

Walk Towards the Call

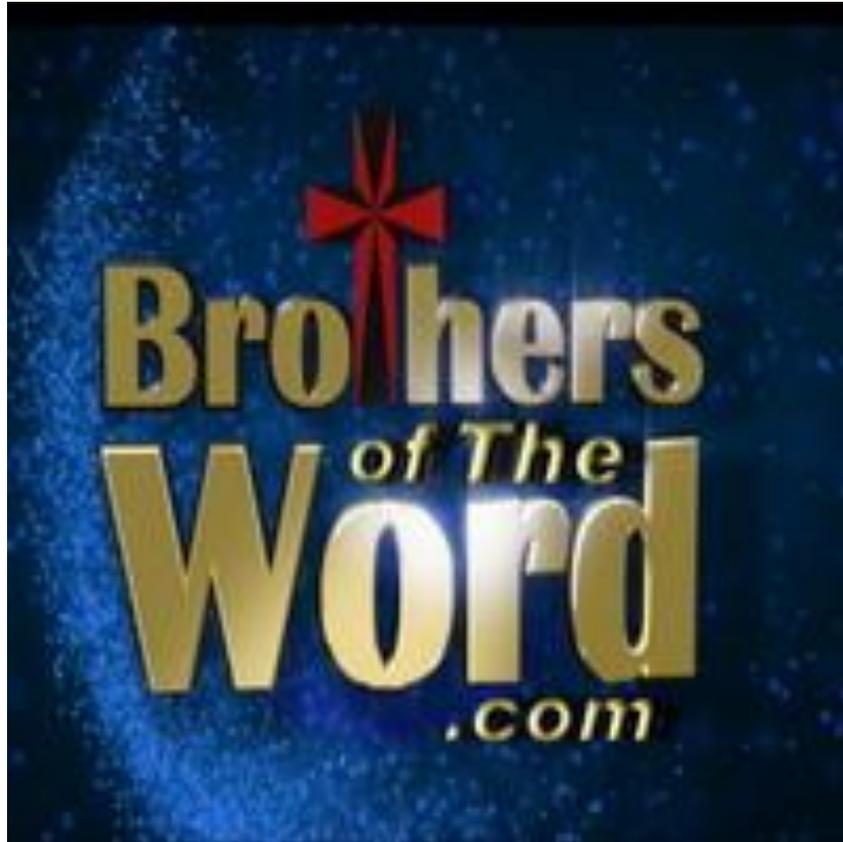
Sermon Title: **Walk Towards the Call**

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Speaker: **Joseph Bronner**

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Joseph Bronner: God will deliver you from evil, no matter how strong that temptation may be, it's not going to be bigger than him, it's not going to be bigger than you.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:22 - 00:00:49)

And now for 6523, Walk Towards the Call.

Joseph Bronner: Today, I got a message that -- God's placing my heart because he's really been working on me these past few weeks, this past few months and I just wanted to deliver it to you today. The title of my message is called, "Walk Towards the Call." And you all should know what that means. God is calling each of you, He is calling me, He is calling all of us. He's got a great and almighty and all powerful propose for all of our lives. But the thing is, there's somebody else that do too, the devil, you all know about him.

He got a whole another plan for our lives, let me put in a little bit of an analogy. This is going to sound kind of weird but I'm not dirty, okay? It's just right now, I'm a little messy, I got some cleaning up to do. Let's say it's like this, you're in a room completely pitch black and you're mama, your dad, your wife, your husband, somebody came, your kids came outside of the door to wake you up. And they say, "Daddy, mommy, son, daughter, get up. It's time to get up. It's time to come see outside of these full corners, right?"

It's pitch black in the room, there are stuff all over the floor, you got Legos, you got phones, if you step on the phone, then you know it's going to hit -- and then Instagram, DMs are going to be on there. You want to get om there. Facebook may tell you that you got a message, so that's pleasurable. You got cords that you could step on it or hurt your foot and you want to stop walking. You got bag of chips and if you step on it, you're like -- Doritos.

