically called empathy. In Hebrews Chapter 2 beginning at the 14th verse, Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death --that is, the devil --and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

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For this reason, he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

That same book, Chapter 4, 15th verse. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Jesus took fleshly form so that he could understand what we go through. How many of you all have been tempted in the past seven days if you've just been tempted? And see, without this flesh, I don't know how much our spirit is tempted because most of my temptation comes through the things of the flesh. So, God had to send a son in a fleshly form so that he could put himself in our shoes and so that he could understand how we felt.

I remember when I first started ministry and I remember God speaking to me and he says, "I have to send you through some things so you can relate to the people" and when I heard that, I

didn't like the sound of that because I don't really want to go through anything to relate the book. I just rather read it out of a book or listen to somebody else speaking to get it that way. I don't want to go through stuff and sometimes, when I am counseling people who are going through a session and they'll said, "Pastor, you really have a prophetic vision on that. Whoa, man, you can hear from God?" I've been through that. I can relate and I can understand and I can help guide you through it because I have gone through that.

It's the same way in business how you advise someone entirely different when you've gone through something versus when you just read about it or when you just have attended a conference. It makes a difference when you have gone through something. It is the success force of walking in someone else's shoes. I remember years ago, James, and I, we had gone to the Country of Peru to the City of Machu Picchu and it's one of the seven wonders of the world. They've got all these ancient ruins and you walk up all of these steps on the mountains to get there. And I told James as we were walking up the steps, "I'm scared." I said something about this and I can understand. I don't know what it is about this place but I'm just scared and I wasn't a person who normally hikes.

Generally, I don't bother. I mean, I could fly plane without a problem but it was something about walking up this mountain where I've been situations where I've climbed around a ledge of a mountain hundreds of feet above but it was something about walking up these steps. I was just scared and it kept happening and I just turned. I don't even want to go up there. It's just something about this. I'm just scared and then James said, "you know, you're not a fearful person." He said, "that sounds like there's a spirit that's on you." And then I realized it was. It was totally outside of my nature. God has let me experienced in two specific instances something that was outside of my normal nature and I experienced fear.

So now when I see some others who have what others may consider to be irrational fears, you know. Some people are just scared of certain things. They're just scared and you try to say this can't hurt you. They're just scared. Sometimes it is a spirit of fear and if you have never experienced a literal -- and I'm not talking about something that's logical. I'm talking about something that's irrational. I was walking up steps and I wasn't

dizzy or anything. I knew I wasn't going to fall down. It was an irrational fear and if you've never experienced an irrational fear, you can't relate and understand somebody else who's going through it. You know, [00:19:12] well, you get over there. It's not that easy. So God had me go through it. So now, at least I can relate because I know what it feels like.

The other thing he had me experience was the spirit of gluttony. I went through a period and I knew it was a spirit. Nobody had to tell me. I couldn't get fooled. So now if I am interacting with someone else who has a difficulty of appetite control, I understand it because I've been there and see, when you have been through something, you are a lot more sympathetic about it than if you've never experienced because if you've never experienced all, you're just, "man up and gird up your lawn. You handle that thing. You man up or woman up. Get handle of that thing." When you have been through it and you have been through it and you couldn't man up and you couldn't stop it and you couldn't handle it and you couldn't control it then you can understand.

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Sometimes you see people who mess up in the world and if you haven't gone through the temptation, you said how do they do that, how do they fall and how did it happen? You go through it and you let the devil or God open up some of your gates where you faced that kind of temptation and then you understand how they feel, then you understand why they succumb to the temptation. So there are things sometimes we become a lot better when we can understand where people are coming from. And see, that's even a business success force. When you can put yourself in the shoes of the customer, you can figure out how to best satisfy the customer and you can make a better product or a better service.

I learned long ago, I can't make prodigies on what I like. I have to be able to put my mindset in the mind of the person who's going to be buying your product and sometimes, it's a whole different mindset than where you are. The success force of being able to put yourself in someone else's shoes. I mentioned that we had just come back. We take a company trip every year and I always try to ask God where should we go and this year was logical. We were just planning on going to Florida because now, it has one of the highest virus rates around but that's where we were going

and I was in my prayer one day and I heard God speak where to go and he said Montgomery. I said Montgomery?

