

Where, What, What

Sermon Title: **Where, What, What**

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Nathaniel Bronner: You can't make changes using anything that you do not have.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the message titled, "Where, What, What" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5902.

(Music Playing: 00:00:14 - 00:00:27)

And now for "Where, What, What".

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

And actually I was in the middle of a series, but often in the middle of a long series, God will pause the series for a minute and have me deal with another issue and that's what he's done today. Not only did he pause the series, but he said, "Today, I don't want you to use any notes" and I had my notes all written out. He said, "No, don't use any notes." And I've learned the hard way as many of us have learned things the hard way. When God tells me don't use any notes, not to use any notes, and I told you the story of where I was using notes because I was in Ukraine and I had to speak through an interpreter. This big old Russian came and snatched my notes out of my hand and I had almost got in a physical fight and it wasn't until later that I realized God told me not to take the notes.

And what I thought was a demon was an angel because he was coming to remove the notes he had told me not to take to start with. So, I learned from that and whenever God told me use no notes, from that point on, because I don't want what the outcome of it if he snatched my notes out man. No, no, I don't want any of them. And even though the notes are now on a tablet when God tells you not to do something, he'll blow that tablet up. And I have learned not to have to learn things twice the hard way. So, there's no notes today.

But what I'm going to talk to you about today basically is Where, What, What. Where, What, What. The three, you know, www is normally the worldwide web and you got www dot something. But anyway, today it's Where, What, What. And this is actually the second message of a new season and perhaps it goes along with that new season because oftentimes, when you're coming

into a new season, people want to make changes and they want to modify their lives. They want to improve some things and I want to talk to you today about, Where, What, What.

Just what God laid upon my spirit to relate to you very quickly and succinctly about how to make some changes in your world when you're dealing with some situations. You ask those three questions, Where, What, What. Now, what that means is simply this. Whenever you're dealing with a situation, ask yourself the simple question. Where am I? Where am I? Where? What? What? Where am I and when you ask yourself the question where am I, many of us oftentimes, we only include the negative, especially when you want to make a change. And you ask yourself the question, Where am I?

Well, I'm 20 pounds overweight. Well, I'm broke. Well, I'm sick. Well, I'm on the side of the road with a flat tire. Oftentimes, when we want to make a change, well, I got a bad relationship. We always will focus on when we ask ourselves to where am I, we focus on all of the negative. All we will focus on what we do not have. Let me tell you this. You can't make changes using anything that you do not have. So, we need to give our minds even when we stop to ask the question, Where am I, we need to include the much longer list of the resources that we do have instead of focusing on what we do not have.

And when we begin to focus on what we do have, we find that it changes our whole perspective upon life. Where am I? Where am I? I'm on the side of the road, I got a flat tire. Yes, that's an obvious fact, but well, sorry of what else do you have? You have more just a flat tire. You got a car. You got a cell phone. You may have AAA. You may have a spare in the trunk. You may have an ability to change the tire. You may have the ability to call somebody to come help you change your tire.

So when you start phrasing the "Where am I", to include all of the things that you do have, it changes your whole framework of your situation. Yes, you're on the side of the road, but you're not in an accident. You only have a flat tire. See, it changes just our perspective when we put it only in that. You only are out of money. You say, "But pastor, that's a big thing."

But there's a lot of other things way worse than that. Sometimes when you look at your negative and you put the only in front of it, makes a huge, huge -- I've got challenges in my body. Well, what do you have? When you start looking at what all you do have, the where am I, yes, I've got challenges in my body, but I got people around me who love me. I got a good health insurance plan. You know, that makes a big difference. You know, almost 30 to 40% of Americans have no health insurance? So, when they do get sick, they can't go in the hospital. They can't go see the doctor. You need to be thankful for the things that you do have and when you start listing out, I got a bright future. I'm going through some right now, but I'm coming out of this. I'm getting over this and when I get over this, you haven't seen nothing yet because I'm coming out of this thing strong. I'm going to be powerful. I'm going to be where even once. I'll get over this thing.

