

pt.19 - Success Forces - Remaining Calm

Sermon Title: **pt.19 - Success Forces - Remaining Calm**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: In one form or another, there has always been stuff to stress you out if you let it, but you got to keep calm and carry on.

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

And now for, "Success Forces" Part 19, "Remaining Calm."

Nathaniel Bronner: Christian, I'm going to ask would you open up for your daddy in prayer?

Christian: All right. Bow your heads for a word of prayer. Lord God, I just thank you for all the many blessings that you've given us Lord God. We thank you for your unfailing love O Lord God. We thank you that you just kept us safe God in the midst of everything that's going on. We always felt we have a safe house Lord God and we can run to your name as it is strong, fortuitous Lord God and that you will keep us safe. We have no reason to be afraid because you're with us at all times God. I ask you to just open our hearts God. Open up mine that we will receive the word that you're going to give and speak up onto us today Lord God. Let us live better and how we were when we're walking here God and help us just continue to do your will on earth as it is in heaven God. In Jesus name, our prayer. Amen.

Nathaniel Bronner: Amen. I wanted to edit and make sure to put that prayer on the front of the message because it kind of relates in exactly what he said about what the message is for today. Welcome to Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the word.

And today I am going to read some excerpts from one of the most famous poems ever written. It was a poem by Rudyard Kipling called, "If" and most of you who have taken English literature in school, it's one of the required readings. And I'm not going to read the whole poem, just excerpts because it's kind of long.

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,

Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Now that first line of that famous poem, “if you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs,” and I want to take us a verse, 2 Timothy verse 4-5. But you keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry, but you keep your head in all situations. And right now, we're in the middle of the second series of “Success Forces” and today's Success Forces, the Force of “Remaining Calm.” Another word for calm that's actually more appropriate is peace, but we're going to just talk about the “Success Force of Remaining Calm.”

One of the most famous bible verses, Matthew 24:6, which begins: And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled. You all know what troubled means? See that ye be not anxious. See that ye not be worried. In other words, remain calm. Keep calm. There was a famous poster in World War II that was famous all over Britain and they had it posted somewhere everywhere and you know the British are kind of a little bit up here. They've rather stoic and it got this reputation. So when bombs drop out, they had these posters that says -- it simply says, “Keep Calm and Carry On.”

So that's kind of what this thing is about, and ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye not be troubled for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For

nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places.

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All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nation for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come.

Now, first of all, many of us relate this verse to modern times and it is applicable to modern times but I want to tell you, every one of the things that Jesus talked about, they've always been. They've always been for as long as recorded history, wars and rumours of wars, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom.

Have you all read the Old Testament? A huge amount of the Old Testament was rumours of wars, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom for as long as man has been on this Earth at least in recorded history and my guess is the full recorded history he was fighting. Man has been battling man from the moment he sets foot on this Earth for at least from the moment he got out of the garden. And when he got out of garden, the first two siblings want him killed. That's war. So wars and rumours of wars, kingdom against kingdom, nation against nation.

All this stuff is -- have you all watched the news lately about what's going on? And this is just the big stuff. You don't even hear the news about all of the minor conflicts that's going on all over the world. You only hear in the news what they want you to know about. You don't hear about all the ballots that's going on. And here, Jesus is saying, don't be troubled. Keep calm and carry on. So that's one of these powerful Success Forces.

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, keep calm and carry on. Because when you start letting yourself

become anxious and troubled and fearful, it begins to take your focus off of the things that you need to do. You need to carry on. You can't stop your stuff because they got war over in Ukraine. 99.9% of this stuff is not even going to affect you but you can't worry about that. You've got to keep calm and carry on.

How many of you all got stuff to do? I got stuff to do. I don't have time to be worried about all of the wars and rumours of wars. You know and right now, the U.S. is getting what's called increasingly escalating tensions between us and these other big countries, and if we go to war, that's going to be a big major massive mess of a war. But I don't worry about that. Number one, I can't do anything about that so I don't worry about what could happen if we go to war with somebody else. I have to be conscious of making sure I keep calm and carry on and that's what you need to do. All of these things have always been -- do you know in the past 3400 years of recorded history, humankind have been at peace only 268 of those 3400 years, 8% of the time and that's when you didn't have major conflict. So, 92% of the time of recorded history has been wars and rumours of wars. Keep calm and carry on.

Well, what about famines and pestilences and earthquakes? Have you read your Bible lately? Not only were there famines, God himself caused a whole lot of the famines. Matter of fact, I'm here to say he called it although (ph). God controls all that stuff because you know, you can really get folks' attention some time when they're hungry for something. You let folk go without food for a while, they'll start looking at the heaven and then they'll start really praying if you let folk go without food.