So I called up Suzanne. I said, "Suzanne, are we going to Montgomery?" And about a week later, she said, "Mr. Bronner, everybody just fussing about Montgomery. They want to know why in the world are they going to Montgomery?" First of all, and then to do in Montgomery, all this racial stuff going on in Montgomery. They couldn't understand why in the world because we go through some real exotic places and Montgomery is only two and a half hours away. They just couldn't understand why am I taking the whole company to Montgomery and I have to focus. They said, "we're just not going. I said, "Suzanne if they're not going, then they're not going but we're going to Montgomery."

So it ended up, we chartered a bus and on last Monday, drove to Montgomery. We pulled up in front of the hotel and when we pulled up in front of the hotel, almost the whole hotel and this is right in the middle of downtown Montgomery. We pulled up in front of the hotel. Almost the whole hotel staff is standing outside waiting on us. So, I get off of the bus and there's the hotel manager standing there and he's almost got tears in his eyes and he says, "do you all know, you all of the first group we've had since the beginning of the pandemic." He said, "in six months, we haven't had anybody. You all are the first people we've had and we are so glad." And they just went on and on and then I instantly understood, sometimes it's not always about you.

And I wasn't even thinking about that God might have been sending us somewhere for somebody else. I wasn't even thinking about well maybe there's a hotel somewhere and they need our help, their staff needs the booze, they need the money and the hotel was brand-new. They celebrated their one-year anniversary on Thursday while we were there. So, the hotel was just brand-new and when the people opened the rooms up, all the rooms, they were just so glad. Sometimes you can't understand what God is directing you to do. And see, he's like that even in relationships because we can't put ourself in the other person's shoes what they are feeling, what their needs are. Are we be worried about what I need like you don't see about my needs? Why don't you put yourself in the other person's shoes? What do they need and if you try to satisfy the other person, it changes the whole relationship because we don't just think about ourselves?

So we had a phenomenal trip. Everybody just enjoyed it. It was just perfect. We got ready to leave. The staff all came out again, and they said, "you all just don't know what you've done because we're geared towards service but we had no one to serve." And as they said, -- because the manager -- he said, "what made you choose Montgomery because it made no logical sense?" And normally, they have a parking lot. It's around the corner where buses were parked and he said, "look, you all don't even park y'all bus riding. You leave your bus right in front because we want the other hotels and know we got a busload."

So my mentality was, "Lord, why Montgomery? Lord, why we aren't going -- my eye." I had no concept that it might not have been just for me and us that maybe God was directing us for somebody else and oftentimes, when God will lead you to do something, try to put yourself in the other person's shoes and it'll bring you even greater success in almost every single area of your life. It even changes business.

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You know Carl Benz who actually lives in Germany, he was the inventor of the automobile not Henry Ford. Henry Ford developed the mass production technique but Carl Benz was actually the inventor of the automobile. His daughter was named Mercedes. So for those of you who have Mercedes-Benz, that's where it came from. The first automobile was invented by Karl Benz. His daughter was named Mercedes so he named his first car and his company Mercedes-Benz. Well, anyway, this was back in about, I think it was 1886 when Karl Benz made his first car and he made his first Mercedes-Benz but when he drove it through this town, it made so much noise that all of the people in the town started complaining because it was scaring the children. It was scaring the horses. And there were no cars, just horses.

So it was scaring all the horses, scaring all the children so they went to the city council and the city council passed an ordinance that the car could not go any faster than three and a half miles an hour in the city and seven miles an hour outside of the city. So Karl Benz, he said, "I knew I can't be successful with those kind of speed limits. I have to do something about this." So he invited the mayor for a ride in his new car. But before he picked the mayor up, he made an arrangement with the milkman and he had the milkman stand over on a side street with the milk wagon and

the horse because back then, you know, horses pull the milk wagon.