So, when you start looking at where am I and you start adding up the things that you do have, instead of focusing on the things that you do not have, and you start looking at all of your negatives and that negatives sometimes is just an only. So, your first question, Where am I? Second question is this. What do I want? Where, what, what. What do I want? I wore this particular shirt today for a particular reason. I've got a lot of these and I wear them a whole lot. I remember my brother Bishop Dale saying once, he said, "You ought to be to sum up your mission in life in a sentence."

Now, this is not necessarily my mission in life, but it is a goal. I will live fully and vibrantly until the last 10 seconds. And anybody who's around me, anybody who knows me, that's what I do. I live a full -- somebody asked me, "So Pastor, why do you travel." I said, "I live fully and vibrantly." I'm going to live fully and vibrantly until the last 10 seconds. Now, I didn't come up with this. It was prophetically spoken to me. Some of you all have had things that have been prophetically spoken to you, but you don't get them because you don't follow what you need to do.

So, the second question is, "What do I want?" And a lot of times, just that answer galvanizes our actions. What do I want? Did you know when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane and he was there and he had to ask the question, "Where am I?" I'm getting ready to get crucified and just a little while, I'm going to be going through all this pain. I'm going to be going

through all this agony. It's one of the worst death the human body can ever endure. This is where I am. And he was sweating those drops of blood. Where am I? I'm getting ready to die. That was where Jesus was. And then what do I want?

What Jesus bore down in terms of what he wants, he said, "If at all possible, take this thing from me. Remove this bitter cup." If at all possible, but what I really want, Thy will be done. So Lord, if it is your will, I realize that I only have to go through crucifixion. I got a whole eternity. I was the full and I am afterwards. I only have to go through this little(ph) crucifixion. The little crucifixion may take sometimes you could be up on that cross. Some folk will stay up on that cross sometimes two or three days. I mean, you could really be really, really rough.

I only have to deal with these few days of this crucifixion. And after that, I'll be in my full destiny and my full glory, but I have to go through this time period dealing with this rough stuff that if it's your will, I will go through it, but I'd rather not. And Jesus had a unique perspective because he understood the why of the pain he has to endure. Some of us don't understand it. You know, I asked the Lord a couple of days ago. I said, "Lord, why do you have me vote for this crazy man?" I really did, I asked God, "Why do you have me vote for this crazy man?" Because I wanted to know. I wanted to -- the inquiring minds want to know, clears the bell. You told me. Why do you have me vote for this crazy man?

And God answered me this. He said, "You're going to understand it when you're over in Greece and you're up in that hospital. You didn't understand that until later as I sure did. You didn't understand when I sent you through all of that stuff and business, so you set up a manufacturing plant. You didn't understand that until later. And I sure did. See, some of the stuff I understand right away, some of the stuff I don't understand until years later and some of the stuff I may never understand. That crazy man, I may never understand, I don't know. But this is what I do know. Even when I was laying up in that hospital, even when I was laying out in the middle of the street, I have full trust in God.

I could see my blood running down the street and I had no fear, I had no worry. Lord, I am where you told me to be. If I die now, so be it. I'm in your hands. See, when you have faith in God and you have walked with God, you can endure stuff that defies imagination. They couldn't understand. When they walked in and they were Greek, they didn't speak much English, but they understood and I remember the man who was visiting. He came--he's a man. You can handle anything because you look like you're happy up here in the hospital. I said, "Yeah, why not? I got a choice. I can be happy or I can be miserable. I choose joy because I'm going to live fully and vibrantly until the last 10 seconds. I am going to live this life to the fullest and see, I only had a cracked face. I only had a busted up knee. I only had a busted up shoulder and I only had a busted-up ankle.

That's all I had. So see people, this stuff was a mentality of how you look at it and I was going to get better. I knew I was going to get better. That's all I had. So, I had to first of all realize where was I, but then I had to realize, see, that's all I had that was in the negative and then I had that catheter in me. That was the worst part of it. I had that in there, but these are the things I was dealing with it, but I was just as happy as I could be because I knew I was where God had told me to be. And when you understand that and when you know God has got you. Sometimes, God will send you through some things so you can relate to other folk.

