

The 7 Thorns Of Life - pt.3 - Born With A Thorn

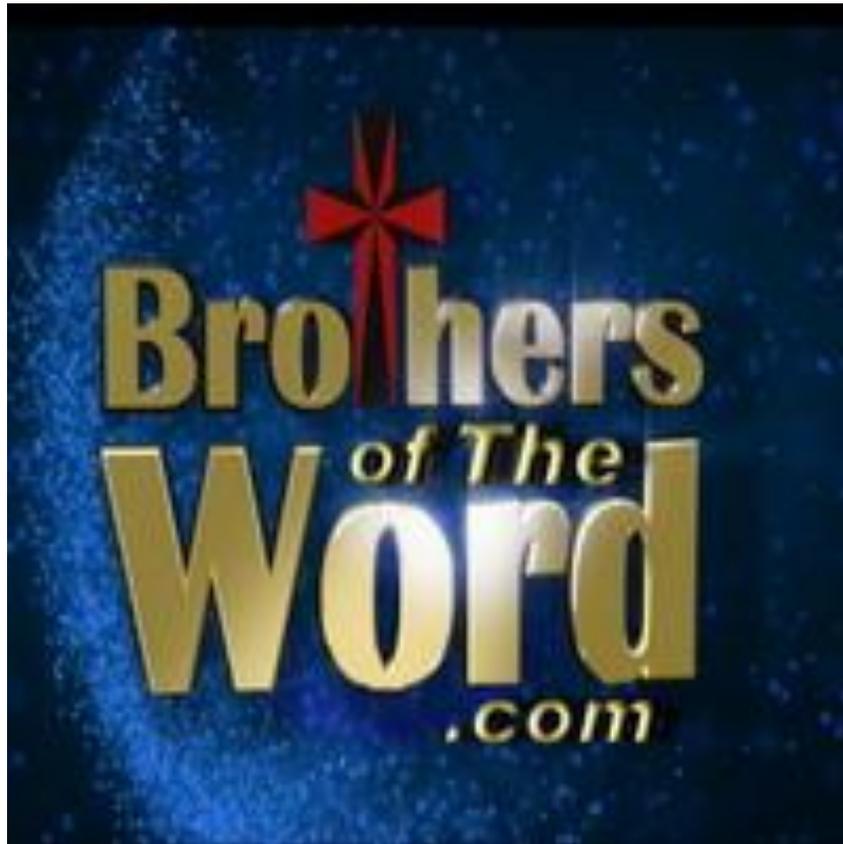
Sermon Title: **The 7 Thorns Of Life - pt.3 - Born With A Thorn**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Do not let anybody make you feel bad about what God has given you, even if it's a thorn.

Female: You are listening to BrothersofTheWord.com. This is Part 3 of the series titled, "The Seven Thorns of Life" subtitled, "Born With a Thorn" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5911.

(Music Playing: 00:00:12 - 00:00:30)

And now for, "The Seven Thorns of Life Part 3", "Born With A Thorn."

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

And as you know, I am in the midst of a series called the "Seven Thorns of Life" and it deals with where Paul was stating that he had a thorn in his flesh. A messenger sent from Satan and he prayed to God three times "Lord, please take this thorn away from me" and God said "No, I'm not going to take it away. It's there for a purpose." And we're dealing with those seven Thorns of life and I was in prayer with George, our youngest son and God just said -- asked George what are the Seven Thorns of Life and he instantly rattled them off.

The first was relationship, which was the first message that I talked about. You can get a thorn of relationship, go to brothersoftheword.com. You can listen to the entire series absolutely free of charge. The second was Finance, if you got money issues. Again, listen to the finance. Today was the third one which George called out and that third thorn is health. Now, I want to just play a video. This will be file number two and this is just one of George's let me talk to you for a minute and just play that, I want you to just listen to what he says.

George: Let me talk to you for a minute. Today, I'm going to tell you three things to boost you. The first is get in the sun. Whenever the beams down upon you, it makes you feel good. And that's not for no reason because sunlight provides you with serotonin along with vitamin D, of course. Getting in the sun simply boosts you and, makes you feel good.