So sometimes God had to shut up the heavens until the folk would look up to him. So, he calls famines. Pestilence is just another big long word for disease. Have you looked through the Old Testament and seen how much disease there was? Jesus' major ministry was in healing for who was sick with disease. The virus is sweeping the world right now. There's nothing new about that. Pestilence had been here all throughout history in one major form or another. They come in waves and sweets. What about earthquakes, Pastor? What about earthquakes?

Do you know the first recorded earthquake was a thousand years before Christ and that's just recorded? So, when you look at all of the number of earthquakes that have been happening, it's been a ton of them. You need to keep calm and carry on. See that ye are not troubled. Right now, most of our diseases or the top ten diseases, most of them doctors say are brought on or aggravated by stress. Heart attack is the number one. Do you know if you live in life just free and easy and not troubled by anything, you know it's hard for you to have a heart attack? You have to be stressed to have a heart attack. If you're just carefree and not letting anything bother you, your arteries just don't clog up regardless of what you're eating. There's something about it.

When you get all tensed, you can just be on a broccoli diet and you're all tensed and just all tight and it just totally mess you up. So, there is a disease of stress now and stress and anxiety, they're just bigger words for trouble. You're troubled about this; you're troubled about that. You're worried about this; you're worried about that. And we've just got to learn how to do like the British said on their sign, keep calm and carry on. Stress and troubling and fear.

Do you know when you get scared -- do you know the first thing that happens to you before you react is you freeze. That's the first step. You freeze. You got to even start thinking before you can move. So, when you get troubled, when you get scared, when you get fearful, it freezes you and you can't do what you need to do because you are so troubled and you can't sleep at night. And if you can't sleep, you wake up your eyes all bread and you're tired and then you go to work and you mess up because you're sleepy. Now you're in trouble because I might lose my job. You see, the thing cascades. You just need to keep calm and carry on.

Jesus told you all of this stuff was coming and we've got to learn how to master this. And I want to just give you an acronym to allow you, if you can follow this, it will help you stay calm in the midst of all of the mess of the world that has always been. And I know something said, Pastor, does it ever been like it's been? That isn't true. Stuff has been worse than what it's been.

I was in Jackson, Mississippi this past week and Mississippi had the highest number of lynchings of any state in the U.S. You

can't tell me coronavirus was more stressful than that. So there's been some stuff that's been way more stressful than a virus. So life has been that way in one form or another. There has always been stuff to stress you out if you let it but you got to keep calm and carry on.

So, C-A-L-M. How do we keep calm in a world that is geared and designed to stress you out? C, you need to celebrate God's goodness. Celebrate God's goodness. Philippians 4:4 says, rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say rejoice. Celebrate God's goodness. There are always two things you can look at. You can look at the positive or you can look at the perceived negative. Always two things. And people, when we start lifting them out, it's always much more positive than negative. You know, you can't sell newspapers. You can't get people tuning in on the 11 o'clock news with good news. They just won't watch it. It is geared negatively because that's what people stay tuned at 11:00. When you stay tuned at 11, 99% of the time, there's some bad news. And this is the kind of stuff that takes our piece, that takes our joy because we're focused on things that are negative. Celebrate God's goodness and when you begin to celebrate God's goodness and see it all that the good things God has put in front of us, all of the good things God has given us. When we begin to celebrate his goodness and rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, it'll change our whole vibration. So that's the C.

A, ask for God's help when you do have an issue. Philippians 4:6, do not be anxious about anything. And it goes again. Don't be anxious. Don't be worried about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Now, that's a heavy-duty verse and it tells us these steps. Don't be anxious. Don't be worried. Don't be concerned. Don't be fearful about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving. See most of us don't get that. We don't put the thanksgiving in that. He says everything with thanksgiving so you're thankful for everything.

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You're thankful even when stuff go wrong. If you break your finger, Lord, thank you, I only broke one finger. I got nine more good ones. So it is a way to look at that thing. And most of all,

oh Lord, I broke, Lord, I broke my fingers. No. Lord, I could have smashed my whole hands. I'm thankful that I only broke one. It's always something to be thankful for. So this verse talks about that basically in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, and that's the part we forget about. I want to pray but I won't be thankful for this stuff because I got too much going wrong. I just want to bring back the stuff (00:15:33) with thanksgiving and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding.