I remember when I first went into ministry and I heard God speak. He said, "I got to send you through some things so you can relate to the people." I said, "Lord, I don't like that. It's just some of the stuff, I just rather not be. I don't like to be looked at. I can't -- you understand that. I said, "I don't want to go through just so I can relate to the people." But you'd never know what God has for you. So, when you ask yourself that question, where am I, remember to put this only in front of it because it only makes a difference and there's so much things that happen in your life that's all this wrong. You get this little bitty only and you got all these great blessings on the other side of this. You got all these great blessings that's around you. You got all that is positive. But yeah, you got some only there and you got a few onlies, but those onlies remember this about the onlies and remember this about all of the material stuff that you have. This too shall pass. This too shall pass.

I don't care if your body right now is going through pain and weakness and debilitation and you're going through suffering, this too shall pass. I don't care if your body is in phenomenal condition. If you're feeling super strong, super energetic, not a thing wrong with you, this too shall pass. You're not going to stay that way forever. You're not going to stay that way forever. And I plan on keep in mind that way as long as possible. I plan on going to them the last 10 seconds, but this body is going to dust. This too shall pass.

So, the first question, where am I? Understand the reality of where you are, but understand most of the time, where you are, you got far more blessings than you have bumps. You got far more things on the positive than you have things on the pain in you. When you understand that where am I, then what do I want? What do I want? What do I want? A lot of folks really don't know what they want. What do I want? So, when you understand where you are and what do I want, the number one and number two things of people going into a new season, when they want to change, number one actually is health. They want to lose weight. They want to get in shape. That's the number one resolution.

Number two is they want to improve their financial situation. So, we have on day one of this year, we have the Render my Money class to improve your finances. Now, we had 70% of those who registered did show up, 30% didn't show up. What they told me is they said they wanted it, but not really. And that's the third question. First question is, where am I? Second question is, what do I want? The third question is, what do I need to do? A lot of us will have wants. We may recognize where we are, but that third question is, what do I need to do? Everyone who registered for the Render my Money class wanted to take their finances to another level, but only 70% of those showed up for the class. What do I need to do? If you want to take your finances to the next level, you need to show up in the Render my Money class. What do I need to do? This is the problem that we often come into is when we get to that third one, what do I need to do? Suppose Jesus had a -- recognized where he was, he was getting ready to go through a few hours--

--or days of very painful crucifixion. What did he want? He wanted to do the will of God. What did he need to do? He needs to get up on that cross. Now, a lot of us realizing that we left town. The Romans would not have been able to find us that next day. We left town. Lord, I got to go through all this, I mean, it may be your will, but I just think I'll do that, we left town. So, when you have to ask yourself that question, what do I need to do? What do I need to do?

We start with this first number one resolution of losing weight and getting in shape. What do I need to do? I can tell you for some people, that's going to be crucifixion. Number one, you're going to not be able to eat as much. Bottom line, you can't eat as much. Then you can't eat what you've been eating. Then you're going to have to exercise. That's what you need to do. You know what else what you need to do. It's the number one resolution, but when they get to this is what I want, this is what I want, this is what I need to do. So, when you get to the part of what you need to do, this is the part where often people separate. What do I need to do?

See, I've got this thing on my shoe. This is what God has spoken to me, but I understand that thing comes with conditions. It's like the Promised Land. God told the people about the Promised Land that most have never made it because they didn't do right. So, I know if I don't do right, not only will I not make 116, I won't make 76. So, I got to do right. It's just simply of what do I want? I want to live fully and vibrantly to the last 10 seconds of 160. What do I need to do? I have to be in some phenomenal lifestyle and discipline of doing things of what God has told me to do and I get off of those things. And when I get off of those things, sometimes it takes something to shock me back to get me back on track with what I know I need to do.

And what I need to do sometimes it feels like a crucifixion of the flesh. I was talking to one of my friends yesterday. He had been in the hospital recently. He'd had congestive heart failure. Both of us were classmates in college and I told him, I said, "Man look, you got to start exercising. You've had congestive heart failure. If you don't make some changes, your next time around you may not come out of the hospital." He said, "Yeah, man, I'm going to do this thing. I'm going to do this thing." The problem is, doing that thing because he wasn't used to ever exercise and that's why he got the congestive heart failure.