Now you want to bend down and pick those things and start eating early in the morning. You're not supposed to do that, don't do that. And then you've got all of these things on the floor, that's

going to hinder you from getting to that door and you can't see. It's pitch black in your room, you don't have windows. So the only thing that you got to go on is that person that's outside and they're going to be telling you where to go. They're going to say, "take one step forward, two steps right, one step back, one step left." That's God. The person speaking to you from outside of that door, that is God telling you where to go.

Now you got to have some faith to be listening to somebody with all of these daggers and knives all over the ground, it's really just like cords and pencils and stuff but you know, let's use imagery right now. God is telling you where to go and you have to follow Him, you have to listen to what He's saying. And the devil threw all of these stuff on the floor. Mama, that was never me that put all that stuff on my floor, it was always the devil, I apologize to all of you mothers out there that you had to watch some and things like that.

And you have to listen to God also because you might end up in the bathroom, are you supposed to be in the bathroom? You might end up in another room because you know, some rooms have connections to other rooms. You might end up in the closet and that's not where you're supposed to go. So you have to go on His will rather than your own will, you all stand with me?

The first step to listening to His call and following Him, open your eyes. I know somebody else in this room can relate to me. When you wake up and you don't open your eyes, and you went through a whole routine of getting ready but then you wake up again and you would sleep the whole time? You have to open up your eyes. Meaning, open up your heart to Jesus and say, "God, I am here and I'm ready to receive you." You have to recognize that there is somebody outside of that door and they are calling you.

You have to recognize that somebody else has a purpose for you. You got a job to do that's outside of that room and whenever you open your eyes, you shouldn't just wait for Him to start giving directions. This is what a lot of people do. They will recognize and say, "I'm here God" and then they expect God to just move. They say "God, please move in me." We're at the four conferences and somebody said, you're not supposed to be waiting for God to move because that's saying, "God isn't already exactly what God needs to be."

The person that's not where they're supposed to be is you. You have to move, rather than waiting on God to come and tell you what to do. Now, whenever He does say to you what to do, then you better follow that to a tee. You better do exactly what He says because He's got a plan for you. God drops hints and you must desire to seek Him out because you're not going to be able to get there by yourself.

I'm strong-willed of course but I can't do a lot of things by myself, sometimes I need dad, I got him, I got my mom but sometimes, I need that Dad. And all of us need that. Another thing is, if you don't get up, if you don't start, you're not going anywhere.

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If you don't open your eyes, if you don't open your heart, you can't do anything. That's why the first step is open your eyes. There's only two steps in this process. Everybody, I want to say this again, I want to make this as -- just a command for everybody. Help me say this, repeat after me. If you want to surrender to Jesus, at least -- you are the only God for me. I will follow you and seek you and wish to be encompassed in Your presence. I accept your laws and would like to walk in Your word. If you internalize that and you make that your model for living.

You put that in your spirit and your heart and in your mind, then God got some things and a plan for you that are beyond your imagination completely. You won't even be able to understand the things that He's got planned for you to do and the people that He wants you to impact because God's got some big things planned for you. But He's got to change you a little bit, He's got to mold that clay to make a pot. Now, God needs you to not have any holes in your bottom.

You know, He could be a foreman, He's the master potter but you can't have holes in the bottom because if He starts pouring water in you, then this is just going to spray all the way out the bottom and that is not a pot anymore, that's a tube. You could be looking like a pot that looks like Abraham Lincoln but you are still able to hold water and God could still fill you up.

So He's got to shape you a little bit and He's got to shape you a little bit. And He's got to purify you. And whenever you accept the decree that we just declared, you will receive blessings

immediately. Whenever you put that in your heart and open your eyes, you will receive blessings in the next second because that piece that watches over you, anybody know what I'm talking about? That piece that watches over you, is comparable to nothing in the world. Everybody always talking about getting high and I'm like, "I'm high on something 24/7 and His name is Jesus." But I got to warn you about something and then we're going to the next step, do not seek God for just your own personal gain.

You need to love Him because He loves you and because you want to be in His presence you want to feel that love, you don't say "God, I want to love you because I want you to make me hit the lottery." And if you don't do it, then you're disappointed. He didn't tell you He's going to let you hit the lottery. You might not even be ready for that. So the second step, surrender your body because when you get up from that bed, in that dark room and you step out of bed, and bam, you step right on a Lego, you might just get right back into bed.