The next thing that I want to tell you is exercise and you can combine sunlight and exercise. Go out there and walk or run under the sun. Not only do you get serotonin from the sun but whenever you exercise, your body releases endorphins and a wonderful way to put it is endorphins are the feel-good chemical to your body. And the third is cleanliness, go clean your room as Jordan Peterson states the area around you is an extension of you. And if the area around you is cluttered, it can make your psyche feel cluttered. So go out there and clean your room, exercise and get in the sun. it will boost you.

Nathaniel Bronner: And that was just George, he does it every day on social media. Let me talk to you for a minute, but I'm not going to talk to you today about the traditional things of health because if you've been a part of this ministry, or have been listening to us, you've heard so much of that from all of us.

We are strong Believers that you need to be proactive. With your health and it's a whole lot better to stay well than to get sick and have us come trying to lay hands on you to get you well. A whole lot better to stay well. So today, I want to talk to you not about the principles of health. I want to talk to you about the Thorns of health and what do you mean "thorns"? First of all, I want to begin with this and this is something that James and I, we attend a monthly meeting of a CEO group. Men who run major corporations and the mantra or the motto of the group is simply this; it's what they teach us there. Stuff is not done to you, it's done for you and when you can adopt and adapt that mindset that "things are not done to me, they are done for me." It changes how you interact with everything that happens to you.

The thorns of health, some of us have thorns of health. We have thorns in our flesh, it's stuff that we were literally born with. I've got two or particular thorns that I was born with. And I've had to re-gear my mindset not to view the Thorns as Paul initially did. And the Bible didn't tell you what his thorns were. Many of the theologians think that it was a thorn of health that was plaguing Paul but nobody knows what that doing was. Paul said "Lord take this thing from me" see, one of the first thorns that I had, I had a thorn in my skin. My skin was ultrasensitive to anything I ate. If I ate a candy bar or some greasy fries, my skin would literally get grease on it within 5 minutes. I can take a napkin and wipe -- and just be as greasy as it can be. And I'm

saying to myself, “Why is my skin so sensitive? Why was I born like this?”

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This is sometimes the way we are; we curse that which God has given us because we view it as a thorn. And sometimes it is a thorn that’s like this -- I’m still like this right now. When Lucrecia(ph) would do the make-up, she would comment sometimes two things. She said, “Pastor, your skin is smoother than most women. How did you get your skin so smooth.” And then all of a time she said -- “you must eat something wrong because you got a bump right there.” And the bump could be there from 10 minutes later after I ate something wrong, it just popped up.

So, my skin is still sensitive and I used to -- “why does my skin have to be so sensitive? And when I was young, I’d go to Church’s Fried Chicken, Church’s Fried Chicken will bump you up. And so, I will go to Church’s Fried Chicken, it would be good but that Church’s Fried Chicken with bump you up, and I will begin the Stridex, and you know, wipe it down and Oxy-5; my skin would just be bumped up.

I could not get my skin smooth until my father took me to a convention. We stayed there for an entire week called “The Natural Hygiene Society” now, it’s called the “American Health Association.” We stayed there for a whole week in Rockford, Illinois on a college campus being taught by natural doctors how to eat. When I left that place, 90% of my bumps on my skin were gone and I learned that at 17 years old and I was able to stay in that life pattern and keep my skin smooth.

But the thorn of my skin kept me on a right diet because if I went off of it, my skin would bump up. My skin is just super sensitive now, I can’t wear -- a lot of people, they notice I don’t have on a wedding ring. You say, you might not have on a wedding ring because you got some issues in there. No, I don’t have on a wearing because the wedding ring breaks out my finger. I do on a watch but this is about the tenth watch that I’ve had, my skin is ultrasensitive and I’m hoping I’ve had this one now for about five or six months, it hadn’t broken out yet.