So now, he's got to make drastic changes and the challenge that we have with what do I need to do is you have to keep it up beyond the exciting beginning period. See, when he got out of the hospital, he said, "Yeah man, I know I need to do this thing." It's three months later when that excitement has gone, when the new year has passed, when all of the, you know, it's kind of like after you've been through a moving church service and you come down and rededicate your life to Christ. You're just crying and all that kind of stuff. Lord, I'm going to do right. I won't do that again. I won't do – what would be so (00:18:05) without a church. I want to be there Lord. I'm going to do this thing.

And two months later, when the church is still open, you're just waking up. So, this is the challenge and I go through that. I remember God had told me, "Run a half marathon every other month." Oh, I was excited about that thing. I was excited about that thing. My first one I ran, it was two weeks before my 60th birthday. I ran at the speed of a man 20 years younger than me. I ran the next two months. I ran another one the next two months after. Then I went three months where I ran in one. Then I went for a month where I ran in one. Then I went six months where I ran in one. And when I looked around, I had ran over two and a half years.

See, in the beginning, I was all fired up. I'm going to do this thing. I'm going to do this and that's why many are like in the beginning. I'm going to do this thing. I'm going to do this thing. What do you want? If I want to live fully and vibrantly and I want to live fully and vibrantly, I want my mind sharp, I want my body sharp, I want to go where I want to go and just live and get the fullness of life. But to do that, I have to go through some crucifixion of the flesh and so will you. Where are you? What do you want? What do you need to do?

And these are the questions, those three W's that we need to ask as we move into this new season, as we move into making the changes that we want to make and if we want them, God will grant them to us, but it's like the Promised Land. There's a part we have to play to get this. So honestly, answer those three questions. Where am I? Where am I?

And for some of you, you're basically in Paradise now. You don't really want to change anything. There's some -- yeah, they got life so well together, they don't need to change anything. Just going well Pastor. I'm in good shape, but I'm feeling good. I'm looking good. My money good, my relationship good. I'm happy. I'm just in good shape. All I need to do is to keep doing what I'm doing. I'm at a place where I am satisfied and life is beautiful. Where are you? What do you want? I want to stay just like I am. What do you need to do? If that's where you are, you need to keep doing what you've been doing. And if you keep doing what you've been doing, you'll keep getting what you've been getting. But if you're not in that position with one or more areas of your life, what do you want and what do you need to do?

And for so many of us, I had to make a renewal of the program and the discipline and I got them in all area. It's not just physical. I got it in spiritual arenas. I have it in relationship arenas. I have to make a rededication to all of the stuff that God has told me to do to keep life on a whole different level or to get it to a whole different level because when I start slacking off and see, this is the way what I would call we end up, it's a gradual decline. It's a gradual decline. It's like that number one resolution is to lose weight. That weight don't disappear overnight. You don't go to sleep on Monday and wake up Wednesday with the extra 20 pounds. No. You go to sleep on Monday, you wake up on Tuesday and you got a quarter of a pound more. But do you know if you just put on four ounces a day, if you just put on a quarter of a pound a day, do you know that is roughly about 90 pounds a year? That's how much it is. It comes on very slow. But the reverse of that is true. If you just take off a quarter of a pound a day, that's about 90 pounds in a year.

So, these are the things that God is trying to bring to us, where, what, what. In the Garden of Gethsemane, I'm getting ready to get crucified, but I only have to bear this pain for a little while. What do I want? I want to do the will of my Father. And what do I need to do? I need to get up on that cross. Many of us have that same thing in one form or another. We are in a place that honestly is not comfortable. What do I want? The will of our Father is like what Paul says, "Brother and I wish that you be in health and you prosper." The will of our father is that we're going to be strong, vibrant and prosperous. What do I need to do

to make this so? We may have to go through crucifixion of the flesh and of the old ways. Where, what, what. Those of you who want to make a change and to change where we are into what we could be.

