

# Class, Cause And Correction

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Nathaniel Bronner: The real key to happiness is just to be able to appreciate what you have.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:19 - 00:00:47)

And now for 5769, "Class, Cause, and Correction."

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

And actually, I was in the midst of a series that I just started with my last message called the "Causes of Lack." But God spoke something to me and for the first time, I just had to ask God, I said, "Lord, can I just pause that series for just a minute and just preach from what you just told me?" I said this thing is burning in my gut. Can I just stop the series for just a minute on the causes of lack and just preach from what you told me? And I asked God about that thing two or three times, and He said, "Go ahead and preach it." So, I'm going to preach it today.

This is something just from what God told me. And this is what He told me. He said, "You are so happy because you see me in everything." That was the word in the (00:01:47) that God spoke to me. He said, "You are so happy because you see me in everything." And I want to tell you three things about it. First of all, number one, I am happy. Sometimes in the middle of the day, I just sit and I say, "Woohoo." It's like that electronics brand, LG, that simply says, "Life is good". That's their slogan. Sometimes I just stop in the middle of the day and I say, "Woo! Life is good."

Have you all just ever had moments like that, when you just had to say to yourself, "Life is good." I feel like that 99% of the time. I just really do. So that's number one. I really am happy. We had Prophet Hector, he was here on Thursday, and few months ago, when he came up, he touched my stomach, he felt that. He said, "Man, you are the happiest person that I've ever touched." I am. There's no jive about it. I am happy. That's number one.

Number two, is that I have great blessings. I really do. There's some stuff in my life that's really phenomenal. I have some great blessings that God has just poured upon me in so many of the areas of my life, there's just no question. I've got some great blessings. So, number one, I am happy. Number two, I have some great blessings.

Number three, I've got some issues in every single area of my life. I got issues in every single area of my life. There is not a single one of the four major areas of life that I don't have some issues in. And some of you all may think, "Well, pastor, you just don't--" Yes, I do. I got issues in every single area of life.

We just left a conference that my brother, Bishop Dale had, and he has some phenomenal speakers there. And so many of the mega pastors and the mega teachers who came and they began to telling their story, every one of them had major issues that talked about it. You know, everyone is fighting some kind of battle. There's just no two ways about it. So, I'm truly happy. I got some great blessings, but I have issues in every single area of my life.

So, those are the three things. I don't want you to think I'm happy because I don't have any issues, because there's just not so. I'm happy in spite of my issues. And see, that makes the issue. Some of you will say, "Pastor, you got plenty of money." No, I don't have plenty of money. I got issues with money. I have stuff that I have to pay and things that I have to deal with and budgets that I have to meet. I got some issues. "Well, pastor, your body is in real good shape." I just got do with an aching shoulder that finally got back in shape. I had plantar fasciitis in my running. Well, I got all kind of issues in the (00:04:19), just stuff that happened. I had my ears stuffed up. I just got stuffed. So, I got issues in every single area of my life.

"Well, pastor, you got a great family." I got a great family. My lump of sugar sitting up, but sometimes it's the little speck in the lump of sugar every now and then. It just stuffed. So, I have issues in every single area of life. There's nothing that's perfect, but in spite of it all, when you have -- and God said, "It's because you see me in everything," and I really, really do. I believe that my life first of all is not controlled by Satan.

The devil has no authority and no power. And see, if you in Christ, you all not to have it in your life either. He has no power in my life. Every single thing in my life is orchestrated and ordained, and ordered by God.

Job said in Job 2:6, he said this. “The Lord said to Satan, ‘Very well that he is in your hands, but you must spare his life.’” So, Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the sores of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, “Are you still holding onto your integrity? Curse God and die.” He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman.”

And this is the part I want you to understand. “Shall we accept good from God and not trouble? Shall we accept good from God and not trouble.” That’s the NIV the King James version says, “Shall we accept good from God and not evil?” It wasn’t just Job who said it. Solomon said it too.

In Ecclesiastes 7:14, he said, “When times are good, be happy. But when times are bad, consider God has made the one as well as the other.” He said, “You’re so happy because you see Me in everything.” And no matter what condition I’m in -- you know, few years ago, couple of years ago, I had to crash in Greece. I was landing in the street, bleeding, didn’t even know when I was going to die, neither when I was going to live, didn’t know whether my eye was going to be put out. And I’m just landing the street, blood dripping all over the street, just happy just I can be.

That’s no exaggeration. I said, “Lord, I’m where you told me to be. If I shall die here in the street, so be it.” And that’s just the way I felt. I wouldn’t even tell the doctor. I see you had a big accident. I didn’t know accident. This is an incident. There are no accidents. This is an incident. So, even in the worst of condition, I was just as happy as I can be, because I could feel the presence of God.