I had to get a titanium watch with a special hypoallergenic band. My skin is just sensitive, I put stuff on my skin. It will just break out. I tried about 10 different wedding rings; I even went to just a pure stone ring. It'll last about three or four months and then my skin will go to irritating and breaking out. So, I can't put much against my skin because it's so sensitive. I can't eat bad stuff because my skin will just bump all up. It was a thorn of the flesh that I didn't like and I was fussing about "Why?" until people went to talking about "Your skin is so smooth, why is your skin so smooth?" It's so smooth because I got a thorn and the thorn makes me -- not like I just choked. Because I'll be honest about it, and God spoke this to me when I was in New Orleans recently and I was walking on the street, I was just feeling phenomenal. I was feeling phenomenal.

And God spoke as he said "Look, you won't go as low as you can comfortably go. You're going to do as little as you can comfortably do. That's why I got those thorns in your flesh because you know, if you don't do what I have told you to do, you're going to pay a big price of it, but because you are moving to that path," he said "You will stay in phenomenal condition and you will feel phenomenal for the rest of your days," but God had to put a thorn so I got a thorn on my skin, then I have this blood thorn. What do you mean blood thorn? I've got extreme cardio sensitivity, meaning just like the grease that pops out on my skin, I have a time controlling my blood pressure.

Now the average American right now, their blood pressure is 100 plus their age. I'm 65 years old right now, the average American has a blood pressure if it is with no medication of 165 over whatever the diastolic pressure is. It's 165, that's the average American. That's why two out of three folks in America got high blood pressure and they got to be on medicine, and if you got high blood pressure, you need to be on medicine. My pressure is so sensitive; if I don't do exactly right, my pressure just shoots up.

But what God told me is if I didn't have that thorn in your flesh you wouldn't have to do right. Now, I know many of you are not like that, thank goodness. You all are so disciplined and you will do what you need to do without question. You will stay in shape; you will follow what you know to do is right. You will just do it, but for me, God told me I got to keep these thorns in your flesh or you won't do right. So, when I run and I'm in good

shape and I've done what God told me to do, my pressure remains amazingly low, but if I get off, it just shoots right through the roof and it is genetic.

See, many of you are fussing about genetics and it's not done to you, it's often done for you. If I didn't have the genetics that I have, I wouldn't do what I need to do and as a result, I would be in a much worse shape that I am now but because I got these thorns, it forces me to do what I need to do or I got to pay a big price. That's why God said, "You're not going to be in the middle. You're either going to be terrific or terrible. You're not going to be in the middle. You'll be awesome or awful. You not going to be in the middle."

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So, I got a choice and some of you all are the same way. You got a choice between terrific and terrible, awesome or awful because many of you got the same thorns and you blame it on genetics. It's not really genetics, you won't do what the thorn demands you to do. And if you don't do what the thorn demands you to do, now see Elijah is highly disciplined. I'll call and talk with C. Elijah on the and my brother James. Most of the time, if I call James and -- he would be working out. Now James is not working out because he just loved working out. I don't know whether C. Elijah just love working out, I'm not going to tell you what gym he goes to because some of you are going to try to meet him over there.

But I'll often called C. Elijah and I can hear him, he is just running, -- he's just pumping. Now, C. Elijah, let me ask you this question and C. Elijah makes a quart of fresh vegetables juice every single day. If we travel with him, he is going to find him a fresh juice bar somewhere. Not a bar, a juice bar, there's a big difference.

So, I want to ask you C. Elijah, do you just love working out? Do you just love working out, shout it out!

C. Elijah: No.

Nathaniel Bronner: No. No, he works out like that and Pastor James works like because we have the Bronner blood thorn and all of us -- my daddy had a heart attack at 45 years old and he was slender.

My mother who is now 87 years old, she's in phenomenal condition. She can outwalk 90% of the folk in here right now. Mama looks like she's 60, but she's 87. She's just as vibrant, she's just powerful as she ever was but mama has been on blood pressure medicine since she was 35 years old.