But you got to surrender your body, you got to surrender everything. Whenever you step on your phone and it goes -- and you get a DM or a Facebook message and you want to send something back but you're supposed to be getting out of the room. You have to surrender your body, you have to surrender your mind. You have to say, "nothing is more important right now to me." Now sometimes, we may stumble, sometimes we may have a little limp. But we got to keep on walking to get out of that room so that we could get to Jesus because He is the lightbulb on the other side of that room.

Now, on the floor whenever you're walking, you're going to have all those things that are tempting you and those things represent like a boyfriend, a girlfriend, this is usually for younger people but it applies to older people too, most definitely. That last slice of apple pie in the fridge and you're like "I want to eat that" but you know you're not supposed to have that because you got a fitness goal. God wants you to live another day so that you could see your kids next year and they can actually have a father on Mother's Day. But you recognize that you got to change the things, you find a \$20 bill on the ground and that's going to be real hard for you to just take that to the lost and found. Oh, that's going to be difficult.

But we Christian people, and the last one, that's one of the hardest, especially for me is argument. Sometimes, you got that extra lies, worry that you want to get off your chest to that one person. But you know that if you say that, that is un-Godly. But still, you get to cussing and fussing and somebody just made you mad and you go to your room, all the unforgiveness in your heart. We got to surrender that to God.

We got to surrender all of that stuff to God because there is something way better than the satisfaction of just having those things. Now there is a scripture. And first of, I want to thank all the fathers in the room. You guys are important, you all have an impact on your kids. I remember this from when I was really, really young, like this tall. My dad used to take us at night and he used to do the Lord's prayer with us like every night and I still remember that.

Because I used to be the one that was underneath him while he squatted on the bed. And this part of Lord's prayer. "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." God will deliver you from evil, no matter how strong that temptation may be, it's not going to be bigger than him, it's not going to be bigger than you, you have to recognize that because he's got a plan for you.

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He's got a plan for you and you will accomplish what he's got. There's another scripture. First Corinthians, Chapter 10, Verse 12 to 13. "Wherefore let him that think if he stands take heed lest he fall. There have no temptation taking you as man can bear but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that, ye are able but with the temptation make also the way of escape that ye may be able to endure."

What that means is, God ain't going to give you something that you can't handle. No matter how strong that temptation is, God is right there saying, "Don't do that, no, don't touch that." And you will listen. If you put your heart vulnerable to him and you open up to him, there is nothing, nothing that can stop you. Not a single thing on this earth that is strong enough to stop you whenever you're in that charge. And God also just brings a little bit of a doubt in stuff but God can't even show you the next step until you complete the last step, can't do that.

Imagine, if you try to direct somebody in the room and say, "Take two steps forward, one step back, three steps right and one step left, three steps forward, two steps back, one step forward, three steps left." You're going to be confused, you're going to take two steps forward and be like, "What did you say?" And then you're not going to know where to go. God has to wait until you walk with Him and you're walking with Him until He could tell you what to do next. The reason I'm saying that is so somebody can hear that God can be waiting at the butt-end of His last command to you.

You could be like, "God, where are you?" and He is like, "You know exactly where I am. I told you to do this and I can't bring you here until you're here. I have to bring you there because you're not going to be able to handle it." This reminds me of a time I was stuck in the bathroom. I was like four, it was bad, I thought I was going to die in there, I'm telling you for real. And my parents -- based it like 5 or 10 minutes, right? And they slithered under the door to try to explain to me how to twist the lock. I locked myself in like I have the power to twist the lock.

So they wrote out the whole thing, they send it under the door. "I said, I can't read." And then they try to say, "Okay, take your right hand and lift it up," which one is my right hand? "Twist counter clockwise" which way is counter clockwise? I'm confused, I literally sat in there and thought about how my mom was going to stuff me up, sloppy joe underneath the door so I could eat sometimes.