I was out of town in Oregon this past week, and I was walking along the street. And as I was walking, I was talking with my mother on the phone. My mother said, “Son, I’m worried about you. You’re walking each street, you’re going several miles, and you are by yourself.” You know how mothers worry about their sons. My mom still calls me boy. “Boy, I’m getting worried about

you.” Okay, how old you were, she still calls me boy and she still say, “You’re just a baby.” So, no matter how old you get, you’re still that way in mama’s eyes, and mama says, “Son, you’re just walking each street and all the kind of folk, and all kind of crazy folk, and you’re going all this distance, and you’re all by yourself.” She said, “I’d feel better if you weren’t alone, but you’re all walking each street all by yourself.”

I said, “Mama, I am not by myself.” If you understand that, it changes how you walk. It changes every circumstance you experience. See, you’re not in good hands with all state. I’ve had some experience with all state. You’re not in good hands with all state. You are only in good hands with the one who made your hands. And when you understand that, it changes how you walk, it changes what you’re afraid of, and if something even happens to you, it changes how you view it, because I truly believe that everything is orchestrated by God. And when we’re able to see that, it will change the way we look at the world.

Stephen Hawking, many of you have heard of him. He’s probably the most famous astrophysicist. He’s at Cambridge University. Some people say that he is the most intelligent man on earth. But Stephen Hawking has ALS syndrome. It’s commonly called Lou Gehrig’s disease. And it will eventually take his life. He’s been confined to a wheelchair for years, where he can do little more than sit and think.

Stephen Hawking lost the ability even to speak and now he has to communicate by means of a computer that is operated from the tiniest movement of his fingertips because he can only just tremble his hand. He is too weak to write, feed himself, comb his hair. He can’t fix his glasses. He can’t even wipe his behind. All this has to be done for him. But yet, Hawking said that before he became ill, he had very little interest in life. He called it a pointless existence resulting from sheer boredom. He drank too much and did very little work.

Then he learned he had ALS, and he was not expected to live more than two years. And he is claimed to have been happier after he was diagnosed than ever before. He said, “How can that be?” Hawking said, “When one’s expectations are reduced to zero, one really appreciates everything that one does have.

To a man like Hawking who though he would soon die, everything takes on meaning. Suddenly, each small pleasure becomes precious by contrast those who believe life owes them a free ride are often discontent even with the fine excuse. So, here is Steven Hawking, he was in Ivy League School, he had everything but yet, he was not happy with life. Then, he got the diagnosis, he is going to be dead in two years, and all of a sudden, life became precious. And even confine to a wheelchair, not able to move virtually anything. He says, he is happier now than he was before he got the disease. Because he appreciates what he has now whereas before, he did not.

And see, that's the real key to happiness. The real key to happiness is just to be able to appreciate what you have, because I believe everything I've got, God has grace me with it, and when you appreciate what you have, it changes how you live and how your joy is.

See, most of us were not appreciating what we have, we are longing for what we don't have. And because we're longing for what we don't have, we have this constant I'll be happy when? I'll be happy when I get my degree. I'll be happy when I make a certain amount of money. I'll be happy when I found true love. I'll be happy when I lose these 30 pounds. I'll be happy this and that and the other, and the thing about it once we get what we think we wanted that we found out, we probably didn't even need it in the first place, we're still no happier once we get the thing because we haven't learned to be happy with what God has already graced us with.

So, as we go through life, we got to learn how to view stuff a little bit different and understand the main thing is that God controls it all and if you are a child of God, he is cost every situation for your betterment. And when we understand that it just makes a difference. Of sickly widow, she had two sons whom she relied on for her financial support. One son, sold umbrellas. And the first thing the mother did every morning was to look out to see if the sun was shining or if looks like it was going to rain, if it was cloudy, her spirits were good because there was a chance that it might rain and her son would sell some umbrellas and as a result, she would get more money, but if the sun were shining, she was miserable all day because no umbrellas would be sold. The widow's other son sold fans. And every morning, she looked out

of the window and every morning that look like rain, she would get depressed because without the sun's heat, no one was likely to buy fan. So, no matter what the weather was, she has something to fret about.

While talking with a friend one day, the friend said, "Look, perk up, you got it made if the sun is shining people will buy fans, if it rains, they will buy umbrellas, all you have to do is change the way you look at stuff." My daddy used to call it this. He said, "Some people you can't please riding or walking. If you put him in a car, and roll him, you can't make him happy. If you walk with him, you can't make him. There are some people you cannot please riding or walking. And some people are happy riding or walking. It all depends upon how you view it that makes the difference and when you understand that God calls us and puts everything in place of his children, it changes how you look at your circumstances.