So he had the milkman on a side street with his horse and the milk wagon. He went and picked up the mayor and when they drove past the milkman then rolled out and rolled past them and then made fun and talking about yo' slow rascal. So, the mayor was sitting up there and the milkman with his finger going up calling them all kind of name making fun and talking about how slow they are. So the mayor said, "Carl, can't you just speed this thing up." And Carl said, "well, yes, it will go much faster than this but there's an ordinance and the ordinance says I can't go any faster than three and a half miles an hour while I'm in the city." The mayor got that thing changed the next week. See Carl knew if he could put the male in his shoes, he would see it from a different angle.

So when we can put ourselves in another person's shoes, it changes how we do some things. There was once a grandmother who had gone to the zoo with her young grandson. She was an old lady and she has a little boy there and they were standing in line for an artist who was actually painting tiger paws on the children's faces and a little girl in front looked at a little boy and she said, "you got freckles. You got freckles all over your face. It's not going to be any room for the artist to paint in a tiger paws on your face because you got freckles all over your face." And when the little boy I heard that, he just bowed his head because it made him feel so bad and the grandmother saw it and the grandmother took the little boy by the hand. She said, "oh, son, I have always wanted freckles all of my life. Freckles are so pretty and you have so, so many, so many pretty freckles" and she just built the little boy and just built the little boy up and the grandmother was down talking. She said, "is there anything, anything prettier than freckles?" And the little boy just looked at his grandmama and he said, "wrinkles."

You see, when you see the beauty in somebody else, somebody else will see the beauty in you. And oftentimes because we can't put ourselves in another person's shoes, what happens is we see so many of the negative things and as a result, the negative things come back to us. It's the power of empathy of being able to put yourself in someone else's shoes. A fellow named John Howard Griffin back in 1959 did an experiment. He was a white gentleman but he went into a tanning salon and he took

medication that darkened his skin that turned him into looking like a black man. He kinked up his hair, darkened his skin and he was actually doing a series of articles for sepia magazine and he traveled throughout five states in the South as a white man looking like a black man. He wrote a book. I read this book probably 30 years ago.

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The book is called Black Like Me and it's the story of a white man who turned black and he said he never had any idea what it was like to be a black man until he became a black man. He said he worked as a shoeshine boy and he said white people just wouldn't even see him. They would look past him. He was like, he was a non-entity. He experienced racial prejudice. He said he had never had the issue before of having to use the bathroom so bad. There was no way to use the bathroom. He said things like this that as a white person just never even entered his consciousness. When he lived months through all these southern states and he wrote that book, it changed his whole perspective.

He said no one could have ever explained it to me. They could have written about it. I just would not have believed it if I hadn't have gone through it myself. And sometimes we go through things because we need to be able to relate to others and because he was able to relate to Black Like Me. But sometimes, to really reach people, we have to be hurt like me, abuse like me, addicted like me. I can't relate to anybody addicted on drugs. I've never been addicted. I'd say, why don't you just stop? Just say no! Unless you've been shaking and throwing up and going through the DTs, that's why the people who are most successful of getting drug addicts off drugs are former drug addicts. They know what it's like and then you can't fool them. They know what it's like. They said, "man, I know what you're going through."

So when a person has empathy, they know what to say, what not to say and the person can relate to him so sometimes it's so much. You know, rejected like me, don't like me. It's hard for you to relate to somebody who've just been dumped and you never been dumped in your life. When you've been dumped, you relate to somebody's who's been dumped and you can truly say, "I know what you're going through. I feel for you." Overweight like me, sometimes we can't relate. And the flip side is also true.

In our study session with the boys yesterday, we actually went over famous people who had died from drug overdoses, drug addictions or suicide. The flip side is just as true. Sometimes you can't relate to rich like me or famous like me. I remember back in the day when we were in the music business, everybody wanted to be Michael Jackson but me. I said, "Michael got some issues." I can understand somewhat what it could be like where you can't even walk outside your house, you can't go to the mall, you can't go to McDonald's in peace. He said you can't relate to it until you've been in that situation.