So, we were born with a thorn. You all said "Born with a thorn" and some of you, you are born with a thorn. The thorn is not necessarily negative. It's only negative, if you don't do what the thorn requires you to do, and if you don't do what the thorn requires you to do, you're going to be on that terrible end. A good friend of mine, many of you all know him. He's had about three or four heart attacks, three or four strokes, but most of you don't know his whole story. He had uncontrollable blood pressure too because a lot of people do and he had been on medication -- he said for the stuff since he was like 13, 14, 15 years old.

He said when he got 18, he said I'm a man. I'm not going to do what nobody tell me to do. He said when he turned 18, he stopped taking his blood pressure medicine. Two weeks later, he had a stroke. See, he had a thorn -- that's when I said, man, when you eat greasy stuff, -- he said yeah, how did you know that? I said because mine is the same way. And if I do the same thing that you do, I'm going to have four heart attacks and four strokes. So, I got to do something different, some of you got to do something different, but to understand the thorn can be the greatest blessing in the world.

That's why Paul as he matured, he understood thank goodness for this thorn, that's why God wouldn't take it from me. He wouldn't take it from me because he knew he was not doing this to me. He was doing this for me. Some of you got a blood thorn, you got a stomach thorn, you got a breast thorn, some of you got a brain thorn, some of you got all kind of thorns. But those thorns, if you use them, right, if you follow what they're telling you not to do or to do, the thorns become some of the greatest blessings in the world.

We are all born with some kind of thorn, they're the thorns of life. But if we follow this thing and if we do what we are supposed to do and it's why I not only feel good -- to be honest, I look pretty good, I really do. I mean, I'm looking at myself and as a man, you look like you're about 20 years old and not just a

normal 20-year-old either. You look like you have 20-year-old athlete. And I'm retirement age. But I look this way because of those thorns. Because if I didn't have those thorns, first of all, I'm going to get myself a half-a-dozen Mr. Goodbars a big bag of chocolate chips, I would, I would. I'm not going to lie to you, I would.

I'd go get it, I'd eat it, I'd enjoy it and I can do that right now. But if I do, the thorns are going to beat me, those thorns are going to rip me to no end. So, we've got to appreciate what God has given us and when you appreciate it and when you can view the thorns in a different light, you will shift for where Paul was just pleading with God. "Please take these thorns. Lord take these thorns; I got a thorn in my flesh. Take these thorns away." In a matter of fact, I just realized this now. See, my name is Nathaniel Hawthorne Bronner, Jr. What was my first nickname? "Thorny", that's what they used to call me because it was a nickname from Hawthorne.

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They used to call me "Thorny." That was my nickname, I'm just realizing -- I got no thorns just stuck -- every one of those seven areas -- has a thorn. But when you learn to take that thorn, to turn that thorn around, to master that thorn, it'll just change what you get, it changes what you do. And see, even just the mentality-- see mama's on her blood pressure meds. I talked to mama the other day and I was asking if she wants to go come get -- mama, I just ate. And she said I had a good breakfast too.

She said I had me some Ezekiel bread, I send my mother every week some freshly baked Ezekiel bread. I order it from a lady who runs a bakery in another little town. She bakes it fresh, sends it to my mother. C. Elijah gets some of it and my mother said "I sliced up that Ezekiel Bread because that is Ezekiel bread is healthy as it can be." I sliced that Ezekiel bread. I took that Ezekiel bread and mama said "I'm going to put me a fried egg on it" and I lay some cheese on top of the egg.

And then mama said, I put two strips of bacon on top of that cheese. So, mama said that sandwich -- and I was just listening to mama and I say, if I ate that sandwich -- but mama is taking her blood pressure medicine. So, mama takes that blood pressure medicine, mama enjoyed that sandwich, but mama also

gets on her bicycle every single day and mama exercise. Then mama goes out in the sun and mama's house is neat.

