

The Missing Friend

Sermon Title: **The Missing Friend**

Sermon Number: **6549**

Speaker: **Joseph Bronner**

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Joseph Bronner: What are you speaking verbally and in your mind about yourself? Are you either beating yourself up or are you lifting yourself up?

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the sermon titled, "The Missing Friend", by Joseph Bronner. This sermon is number 6549.

(Music Playing: 00:00:16 - 00:00:27)

Female: And now for The Missing Friend.

Joseph Bronner: Hallelujah, that was an amazing message. That was an amazing message. Actually, it complements my message. Jamie's message is basically about getting off your butt and doing planting those seeds and making sure that they grow. Well, my message is basically going to encompass just having that support to help you to water it, putting the fertilizer, putting the water, making sure that those things are in the ground in that crack to make your seat sprout as fast as possible.

So, the title of my message will be called, The Missing Friend, and I'm going to open up with a verse. Proverbs Chapter 24 Verse 6 and it's the New Living Translations. So, I read the New Living Translations whenever I read the Bible just because it's a lot easier to understand and it's a lot easier to explain, but whenever I find something that is key in the Bible that I want to like dissect, then I go to the King James version. But for these things, I'm going to be reading in the New Living Translation because it's a lot easier to understand, but they basically say the same exact thing in the different version. So, this says, "So, don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers." Now, that's some wisdom from God. So he told this to Solomon, this is the wisest man in history, because basically blessed Solomon with wisdom whenever Solomon was able to ask for one thing from God. Solomon didn't ask for money, he didn't ask for fame, he didn't for the kingdom, he asked for just wisdom and that's the thing that God gave him. He gave him that the most. And basically, what that is saying is never do anything without your supporters, without your friends, without those to back you and it's advised by, you

know, pastors, it's advised by successful people, the smartest people in the world they would say to have your five closest friend, get five really strong really good friends and that you will be the accumulation of your five closest friends. That's not incorrect. That's not wrong. That's completely right. So, follow that. However, I want you to expand on it. What I would say, is that you are the accumulation of your six closest friends and that six friend is basically just who guides you whenever you are alone. Who are you with whenever you are in your own room? Who are you with whenever you are in prayer? Who are you with whenever you were just in your own mind? Whenever there's nobody there to support you? Whenever you have no friends? Whenever there is no one? Who are you with? That should be Jesus and that should be a couple of other things.

So, first I want to ask you what do you listen to? What kind of music are you listening to? What podcasts are you listening to? YouTube? What about speakers? And then I'll ask you what are you speaking verbally and in your mind about yourself? Are you either beating yourself up or are you lifting yourself up? Because that matters. Because I want you to realize you have the potential to be your biggest supporter but you also have the potential to be your biggest hater. Nobody can hate you like you can hate you. Nobody can hate you as viciously as you can hate you and even if other people did, it wouldn't have the same effect because if you love yourself, it doesn't matter how many people hate you. If you realize that God loves you and you love yourself, then it does not matter what else the world thinks. It does not matter what else is going on. So, what else are you reading? The Bible? News? And the news is crazy right now I'm not going to lie. Even without this kind of thing, I wouldn't want to go outside. So, everything is a little crazy and it's a little bit negative out there. So, what are you reading and how is that pouring into you? What are you thinking? You have to look at the ratio between your positive and your negative thoughts and you're going to have to change that forcefully if need be because that matters how many positive thoughts you think about yourself and to yourself and those affirmations that you say to yourself every single day, those frame how you view the world. So, for a good friend, a good strong reliable friend not knows thank your boo-boo friends, bad friends. I'm talking about some good strong reliable friends okay? You have to make sure that six-person is just as strong, if not stronger than those five other people that are going to be there to support you. That

alone friend is kind of an idea, it's not just a specific physical person but it is an accumulation of things. And the two things that a good friend is supposed to provide and these are what you're supposed to be developing in this alone friend. First, they provide positivity and then second, they provide wisdom and both of those things are crucial. And both of those things, you get a lot of that from other people or you get a lot of that from experiences in other things

So, positivity is just comfort in the uncertain times because things don't always go well. Sometimes, the end is not in sight. You have no idea what's going to happen. But if you have a good friend, if you have a strong wife, if you have a strong husband to stand by you, if you have somebody strong next to you, that's why God said a wife is a good thing and I've been reading that all over Proverbs.