God even spoke to me about my health. He said, "You will either be terrific or terrible. You're not going to be allowed to be in the middle." And what I would like is to be in the upper, upper middle because the terrific is just hard. The training and what it requires is hard. But the terrible is much harder. What I want is to be in the upper, upper, upper middle. But what God has said is you will either be terrific or terrible. You will not be allowed to be in the middle. Now, most people can be in the middle. Different people have different callings from God. That is not my calling, but most folk are not going to make it near to 116. So, if he's given me a promise this way up here, how do I expect the hair performance is down here? I want a lifespan as absolutely on the other end of the extreme. I've got to have some performance this close to the upper of extreme.

So, I've got some guidelines to follow so that I can live fully and vibrantly until the last 10 seconds. There's between three and seven of you here in the sanctuary right now and you've been wrestling with what God has been speaking to you. You don't have disillusionment just like I don't have disillusionment. I know what God is telling me. What I have is lack of continual discipline. I don't have disillusionment. I have lack of continual discipline. Let's not be tough because the world is in a whole different direction. The world is in a whole, whole different direction. So, you got to go against the flow of the rest of the world. It's in a whole different direction. There are between three and seven of you right now and you're clear about what God has been telling you to do. What you're dealing with is the struggle to do it and I can relate -- I understand that so clearly. The next series after I finish the series that I'm on now has to do with the seven areas of Paul's thorns.

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The whole series is just called "Thorns". Some of these we got thorns, we got stuff we're dealing with, but we're not disillusioned. There's some folks, they're confused. You're not confused. There's three to seven. Are you here right now? You're not confused. You're just as clear the bill what God has

told you to do. The challenge is the discipline to stick with it beyond the excitement period. Once you get out of church, you know, once you get home, I'm going to do this thing. I'm going to do this thing. Three months later, what thing? So, we have the challenge of the discipline of sticking with it.

I want to just pray with those you are clear about what God has told you to do. You are clear. No fuzziness. You are clear about what God has told you to do and what you are lacking is the discipline to consistently do, that which is spoken unto your spirit. I want those to stand and come down and I just want to pray over you so that as we move into this season, that we become a -- we move to another level and I have a belief of where God wants his people. I believe God wants me just at the top of stuff. He wants me to have just the best of life, to be full of joy. Sometimes, he'll have to send me through what I would consider to be a trying experience just so I can have relative understanding of what a good thing is. Sometimes, you don't know what it's like to feel good if you've never been in pain. You don't appreciate the feeling good until you had some issues and then that stuff you really are appreciative about what God has granted you.

And I just want to pray. I'm going to sit down and pray. If you would, bow your heads and lift your hands palms up to heaven. Dear Heavenly Father, we sit and stand here before you. And even there are many who fit this description who are watching electronically, Father, we are here before you and we have heard your voice. Whether it be an audible voice, whether it be in our spirit, whether it be through a written word, whether it be through a prophet or prophetess, Lord, we have heard your word. Whether it be dreams or visions, we have heard your word and we have no question about the validity of your word. And we know that it is your desire, it is your will to take us to a level beyond where we are. But Father, like all flesh, we struggle and we struggle with the consistency and with the discipline to follow your will. Your children have been that way from the beginning.

One day, we're on it. The next day, we're off and back. Then back on, then off, and on and off, until eventually, we are far more off than on. Father right now, I just -- I pray for the discipline and I hear your voice speaking, it's dangerous to ask what you're about to ask which is that you would help keep us

on the path. It's dangerous to ask what you're about to ask. Because I hear God speaking sometimes for me to keep you on the path, I must slap you back on the path. While eyes are closed, I want to ask anybody right now if you don't want to be slapped, sit down. He said it's dangerous to ask what you're about to be asked. If you don't want to be slapped, everybody's eyes closed, you need to open your eyes, walk back and sit down. I don't want to be slapped, sit down.

Because when you ask God for something in sincerity, he often grants it. But you're asking him for the results, not the mechanism and he can grant you the results, but it will be through his mechanism and often, his mechanism, you don't understand and it is more difficult than we figured. So Lord right now, I just ask that first, I ask that you give us graduated nudgings. That instead of just slapping us all at once, Father, you just gently nudge us. Get our attention, gently nudge us and if we don't heed that, a push, a push.