So, all three of those things that George talked about, Mama does all three of those Things and mama said "I'm going to eat some bacon. I don't care what you all say." Mama said I'm going to eat some bacon; I'm going to eat some bacon and C. Elijah will make a fresh juice every day. Mama will wash that bacon down with some fresh carrot (00:16:56) mama said I'm going to eat me some bacon. And see, that's why Jesus said you can partake of any deadly thing when your spirit is right. And I would rather be eating chitlins with a right spirit then, sprouts with a bad spirit because the spirit and the mind controls it all.

I got to admit, I almost want to tell mama, make me one of those sandwiches. That's sandwich sounded good. We are born with thorns. The thorns are not particularly negative but almost every case I know of where someone has been born with a thorn, when they come up with negative results from the thorn, it's always because they did not do what they should do with the thorn. And when God gives you a thorn, he gives you the opportunity to overcome the thorn and when you overcome the thorn, you're better off, you're stronger, you're happier, you're healthier, you're wealthier than if you had never had a thorn.

And that's why we have to understand that first principle that they teach us among the millionaires. It's not done to me; it's done for me. Anytime you hear somebody (00:18:08) I'm this way because of my church, I'm this way because of my color. Whenever you hear somebody talking about that, I can guarantee you they'll never hate it for the joy of Christ. Because there's always going to be stuff. But when you're able to look at those thorns, kids used to make fun of me when I was in eighth grade because I'm what size 13 in eighth grade. So, I had feet that was just bigger than everybody else's. Don't let anybody make fun of you because of something God gave you. If it's your hair, if it's your nose, if it's your lips, don't let anybody make fun of you cause your lips is big -- you can cool off some soup better, you can kiss better, you do all stuff better with big lips. Don't let anybody make fun of what God has given you.

You do not have (00:18:56) strong hair. So, you got to understand and it's how you look at this stuff. The darker your skin is -- I remember I was at a cosmetic chemist convention

years ago. And there is this White dermatologist from Harvard. And he began talking about skin and the difference between white and black skin and he says is -- I've never seen that man in another convention again. But he said look, let me tell you unequivocally, that Black skin is far superior to white skin in 4 out of five areas. And white skin is superior to Black skin in 1 out of five areas.

And he named all the areas, he said white skin is superior to black skin with cold resistance. He said when it gets really cold, white skin is way better. And no question -- it will get really cold, it is more resistant to frostbite, got more fat on the layer, you can handle cold. White skin is way more resistant to cold than black skin. But in the other four areas, aging. He said a black person and the darker you are, the better it is. He said number one, you will have age 10 years slower than your light-skinned counterpart.

He said it has more abrasive resistance, meaning if you skin yourself-- you don't get -- the darker your skin, the tougher it is.

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The more abrasion resistant he said is more pliable. He said we had a problem in the hospital because all white nurses wanted -- because the skin felt different. They said I got this feel too, so he went through all of these areas, heat resistance. You have a natural sun protection factor in darker skin. He says four out of five areas, black skin is far superior; one out of five areas, white skin is far superior.

So, it doesn't matter whether you're dark or light. It's what God has given you and do not let anybody make you feel bad about what God has given you even if it's a thorn. So, when we understand the thorns in our flesh, the thorns in our health, they're not done to us. With the right mentality, they're done for us. So, for those of you who got high blood pressure, first of all, if you got high blood pressure. If you're not going to do stuff right by all means, get on it and stay on your high blood pressure medicine. But if you don't want the medicine because it can be controlled naturally. Number one, get your weight under control. You need to exercise six days a week don't need a whole lot of salt; you all know what to do. But if you're not going to do it naturally, you get on that blood pressure medicine, but if

you're going to do it naturally, you'll be a lot better off doing it the natural way because it's not going to just help your blood pressure, it's going to help everything else about your life.

Because when your body feels tired, weak, out of energy, your mind is foggy and you just don't feel as good. (00:21:32) look good, it really does. See, it's two times the clothing people buy, people buy clothing to accentuate or to hide. There are two different types of clothing. See, if you all -- just like some women, when you got a whole lot of curves, you're not looking for baggy pants. You're not, you're looking for some yoga and just show everything.