See, there's a place that you can get to in God and folk just can't understand it. Matter of fact, not only can folk not understand it, you can't even understand it. That's why I said it surpasses all understanding, which means you. Sometimes I just feel so happy. I said the weight (ph) is even coming from. I just feel happy. I feel so full of joy sometimes I don't even understand. I just had to ask God. I said, Lord, why have I been so blessed? Why do I just feel so good? Sometimes, I can't even understand it because it surpasses all understanding, because there's not like I don't have some stuff wrong. If you're walking, you got some stuff that you think is wrong. And see, that's why I had to re-correct my thinking and that's why I said the perceived negative. See, we think some things are negative and actually, they're not really negative. They just put it there to develop our strength. Sometimes they have to put us there to develop our contrast so we can appreciate the positive.

Do you know if you give folk everything all the time and they never go through a struggle, they don't appreciate the stuff they all get but you don't have to just take some from folk and even they're hungry, they appreciate food? Do you know it's hard to appreciate a meal fool but when you're hungry and the chicken smelling good, you can appreciate it then? It changes perception. So just even with asking God, ask with thanksgiving. Celebrate God's goodness. Ask for God's help.

L, leave it with the Lord. Let me get you to repeat this phrase. I hereby resign as ruler of the universe. There're some things you can't handle. It's not your responsibility. You don't have the power to change. Some of us really think we just rule over the universe. You're not master of the universe. You are not. There's something only God can handle. Now, a lot of times, this is well out of preaching get off is you want to put everything in the hands of God. Nope. They're not what he said. Only the

things you are not supposed to handle and the things you cannot handle.

That's why Jesus didn't heal anything the folk had power over. Every disease when you go back and check it that was named. Every disease he healed; the folk had no power over. A lot of this stuff we got power. So I'm talking about the things that you have no control over, the things that you cannot do, leave that to God. You are not ruler of the universe. And some of us want to control everything we think we're responsible for, it's just some stuff. I have no control over that. You have no control over other people who are not your responsibility. Now sometimes, if you're in charge of something, you do have control over some stuff and you can't change the folk but you can change the folk if you know what I mean.

So if you're in charge of as a boss and the owner of a company, I just can't go on and say, Lord, this folk, he won't do right. They won't be messing up. Lord, just straighten them out. I can't do that because I do have control over that. I can't straighten them out but I can get them out. And that's the way it is with some of you and so, some of the things that you have control over, you are ordained and destined to have it. I've had to put some folks out of the church. I just couldn't pray, Lord control that speaking. I don't -- you can't come back in here anymore. You cannot come back in and when you come back, we will have you arrested. He's a Pastor. Yeah, I did it.

There are some things you are in charge of and it is your responsibility when you have been charged to do that. So what I'm talking about is, leave it with God when you have no power over. And sometimes, there's even some people. I want you to think of this. I want you to think of the one person that you had a biggest issue with. Now, some of you, somebody popped up in your mind right off the bat, just one, not a whole bunch of folks. Just one, the one person who upsets you the most and I want to tell you like God told me about dealing with a person and this going to free some of you. He simply told me this. He said, don't let anything they do upset you. That kind of rhymed. I should have been a rapper. Don't let anything they do upset you. That one person who popped in your mind, see, that will free some of you right now because he who angers you controls you.

So when you understand that, it makes a bit -- so, that's what God -- he said, don't let anything they do upset you. Now, first of all, sometimes when God tells you some stuff, it's not easy. It isn't easy because if it was easy, they wouldn't have been upset me in first place. So it's not easy but once I was able to grab it and put this into my spirit and just be obedient and the minute they did, someone's was going to say, I have to catch myself. God said, don't let anything, anything -- how much is anything? Anything is everything. Don't let anything they do upset you.

So once I could give my mind to that point, a piece begin to come because he who angers you controls you and some of you are letting other folk control you simply because you let them make you mad. And see, when I was able to get control over one person, then I was able to get control over the next person and the next person. So you get to a point where you don't let anything that people do upset you and you still may have to handle it but you don't let them upset you. You don't let them make you lose your peace. You don't let them anger you or trouble you or cause anxiety or stress within you and it begins to change your world. So celebrate God's goodness. Ask God for it and then leave it with God on the things that you cannot change.

And the fourth one, the M, meditate on God's good things. Too often, we meditate on myths and when you meditate on myths -- and meditate simply means to think. And again, in Philippians 4:8, it says, finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think or meditate about such things. Wars, rumours of wars, famines and see, famine is really nothing but economic catastrophe.

We don't have famine in the U.S. Famines are going on around the world right now. These folks starving who don't have enough to eat. Thousands of people die every day because they don't have enough to eat. Famine is not going anywhere. We just don't have it in the U.S. but what we do have, we have the fear of famine and that's why the number one issue in the election is the economy. That's famine. So we have this fear, I'm going to lose my job and if I lose my job, that's famine. So Jesus tells you, don't be troubled with any of this stuff.