So, it works on the flip side of both and some people say, well if you got plenty money, how could you have any problems? You can't understand that unless you just got plenty of money and money is not an issue and that at all other stuff of life is coming in and now folk know you got plenty of money and all them coming after you trying to get your money. You can't relate to that unless you've been there. So, when you've been there, you know, if you got all this stuff, man you're movie star. You got all this money. You got all these women. What are you doing on drugs? Why are you depressed? Why do you commit suicide? You can understand. You can't relate to it unless you've been there. So oftentimes, when you're able to put yourself in another person's shoes, it will change your effectiveness of how you can lead them to Christ.

Romans 12:15 says this. It says, rejoice with those who rejoice. Mourn with those who mourn. It is the ability for empathy and oftentimes, our emotions are exactly reverse of Romans 12:15. When sometimes we see people who are doing great, we're jealous. And then when we see them doing bad, we're glad. The Bible says, rejoice with those who rejoice. Mourn with those who mourn. So somebody's just got a promotion, if somebody's doing good, our first reaction is, I didn't get no promotion. They're making more than me. They don't get a new car and I'm still driving my old car. They don't get a new house. They don't get a new man.

The Bible says rejoice, empathize, put yourself -- shoot, I didn't get a new man. I'm stuck with the old man I got. And then somebody looking at you telling they got a man. I don't get no man and it will go down to this. Everybody be looking at everybody else wondering and wishing they had what everybody else had and nobody is rejoicing. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Mourn with those who mourn. Then when you see somebody doing bad, just be glad. It doesn't matter who it is. See, everyone

has their issues. I don't care who they are. Everyone has their issues.

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So when you develop an empathy where you can sympathize and empathize with people and put yourself in their shoes, it's going to free your spirit with a lot of stuff and it'll make it where you can just relate and do the work of Christ for whole lot better. That is why Jesus had to come in the flesh and experience what we go through in this flesh. Success Force is actually number 17. To be able to walk in another person's shoes.

You can go to brothersoftheword.com. Just click sermon search and type in Success Forces and you'll be able to listen to the entire series from beginning to end and this is a series that comes after the Plagues of Egypt. We're going through Plagues now, still going to be more to come but there is success and there is great success to be had among the people of God. If we can just hear and heed his voice and do what God says and there are blessings untold in store for us all. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. Amen. Amen and amen.

I'm going to ask Pastor James to come now and close this out for today. Amen.

Pastor James:

Amen. We thank Pastor for this new second part of Success Forces and this power of empathy. This is something about human nature. We want other people to be empathetic of our actions and our point of view but we don't want to be empathetic on others when we do something wrong. We want others to understand how we messed up but we don't want to understand when others trespassed against us. So, we all naturally desire empathy but we don't naturally want to give it. So, we thank him for this message that we can begin to think about other situations, their point of views and vantage points that we may be able to relate to them and it allows us to minister to them better when we can see things from where they are the struggles they're going through. So we thank him for this Success Force that we all may be better in our relationship with others. Amen. Amen.

With our heads bowed right now, if there's anybody in this place and you want to make sure that your relationship with the father

is where it needs to be. You've known him close at one time and you kind of drifted from him and you want to renew that relationship and altar is open at this time. We'll pray with you as you renew that relationship. So I can appeal from you and hearing the messages you're hearing. You let her join this body of believers and want to join the Ark of Salvation, doors of the church are open and we invite you to come for either one of those two appeals.

I'm going to ask Minister Stephanie to close us today. She has one of the greatest natural gifts of empathy that I know of anybody and I'm not just saying that because she's my wife but just dealing with people a lot of times with somebody that frustrate me and I may be complaining to her and she will always give me the other person sign and sometimes I have to admit. I said, no, I just want you to see what I'm seeing. You see, I always can see the other person so sometimes I just want to ask whose side are you on? But she has a natural gift of empathy so, I just want her to do anything that she wants to share from that natural gift and close us up for the day. Amen.