John 9, starting in the first verse, you've heard, 'And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth and His disciples asked Him saying, "Master, who did send?"' This man or his parents that he was born blind. Jesus answered, "Neither have this man sinned nor his parents that he was born blind, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

See, many of us would look at a rough situation and we said, "That's just Satan that has the man blind." No, God controls everything. See, even with Job, Satan couldn't do one thing that God did not allow him to do and that's why Satan (00:14:24) if Satan does operate in my life it's because God has said, "Go do this in that boy's life."

Satan has no control over my life. Now, the problem is many times we don't know what's going on in heaven. So, all we see is blindness and we think it's all negative because we don't know what's going on in heaven. See, sometimes in your world when stuff is going wrong, you don't know what the ultimate purpose is. All you do is feel the pain of the thing.

See, even I was landed in the street, blood just dripping, trust me it was hurt. When did I couldn't feel pain? I didn't know what all was wrong. I couldn't tell when I was going to fall at. I felt like my jaws was crushed in, all my teeth were about to pop out, still it didn't matter. God gave them to me anyway.

00:15:03

That's what Job said, "Naked came out into the world and naked am I going out of the world." So, he gave it all, he can take it all away. When you have that kind of spirit and mentality and understanding, it changes the way that you walk through life. You look back through so many of the stories in the Bible and you see that. Sometimes when people went through lack and they look like they were going to so much trouble. You remember the list of women who are barren and pray for a child and every one of the women has sent one, and God shut up their womb. Then when the devil, it was God, and God shut up their womb and the woman were just praying and pleading with God for a child and you would ask, "Why would God send them through so much pain and so much turmoil and so much lack, but look at the women who are barren, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Elizabeth, and Hannah.

Sarah gave birth to Isaac. Rebecca gave birth to twins Esau and Jacob the whole nation of the Israel came from. Rachel gave birth to Joseph. Elizabeth gave birth to John the Baptist and Hannah gave birth to Samuel. You don't know some of the areas in your life why God has shut them up. And sometimes, God has to shut up to stuff to make you appreciate when it does come. Because if it comes too easy, we just don't appreciate it. So, sometimes God has to shut a door, turn a lock and lock up some stuff because He knows you will not appreciate it unless you go do some pain and go without it, and then all of a sudden now when it comes, "Oh Lord, please." And when it finally gets to you, now you can learn to appreciate it.

God controls everything and often we only can see God in the good. We don't see God in the pain. We don't see God in the negative. This is the Ark of Salvation. God was in the flood. God calls the flood. And the flood kills more folks than anything ever in the world before or since. Only eight people survived and that was all God. And sometimes, we can't understand it, we can't see why God does stuff, because our knowledge and limitation is so limited, but if we can understand and almost every one of the great pains and the great turmoil that I have gone through. I am able to see down the road, this is why God sent me through that.

So, I want you to ask yourself three questions whenever you are going through something. And I want you to ask yourself about

the class the cause and the correction. Number 1, the class. What is God trying to teach me? What lessons do I need to learn? Sometimes, God has to send us through some stuff for us to learn, to teach us some stuff. So, first question, "Lord, what is this class about? I'm going through this, what do I need to learn from this."

And there's been some situations where God would not let me intervene with people and I didn't understand. That's a feeling (00:17:58) right now. And his parents contacted me about, he is in jail and God said, "Not one minute, not one penny. You shall not spend one minute on it, nor one penny." That's been a whole lot of time trying to work with him, trying to mend him, trying to get him straight. He still wouldn't listen. He still end up back up in jail and he wrote me a letter that say, "Pastor, you just won't come see me, you won't help get me out of jail." I said look, "I told your parents, "Not one minute, not one penny. I'm not spending one penny on you and I'm not going to spend about 59 seconds to answer this. I'm not spending one minute. I'm not spending one penny."

And God wouldn't explain why that's all he told me, "Not one minute. Not one penny." See sometimes God won't let us out of the class until we pass the class. See, I'd helped him so many times before, but he kept getting right back in the same situation. Years ago, I had a situation where I went down and I talked to the Fulton County District Attorney. Talked with them, the attorney dropped the charges, let the fellow out, the fellow dead now. So, if I had not gone, he might be still alive.