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And if we don't heed that, a shove. And Lord, if we don't heed that, then comes the slap. But even in your word, it says, spare the rod and you spoil the child. For we need chastising at times when we are off and Lord, I and others stand before you proclaiming that we have heard your voice clearly. And Father, opening our arms and our will for the direction, the guidance and the chastisement that you will place upon us so that we may reach the destiny that you have ordained for us. Don't let us be like the multitudes of the children of Israel who never saw the Promised Land because they could not obey and stick with your word. Give us the discipline. Give us the tenacity to stick to-it dear Father.

Father, we ask in your name. Give us the discipline or the slap that we may do that which you have ordained and destined for us to do. In thy Son, Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. The one thing that can be most beneficial is that you not walk this journey alone. You know God is with you, but it makes a world of difference if you have a partner. That's why Jesus never send anybody out alone. He send them out two by two. Right here in front of me is a couple standing, holding hands. It's the most powerful motivation you can ever get is to have somebody on one accord with you, to walk through the journey that you must go

through. It's not that you cannot do it alone. And if you are alone, that's no excuse. Do it anyhow. I wish I had somebody with me. A lot of my stuff you all know I travel a whole lot. Most of the place I go, I go by myself. That's not going to stop me. I invite them to go, but they don't go. That didn't stop me at all. Most of my workout, the running training, I'd do that by myself. I don't have anybody who wants to run with me on that kind of stuff.

So, if I don't have anybody to run with me, I would do it by myself. I can't let that stop me because it's just me. Sometimes, it will be just you and everybody else is going in an entirely different direction. It will be just you. But that's all right. Sometimes when the blessing comes, it may be just you. So, have no excuse. And I've begun to adopt the motto now, simply no excuses. I got to do what God has told me to do in order to get what he has promised me. No excuses. No excuses. All of you who are standing right there, just repeat that with me three times. No excuses. No excuses. No excuses.

And this is where it's got to be. Because trust me, the enemy is going to give you a ton of excuses. They will give you a ton of excuses, but success is never a matter of excuses. It's going to be a matter of what you overcome. This is simple as that. It's a new day. It's a new time. Trust me, 2021 may be just as crazy as 2020. It may be crazier because at least 2020 started out looking good. This has started out crazy. So, it may be crazier, but what? No excuses no matter what happens out there. And that's what He has told me. No matter what happens around you., remember, you were in the Ark no matter what happens. God has a destiny for you and he has spoken it too. If you're standing here and you know it, you know he's got some stuff, you know, he has better stuff, you know it.

And some of you will say, "It's taking a long time." It's taking a long time and it ought have been here by now. Abraham had to say, "Where am I? The promised child that you promised me, Lord, I'm a hundred years old and the child you promised me is not here. I'm old. My wife is old. We are old and with no child.

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Where am I? I only have age, but what I do have is an all-powerful God who can do anything. That's the part that

Abraham left out. Yes, I'm old, but I got a word from a God who can do anything. If he can raise folk from the dead and folk were raised from the dead, Old and New Testament, that wasn't new in the New Testament with Jesus. If he can raise folk from the dead, don't you think He can't give me a child? Where am I? What do I want? I want the promised child. What do I have to do? All I have to do in this situation is just trust God.

See, there are some things it is beyond your power to do. All you have to do is trust God. Now, some things-- but when you get to do the what do I have to do, most of the stuff, you got something to do? That's why we're standing here right now, but there's a part when you have done all that you can do. There's a part for you just have to trust God. There was nothing Abraham could have done because he have been trying all the years. There's nothing he could do, but trust God. So, we're at a point where we have done all we can do, we trust God.

Most people would have lost faith long before in Abraham's situation. It is a lot too old, it's too long. I have waited too long. There's no way right now. No way. But trust God. You may not understand the delay and he may bring it in at the last minute, but God's minute is a long time. God's minute is a long time. Where, what, what. As we move into this new season, let us all move into a new arena of discipline. Let us do what we know we should do. If at all possible, get a partner with like mind, like spirit, and like destination. It makes your journey so much easier and it increases probability of success tremendously. May God be with you in your journey and I will see you in the Promised Land.

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