So for the video that Pastor played and with the two students on each side of the table and the teacher put a ball in the middle and he asked them to say what color the ball is and one said black, the other said white. Then he had them to switch positions and to repeat it and then they could see that basically, the ball was one color on one half and the other color on the other half. So, when they got on each other's shoes and each other's position, they could understand the perspective of the other person. Amen.

Minister Stephanie: Praise the Lord. God is so good. I am so shocked but I'm not shocked. God told me that I was going to say something today and I didn't know how or what that would be but Hallelujah. Be also ready.

00:40:05

So, I just -- growing up in a house with a pastor, I heard my father counsel many people, pray for many people and his biggest point in doing that was, Jesus came to know how we live here. It took a God to please a God and when you think in the terms that God had to come and see what we were doing, why we were doing it so that he could understand how to help us and how we can be pleasing in his sight, that was why he sent his son Jesus. He

duplicated himself to come and live like us and if I can let Jesus love me then I have to love like Jesus which means I have to think of how God would need to hear the prayer from Jesus.

So when I do hear what goes on, I mean it's kind of not just probably annoying to him but whenever he gives me something that's going on, it's just innate in me to just tell him, well, did you think of it like this? So, he's also helped me in the way of areas that I'm unfamiliar with because I don't know everything and you don't know till you realize you don't know. So he's helpful in letting me know certain things that will help me be empathetic on things that I don't know about. So I'm thankful I can pray that you know, that this would be a part of everybody's existence of.

God has been amazing to allow us to even have Jesus to intercede at the right hand of the father for each of us because that's how we are getting our forgiveness. He was here and when he dealt with people who were angry, when he dealt with people who were hungry, when he saw the children that came to him, he's able to tell the father, "hey, just be merciful Lord because this is what she's going through, the woman with the issue of blood." He saw sickness firsthand and he was able to plead with the father. So even if you have to pray for yourself, there are so many scriptures in the word of God where Jesus actually knows exactly what you're going through.

And if we just remind him of the things he saw to say, this is what I'm going through Lord. I need your healing hand just like the leper who came and there was no cure. COVID has no cure just say the leprosy. Lord you heal and I need you to heal it like you healed the leprosy in the word. That's empathy. That's bringing truth to what he felt to know how you feel.

So just right now, with heads bowed, father, we just thank you for your precious word. We thank you Jesus. We thank you for coming to live the life that we live. We thank you for being one of us. We thank you for having a heart to learn how we live and what we need. So Lord right now, we just need to know how it feels to walk in your shoes and we thank you for being the everlasting father, for being the one who did take the stripes on your back for our healing, the one who stayed on the cross because you knew we didn't want to go to hell, the one who kept all of the things that we did for us to be able to receive the divine loving protection and healing and salvation from the father.

We just thank you for the empathy Lord that you have even today. We thank you for the sympathy that you have even today. We just ask you Lord that you will pour out yourself into us. We thank you for the holy spirit that is our comforter and our keeper that speaks to us. We just invite you because you are a gentleman and you have to be invited to speak. We just thank you for your wonderful presence. We ask you Lord that you incline our ear to know exactly what you're saying so that we can speak to you and know how to ask you, how does he help to other people here in the Earth, how to speak prayers for them when they can't pray for themselves, how to pray for our own self when we don't know what to say.

So God, we just thank you for Jesus. We thank you for not leaving us here. We thank you for not leaving us alone. We thank you for understanding that we needed an empathetic ear and empathetic mind. We just praise you God. For pastor's message God, just continue to pour into him more and more and more so that we can be more pleasing in your sight. Create in us Lord a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from thy presence and take not thy holy spirit from us God. Give us a new mind that we might be pleasing in your sight. Lord we just raise our hands and say we accept. We want to say we accept your empathy Jesus and we thank you for speaking into us in Jesus name, amen. Amen.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This was Part 17 of the series titled, "Success Forces" subtitled "Putting Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes" by Nathaniel Bronner.

00:45:02

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