And you see, I had an experience really. We were on a cruise. We were in Alaska and we were coming through this Strait of Alaska and we ran into a typhoon. A typhoon is a little bit short of a hurricane but it's a real, real bad storm. I've never been at a typhoon before but we had a cabin that was right under the pilot's house, right where they steer the cruise ship. Our cabin was right there in the front. We had this big old presidential suite and a typhoon hit. So, when the typhoon hit, I opened the door and stepped out on the balcony and then I had to close the door, but I was standing on the balcony. Do you remember how Titanic, the man on the book, just -- that's the way I will end. The wind was about 70 miles an hour and it was just blowing, just howling thing, but I was standing there holding on in the balcony in the middle of this huge typhoon storm.

And I was just as calm as I could be and I was calm because of two factors. I knew I couldn't swim out of that typhoon because we were in Alaska. Icebergs won't decide. If I dropped into the water, I was going to freeze in about 30 seconds. So, I just won't make it if I hit the water but what I had confidence in, I had confidence in the ship. It was a big old cruise ship and with that big of a cruise ship, a typhoon was really not a threat to the cruise ship. I had confidence in the ship and I had confidence in the captain. I knew the captain had made this run hundreds of times. I knew the captain had faced all kind of weather and I knew the captain with all of the equipment with all of the radar with all of the weather forecast knew what was ahead so I wasn't worried about it.

I don't worry about life now even when they are storms. Why? Because I have confidence in the captain and I am not the captain. I am not the captain of my own ship. I understand it. I am confident because I'm on God ship and God is the captain and I'm going to do my best to do what the captain says. Now if I don't do what the captain says, there's an issue and that's what opens us up to problems when we don't do what the captain says. Storms should not have us afraid. But if the captain tells you, don't go there, that's a problem.

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I was in Jackson, Mississippi because I asked God, where do I go? He said Jackson Mississippi. I said, why would I need to

Jackson? I found out. That's another sermon. But anyway, I was where God told me to go. So, when you're where God tells you to go and when you do what God tells you to do, you don't have to worry about storms even when storms come because you know who the captain is. I know who's the captain who's the head of my life and so should you. And when you know that, you'll be able to remain calm. It's a Success Force. When all around you are losing their head, you remain calm. You focus on all of the goodness of God. You ask for whatever you need. You leave it all up to God all the things that you cannot handle and you're going to meditate and think on those things. And when we do those, we will remain calm in the midst of a storm because I really do believe storms are coming.

I just really do -- I don't think we've seen anything yet. I think stuff is coming. But I think stuff is going to be just as it is right now. You will have some people just as calm, some people just in just a good shape, some people still full of joy and you're going to have the other extreme who is bad, who was bad yesterday, is bad today and is going to be bad tomorrow. You will have both extremes and you've got to learn how to keep your head when all around you are losing theirs and you got to do just as Paul said and it's such a powerful verse when we can learn to keep your head in all situations and they went through some tough situations. Keep your head in all situations. Celebrate God's goodness. Ask for God's help. Leave it with the Lord and meditate on the good things of God. When we can do these, we will remain calm in the midst of the storm.

I thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word. You can go to BrothersoftheWord.com. Listen to the entire series entitled, "Success Forces." Thank you for joining us today at BrothersoftheWord.com because brother, you need the word.

This is Pastor Nathaniel and it is the next day after I preached the sermon, "The Success Force of Remaining Calm." I'm sitting here in my prayer and I'm thinking about my own life and that C-A-L-M goes through my mind. Celebrate God's goodness. Ask God. Leave it with God and meditate on God's goodness. And I noticed that two of the four things really involved being thankful for what God has already given you and as I thought about this in my own life, I have so much to be thankful for.

I've got issues like everyone else does but I look even at my issues and I looked at the A about asking God and I said, God, you already know, and leave it with God. You've already told me there are certain things you were going to handle and I don't need to handle it. So, in my own life, that C-A-L-M and you may not remember exactly the wording, it doesn't matter. Celebrate God's goodness. Ask God. Leave it with God and meditate on the good things. That's what you really need to remember but half of it is simply thinking about meditating, focusing on the good things that God has already given you and the things that you cannot handle, leave it with him. Ask him if necessary but sometimes, for many of you, God had already told you I'm going to handle it. If he's going to handle it, then why do you keep picking it up?

This is Pastor Nathaniel with a second revelation or second emphasis on yesterday's message of the Success Force of Remaining Calm. Be blessed.

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