See, you want to go in with your heart and intervene, God said, "No, I got definitely in class." If you go in and you change it you're going to let him out before he completes the class, and if you let him out before he complete the class is going to be destructive. Some of us are in class. See, I learned that unfortunately, I learned better through pain than I do pleasure. Now, I don't know how you are, but I learned better through pain than I do pleasure. I'm working on that to where I don't have to go through some stuff to learn. But how many of you are like me? Did you have just go through some stuff, ready to get to your thick head. I have to go through some stuff, but God will put us in class for us to learn.

So, first one, Lord, what is the class? What are you trying to teach me with this? Second, what is the cause? Why did this happen? Now, sometimes you would have no idea why it happened, but a

whole lot of times you will and you be able to see. Sometimes to call just sin. You all say, "Sin." Sometimes it just sin is the cause. So, you see the cause really, really clear.

00:20:00

What is the cause of this thing? Usually, the cause of the thing in most of our stuff, because the only cause that you can truly change is the stuff that you can change. You can't change other folks. You can only change the cause with you. What is the class? What is the cause?

And then the third thing, "What is the correction?" Because if we're going through pain and I really don't believe God intends for us to just go through pain over and over and over and over and over. But you will go through it over and over and over if you don't learn the class and make the correction. Any class that you don't pass, you must repeat and the course gets harder. We learn these things and if we learn some stuff --

When I was in Oregon, recently, C. Elijah, they were sitting in a restaurant, I got an email. The email basically was about my tax return. I had been really dreading heaven to pay all these big taxes that were going to be due. When I got the email, the email simply said, "Your tax returns are complete." Good news. So, I had to go log in to all kind of special secure site. It took me about five minutes. Basically, I was expecting to pay all this huge amount of money, and what the thing said, "You get some money back." I'm sitting next to C. Elijah, I said, "How in the world?" and I'm getting all excited because the taxes I would have to pay literally of about six brand new cars.

So, I'm saying, "I'm going to pay all of this and I'm getting enough back to buy new car." I said, "My goodness," and I'm getting all excited. But then, I had to remember the class. God had told me what my last increase that I had gotten. He said, "Don't get excited about money, because if you get excited when money goes up, you get depressed when it goes down."

Your spirit needs to be independent. So, I had to calm right down. "It's okay. So what? That's how you remain happy because stuff changes. You all say that with me, "Stuff changes." Do you all know that? Stuff changes. If you're happiness is based on stuff, your happiness will change and it will go up and down, and

vacillate, but when you're focused on God -- see, this was part of the class. That if I had stayed happy, and stayed all excited about that, something else would have happened and I would have to repeat the course. Understand the class, if you can't understand the cause, and then understand the correction that you need to make.

Solomon said in Ecclesiastes, "When times are good, be happy. But when times are bad, consider God has made the one as well as the other." Class, cause and correction. People, I believe that every one of us has the ability that God has given us to be as happy as we want to be, but you'll only be that way when you understand it is God, who controls, who gives us, who grants us everything, the good and the tribulation. When you understand that, you can bare all persecutions with joy.

How do you think Paul was able to stay in jail and be just as happy as he could be? You know, Paul died a pretty rough death. Paul was beheaded and a lot of people look at this, "Oh my goodness, his head was chopped off. And he is a man who wrote so much of the new testament, how tragic, how could God let that happen?" It depends on how you look at it. Paul, went on to rest. It depends on how you look at stuff. You cannot see the reward that Paul has gotten because you're not God. But what you do know is this, if you're walking with Jesus, you're in good hands, and whatever happens, it is God who is orchestrating this thing.

When you understand that, everything that happens in your life, you can be just as happy with it. You can be just as content with it and no matter what the weather, you got to smile on your face. I want to thank the choir for carrying on today. We're having some changes in the music department. Our current minister of music would not be here any longer after this month. He is leaving. He is going back home. Has nothing to do with the Arc, but he said he's just being led to just go back home. This is the first time he has ever been away from home on his own. He says there's a lot of stuff just hitting him. He just will have to go back home. He told us that about two weeks ago and I came out of the meeting and I was saying to God, I said, "Lord, what are we going to do now?" You know what God told me? He said, "Are you kidding me?" He said, "You've seen all of the miracles that I have brought you through. You see miracle. You've seen my hand and thing after thing. And you're sitting here worried about the minister of music." He said, "Are you kidding me?"

See, some you are all worrying about some stuff right now and God has brought you through time after time after time, and you're seeing deliverance, after deliverance, after deliverance and you're sitting there worrying about that thing. Just look at the person and say, "Are you kidding me? As much as God has brought me through, are you kidding me that you're sitting here worried about stuff like that?"

See, people, this is a part of life and this is why when you learn and understand it, God controls everything, stuff doesn't bother you. It's in his hand, as long as you do what He tells you to do.