And I was thinking I was going to die in there for real. But the thing is, the reason I said that is because, if I didn't understand the first instruction, there is no way I'm going further than that. I couldn't open that door by myself, I need that person outside the door to tell me exactly -- when I understand that's what God does. If they would be talking about some -- , raise your right hand, twist counter clockwise, I would have been confused and I was confused.

As you can see, I eventually just started fiddling with it and it eventually opened. So I didn't die and I'm here today. And you should also be prepared for the next step before God has to come and tell you specifically what it is because that's going to make it a whole lot easier and a whole lot faster. You need to be working on yourself while God is waiting on you. You need to be working

yourself and getting yourself to that level so whenever He comes and says, "My son, my daughter, I have something for you to accomplish right now." You are able to say God, I am ready.

And if you're scared, you will do it scared but you are ready and that's what you need to do, that's what you need to be, you need to be woke. Because whenever you get up, out of that bed, you need to be woke enough in order to keep on walking, that's the term most young people like to use. We like to be woke, we woke about stuff. I don't really use it but other people use it. I don't know what it means. And that's why God doesn't give you some things because it can literally cause your ruin.

Raise your hand if you want to hit the lottery again, raise your hand if you want to hit the lottery. How many of us here want to hit the lottery? Let me bust this on you. First Timothy, Chapter 6 verse 9. "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction."

Now, this isn't for everybody. They don't mean that if you just want to get rich in general, then you know, you're going to be in destruction. What it means is, if you let getting rich and all that other stuff go beyond other things in your life that are a lot more important. Like you know, God, then that can lead to something that's really disastrous for you. You've been told this probably multiple times but after a certain level, any more money than the necessities, it doesn't bring you anymore joy for the long run.

It could bring you joy for a week, joy for a month, but you know who brings you joy for the long run? Anybody else know you brings you joy for the long run? Whenever you're crying in your room, and nobody else but you knows why and somebody else knows why? Whenever you can't pay the bills and you need help, and you can't tell your son or your daughter because they won't be able to understand and you have nobody else to go to. Who do you run to? Who knows you? Who is able to help you?

00:15:01

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Raise your hand if you want to be marked. Raise your hand if you want to be delivered and raise your hand if you want to be just given great blessings. Hallelujah. I'm going to raise my hand for that one too. Yes, I want all of that,

beware. I'm here to tell you beware because to get those things a lot of the times, you have to have true surrender. You have to truly surrender and that's hard, that's difficult to truly surrender.

He will literally ask you "What is the thing you love most." And you're going to say "Blah, blah, blah, give it to me." He literally asked Abraham for his son. I'm not going to say he's going to say take your son's life or anything. And if you start thinking like that, the that's probably not God, okay? Please don't do that. Call that 1-800 number. Don't do that, okay? But he's going to ask you for something that you really love, cancel your hair appointment, and come to church.

Don't go buy that watch, don't go buy that car, tie that. How many of us would do that? I'm just saying. It's going to be difficult and I'm going to give a person an example -- I'm going to close in the movie night. I hit the \$10,000. But the thing people don't really know is whenever we're on the station doing that, I didn't seem excited to hit it. But there was a reason I didn't seem excited to hit it because I wasn't.

Right before that -- like two weeks before, within those two weeks, God did three things that was super-duper impactful on my life. The first thing was we were doing a fast for our praise team, at Word of Faith and I opened my Bible up, it was like a little deep in the fast. Open up my Bible, and this is the first time in a bit that I opened up my Bible and I had to read to the first chapter because didn't wanted to and I forced myself to read to the first one.

The second chapter, it had my name and in the story of Joseph and what I gauged from that was my purpose and I read through that whole story. I only wanted to read one chapter. I was forcing myself to read one chapter, and ended up turning like 15. I read all of those thing and right after that, I had the question, I said, "God, what is the meaning of my name? Who am I named after?" And I texted my mom that. I texted by mom, I said "Mom, who you named me after?"