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He said that in multiple different ways. So, they give you comfort in uncertain times and they will also believe in you when you don't even believe in you. God will believe in you but sometimes you do need to hear it. Even from somebody that you don't know, sometimes you do need to hear it. Sometimes you need to open up your Bible and you do need to hear it, because humans the way we operate is; first, we get belief, second we get actions and then third we get results. Now, it's possible to just go actions, results without belief; however, if you have that belief first, first you're going to feel much, much, much less pain because you're going to have a reason behind what you're doing. The second, you're going to get 10 times the result, 10 times faster because you're going to have a different level of passion when you're doing it and that also motivate you to just make better results and to do actually and perform at the level that you're supposed to be performing because they understand the capability that you are. So, this alone time person, you need to have podcasts, videos, the Bible, you need to be praying so that you can get those affirmations to tell you what you are really worthy of because your mind is not going to do it by itself. The way that humans are programmed, we automatically focus on the negative because that's how we used to survive in the wild. Because if a tiger was out here in, you know, I just saw an orange stripe, I'm not supposed to just be thinking, oh, that's some nuts and berries, no, you like, there's a tiger right there.

So, you have to register that in your mind to make sure that you don't get blindsided or something like that. So, we focused on the negative and that's how we survive, and that's how we remember things because we'll remember that, that's the tigers den a lot easier than remember a bushel of berries and that will keep us alive a lot better.

And the second thing that our friend is supposed to provide, first is positivity, second is wisdom. They will help you think smart rather than just working really hard on your dumb idea. They will tell you straight up that's a dumb idea. And now, there are friends that you will give them a good idea and they will tell you it's a dumb idea. I'm not talking about those, but I'm saying you do need the friends that if you got a stupid behind idea, then they're going to tell you that's a stupid behind idea and they're going to make sure that you think smart before you go and just waste all your time on stuff because people will do that, absolutely and they will keep you from failing. Whenever you want to give up, you've got a friend, I will tell you, no, you are stronger than that, you are better than that. And whenever you have your alone time friend when you get alone, whenever you convene with God, he will tell you things about yourself that you didn't even know were true. That you couldn't even convince yourself up, you have to hear it from him. And the only reason is true it's because he said it and really wisdom, that's the real way to have the best result and success in every single area of your life. Relationships, business, whatever you're doing. If you have wisdom in it and you are applying that wisdom, which is kind of a part of that, if you've got wisdom, then you're going to have the most success in that area of life. And actually, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and that's what God's blessings are. So, if you allow for wisdom to be in your alone time with just filling your alone time with you and personal development and developing yourself in God, then that support will be so much stronger than anyone else you know and anything else that you know, in any trial or tribulation that comes, you'll know that you will be able to stand strong in it fully.

And so, Diana won the Wheel of Fortune for \$50. It was \$50 for a restaurant meal. I'm going to think during his message, she had said that the bigger blessing was the fact that she had somebody to spend that \$50 on, that she had somebody to go sit at the table with. Now, the Bible, a lot of these things that we

assumed, which is wisdom that people are coming up with, that all already written, that all already written in the Bible and we just don't open it. So, we don't realize that they're simple to understand and they were clear cut and explained clearly. This says Proverbs Chapter 15 Verse 17, "A bowl of vegetables with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate." And I think that the New Living Translation is translated that to something that we understand but it would probably with something like honey, and I don't know what else it would be, but it wasn't that specifically. And I've told not going to (00:08:45) after that, that I read that verse actually. And in Proverbs Chapter 16 Verse 16, it says, "How much better to get wisdom than gold, and good judgment than silver." And if you realize that, you'll realize, wisdom makes gold, wisdom will make you rich. And God said the thing that your friends can give you the most is that support. It's not just pouring money into you. That's not going to make you happy. That's not going to make you successful. That's not going to make you have long-term fulfillment. What really matter is that wisdom and that positivity that they can pour into your life. So, whenever you are alone, these are the things that you should do. This is what you should listen to. You should listen to the Bible. You need to listen to motivation, you need to listen to positive music. I know sometimes you just want to be bumping and grinding in your car to whatever you are listening to; however, you do have to put positive music in that mix because I've realized from myself, there is a very, very drastic deficit of positive music like out in the world right now. There are really isn't very much good sounding at least positive music. So, there is some positive music soundtrack a lot of the time. I found something from myself, but you can go out there and you can find that and you need to listen to that and fill your mind with that rather than trash. Well, good sounding trash. So, there's also podcast positivity that you need to be indulging in.