00:25:09

Now, when you're not doing what He tells you to do, you're going to have another class that you will have to repeat. You got to learn and you may get spanked on your knuckles because you didn't do what the teacher told you to do. Our minister of music, basically after the end of this month, he would be here during the revival but he won't be here for next Sunday because he's going to be traveling with a group for that time.

We got to get another minister of music. So even when God told me that, now, I just didn't go back and sit down and said, "Well Lord, I'm going to let you handle it." No, I got on the phone, I called a pastor who was a very good friend of mine. I said "Look, we're going to need another minister of music because our minister of music is leaving at the end of this month." I've got this unusual command that God has not released me from and he just told me two words. He said, "Under twenty-five."

I got to get a minister of music who is under 25. I said, "Do you know anybody who would fit that bill?" He thought about it, "No, I don't know anybody that's going to fit your qualification." He said, "But my daughter is a musician and she is a professional musician. She does studio sessions. She knows a lot of folk. Why don't you contact her?" I said, "You mean the daughter that I just invested in her company two months ago?" He said, "Yeah, that daughter." I emailed her. I told her that we're going to need another minister of music and I got one criteria, they must be under 25. She said "Pastor Bronner, let me check, I'll get back with you." About a week later, she sent me an email, she said, "I

got three. They're all highly qualified, all of their spirits are right and all of them are under 25."

Now see, before it was limited, but that's what God said, "Are you kidding me?" See, I've seen His stuff work in so many different reasons. Now, sometimes, God will order your steps through different path. He does not take you to the final destination of where you're supposed to be. That's why some of you all have done so much dating. Sometimes, you get to go through some things to get to where you're supposed to be. But if you're following what God has told you to do, He may take you one path for another, but He will always end up with a destination. And sometimes, it is a learning experience, it's a learning experience for you, it's a learning experience for them. So, we may be in a little bit of a flux state for 30 days but God is going to have the perfect person who is ordained to be here with us.

I have no question about that, I have seen God work too much stuff and he just had to chastise me for even doubting that he's got everything orchestrated. And that's just the way I feel about life. Now see, the key about it is, you got to do what you're supposed to do and that's where a lot of Christians miss it. They just lay down and just wait, "God got everything." No, He gave you two hands for you to do what you can do, and when you do what you can do fully like you're supposed to do it, He handles the rest of it.

That's why a lot of times, you have to look at those three C's when you have to look that class, that cause, and that correction. You have to ask yourself, "Have I done what I'm supposed to do? A lot of times that cause isn't the root. I didn't do what I was supposed to do. You need to do what you're supposed to do, but God handles it from there.

This church, everything is in God's hands and when it's in his hands, and your life is in his hands, and when you understand that God orchestrates everything, and that there are no accidents, it changes your level of joy. That's how you could have joy that's beyond understanding. When you're going through stuff and you're just as happy, and folk can't understand. How can a person be peaceful in a situation like this? How can you be in the hospital and happy? How? Because you understand that it is God who orchestrates everything. Not just the good, it is God who orchestrates everything.

How can we accept good from God and not the trouble? Because that's in his word, that trouble is coming, over and over and over and I can give you a dozen. That's in his word, trouble is here. Man born of woman is a few days, and didn't say have a little bit of trouble, and full of trouble, but all of that trouble, God has orchestrated.

Now see, a lot of that trouble, it is from our actions, but that's not the way you need to look at it when you really want to stay happy. See, that's not the way that I look at it. Some of my pain, some of my problem has been causing stuff idea, but let me tell you something. It's a whole lot of stuff I did, I didn't pay for. Do you understand that? It's a whole lot of stuff, I did, and there's a whole lot of stuff you did, you haven't paid for. The grace, and the mercy that God grants is awesome. I'm just thankful sometimes -- one of reason, I say, "Lord, thank goodness, I didn't pay for that. Lord, thank goodness, that thing could have come out like this and I'm, "Oh, that could have happened." Thank goodness that your grace and your mercy, and your protection has been over my life.

See, none of you are in the shape you could have been in. Some of you are going through some trouble right now, but you're not in nearly the trouble you could have been in. If you have to pay for all of the stuff that you did wrong, you would have been in some serious mess and some serious shape. So, it all depends on how you view this thing. So, even with the pain and even with the trouble and even with the things that we did cause, I am just so thankful for the extreme amount of mercy and grace that I have been given. That's why I'm so happy because I see a great and merciful father, but I see also a stern and wise, and caring father that didn't let me get away with too much and yet, will chastise me so that it takes my spirit higher and higher and higher.

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