And she told me somebody and I don't think that's who it was. But my dad and my mama said two different things but I was confused. I was very confused so the next day after that, I went - - I think it was True Talk at Word of Faith and my uncle Dale was literally speaking. This is the next day after this happened. This

is the first time I asked, what is my name mean, and right after, I made a decision to give God the thing that I love most. To surrender to God in the way that nobody and nothing -- no \$10,000, no mama said, do what daddy said, do what your friend said, do what's cool to do, whatever, blah, blah, blah.

I didn't care about none of that, the only thing that could get me to do what he asked me to do was His glory and His love, all my life So I come to True Talk and uncle Dale is on the stage at the end and he said, "God called the Deborahs to do, blah, blah, blah" because he was telling people the meaning of their name. He said Deborah, I think Elizabeth -- it's not Elizabeth but let's just go with Elizabeth.

He said God calls on the Josephs and at the end of that, he said all the Deborahs come up on the stage, come to the altar, come in the front. And he said, "All the Josephs come up to the front." And I was like, "What the heck?" I was literally asking God I need another sign. I don't need one but you know? It would be really, really nice and really impactful if you gave me one right now. You know what I'm saying?

I don't need one -- if you want to slide that in my way, I'll take it. But it was impactful you all, it was impactful. So I went up to that altar and uncle Dale, guess what he did? He literally said "Joseph, your name means this" and told me the whole thing and he told me -- he prophesized over my life and told me my plan. And I literally had the text in my phone at that moment, I asked my mom an hour before that. Mama, what does my name mean?

And he told Deborah what her name meant, there was only one Joseph in there, there was about five Deborah's. And that was impactful, then I got into Georgia Tech, that's my college. Then I got into Georgia Tech, like then next week. But before I got into Georgia Tech, you know what happened? Because I got put on the wait list and I had to ask God, I said "God, do I really trust --" because he showed me that he wanted me to be there and I had to ask myself I said, "God, do I trust beyond a shadow of a doubt that you will put me in the school that you want me to be put in? And you showed me you want me to be in this school. But I have been put on the wait list."

And all the odds are telling me that you will not get in off of this wait list. You will not be put in this school, you will not have the

avenue, you just have to re-apply next year. And I had to ask myself then, I was driving and you know what I said? I said you know what, I do believe. I had to confront that because I said I'm not going to be under my God and not believe in him. I'm not going to be under my king, under my ruler and not believe on what he's got to say for me, right? Tell me why on that same car ride?

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I received an email on my phone while I was driving. At first, it said all of our spots are filled up for our next class year, right? And I didn't read no more, and I was like, "Dang, I didn't get accepted. Well, that sucks, oh well I didn't expect to get accepted anyways. I didn't really care." I said I'll just apply next year. But it would just hurt a little bit just because I knew that God wanted me to be there, I knew that God had a mission for me to be there.

And the thing was, it's weird, it sounds really weird. But whenever I saw it, I was like, that isn't right, I'm getting in that school, I didn't not listen to that email. I don't know why, I did not believe the email, I didn't. And later on when I got home, I told my parents I did not get in and I went and opened up the email and they said read the email again. I read the email, that thing said but we can offer you a conditional transfer program so you go to another school one year and then come to our school the next year.

And I was like, wow, I believe that much that I was going to get in the school and He actually did put me there and that's crazy. And He was withholding all of these things for me because I wasn't right with Him. He does that, he withholds things from you, if you are not right with him. You got to get right with God, you at least got to be walking towards the call. Because if you're walking, then God is walking with you and he is watching you and he wants you to be with him, right?

The last thing was -- all this happened within the week, right after I decided I'm going to give my life to Jesus and give my actions -- and my body over my heart, open my eyes, give my body and actions to Jesus. The week after, this is what happened and I hit \$10,000 and that was just a message to me, he was just saying I'm going to give you things that are beyond your imagination. If you give me all of you.

So I just want to tell somebody out there, no matter if it hurts, no matter if you are stressed, no matter if your foot hurt, no matter if you are limping, if you're bruised, you're beat up, something happened in your past. And you are not able to comprehend what your future holds for you. God's got your back, no matter what you got going on in your life, no matter how hopeless your situation. God's got your back, no matter what you've got, you're sore, you're weak because He is the person that makes the weak strong. God's got your back, keep on walking everybody. Thank you.

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