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And you have to figure out what do you speak and what do you think, and you have to make that more positive than negative because the ratio of positivity and negative in our minds are very messed up a lot of the time. And again, you have to do this forcefully if need be and I'll explain it a little bit later. So, you also need to read your Bible in personal development in general. And sometimes, it gets a little bit difficult to think and speak

things and sometimes they don't have the same effect as if you write them. So, you need to go and write your affirmations on paper, make them visual for you to see and make a journal, figure out what your dreams are and write these things down. The things that you're doing in your alone time need to make you who you are whenever you are with people. Those need to construct who you are and build your foundation as strong as they can possibly be. So, for the positivity ratio, there was a Harvard Business Review study done and they basically took a group of business teams and they allowed them to accomplish a task and the average for the best performing teams had a positivity ratio of 5.6 positive comments for every 1 negative comment. That's a lot. However, what you don't realize is the optimal ratio is supposed to be 5 to 1 and that's why they performed so well.

And then there was also another man named John Gottman. He's a marriage analyst and he analyzed divorces and the average for the divorces that he analyzed was 3 positive comments to 4 negative comments. Honestly, I would have thought it would have been a lot more because people be very mean to the spouse a lot of the time I have seen. But the optimal was supposed to be 5 to 1. And in our minds, we need to be doing 5 to 1; and a lot of our minds, we are closer to the 3 to 4 and we're not supposed to be there. We have to condition ourselves to be there. Build that support in order to be there. That's not something that's just going to happen naturally. We have to fill our alone time with things that are going to build us rather than break us down and I have to make something very clear. This is not for people to go tooting their own horns because I know you might go to your friends and be like Joseph told me, tell you I'm the best in the world. And I did not tell you to do that, I really didn't. I told you that you have an alone time friend, keep that alone friend in your alone time. This is not for you to go tooting your own horn to people especially if you are not done nothing. You know, if you aren't done nothing, you can have your alone time friend in your alone time and you can, you know, build yourself up. But he isn't done crap, then you shouldn't be saying these things to people.

This is what God said. This is what God said. Proverbs Chapter 27 Verse 2. It says, "Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth-- a stranger, not your own lips." So basically he's saying just don't go proclaiming even if you do something good. Don't

let it be you that's going out and just tell people, "Look what I did." No, they don't need to see that. Let your success show for yourself and people will tell you. But in your alone time, build yourself up so that you understand your worth and your value. Don't drown out other people's positivity because that's absolutely possible. You can drown out other people's positivity with your positivity. Only drown out your own negativity. Those are two opposite things. There are two sides of the spectrum, but people get them mixed up sometimes. And also, this is another thing. I do not want you to allow arrogant to fool you. Do not allow to cloud your judgment. This is what God says. Proverbs Chapter 27 Verse 21, "Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised." You also need to in your alone time, listen to things that will humble you. Not just things that lifts you up but things will the tell you we are all children in Christ, things that will tell you we are all on the same level, things will tell you need to love your neighbor, things that will tell you that you are not just born for this, God built you for this and that you need to keep giving your all every single day in order to get to the level that he has destined for you to be. So again, keep this friend in your alone time. This is not for everyone to see. I will reiterate that our positivity ratio, we have to get that up, we have to have more positive things in our alone time. Try to get your positivity ratio from probably 3 to 4 to 5 to 1 and that's a drastic change, but try to go up once every couple weeks, days, whenever you can but you need to be drowning out.

We are drowning out our positivity with our negativity. We need to be doing the opposite and drowning out our negativity with our positivity and I'm not going to lie positivity don't sound good sometimes. Sometimes, you just having a crappy day, but sometimes you just have to smile through that crappy day. You do, it matters. The fact that you are smiling through your crappy day and you will make somebody else smile by you smiling through your crappy day. You will spread the light of Jesus and love of God to someone else and they will say, "What do you have? Why are you this positive? Why are you this way?" And you'll say "Because my God has poured into me, and it's showing. And in my alone time, I absorb every single thing that he has to offer." And so basically, just focus on being positive everyone and build that alone time friend. Thank you.

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