That's true. So, when you got thorns and if you properly react, it even changes the way you look and sometimes a thorn can be even metabolic rate. You know, some folks can just eat all they want, they never gain any weight. We got one fellow at our company from Ethiopia and he was telling us we go to a company dinner. So, we were there for dinner on Friday and he told James, "You remember when you bet me?" and he said James bet him that he couldn't eat four Big Macs, for large orders of fries and then four large milkshakes. And Jamie said there's no way, he said if you eat all that, I'll just -- and he ate four Big Macs, for large orders of fries and then drunk four large milkshakes.

And the fellow -- James was like(ph), how do you put out, where is it going? I could see that you ate it but where are all that going? He's got a high metabolism, so some folks are just blessed they can eat anything they want, they can just eat it all and they just won't gain any weight. They can just eat all the stuff. Some of y'all just look at the piece of cheese and you get a pop(ph) on your head. You understand what I mean?

It's a thorn, it's a thorn. So, I understand thorns of the flesh but if you view it in the proper manner, this is not done to me, this is done for me. When you understand the power of a thorn, when you understand what it is, that if you master being born with a thorn, it changes your world and you come out stronger, better looking, better feeling, more prosperous than someone without a thorn.

And you find that all of the people who have done something great in this world -- They've had thorns to overcome. They had

to overcome thorns because they were often born with a thorn. And your crown of thorns like Jesus wore, can sometimes be your greatest blessing and your greatest glory. We thank you for joining us today here at Brothers of The Word. You can go to Brothersoftheword.com and you can listen to the entire series of the Thorns of Life absolutely free of charge. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the word. Amen, I'm going to ask Pastor James to close this out today.

Pastor James: Amen, we thank Pastor for that awesome message today and they're sharing even some of his personal testimony. And indeed, we all have thorns and I was just even thinking one day about just thorns in my body. I know sometimes my wife look at me just invincible. She doesn't see me get sick, but I was just listing out some things that were wrong in my body; most of was genetic and how God healed me or I had done things to get over.

Now I end up with a list of 10 different things and I just have it in my phone as a healing gratitude journal. So sometimes you need to even list out the things that you've overcome and it gives you encouragement even when you get something else and then you can say "I can do this with Faith and with proper action then I can overcome this" and it'll be a testimony to others.

00:25:08

So, we think Pastor for just his awesome message and I showed C. Elijah, I had written down on my pad his nickname Thorny about two minutes before he mentioned it. I just had the revelation on myself so I'd just show you when revelation flows, it just passes through. So, we thank God for this message, we want you to prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers. Amen, Amen. Well with heads bowed right now, (00:25:34) there's anybody in this place. You've heard this message and you may have had some thorns that has caused you some issues in life.

You may have some thorns that throw in your spirit often. As the root of this message was talking, the foundation was really about mindset and about things not being done to you but being done for you. And you today just want to make a change of mindset. You've been thinking about things that have been

wrong in your life and you've been complaining about him and not having a growth mindset but a fixed mindset.

And today, you just want to change it, to say that I'm going to overcome this and I'm going to look at it as something for my benefit something for me, to push me to become all that. I was designed to become, and if you just want to make that declaration today and a change of mindset today regarding these thorns and your life -- just come to the altar we will pray with you.

Joseph, I'm going to ask you to come up and pray over the people. Joseph, he battles against his body almost more than anybody I know and he challenges himself and sometimes you need the anointing of that, even to pray over you. He takes cold showers like pastor and he asked him. His only problem with his cold showers is any way to change the plumbing where we can make it colder in the morning.

So, he's really almost goes to extremes, he challenges his body and just pushes himself to overcome these thorns. I'm going to ask him to just pray over you today.

Joseph:

All right, everyone, bow your heads and close your eyes. Dear Heavenly Father, I ask today God that you descend to the room father. That these four souls before me my father, I ask that you allow them to see the light and the destiny that you have called them to on this day my God. That the thorns they are born with my God. Things that allow them to lean more towards sickness rather than health. Father, I asked my God that you allow them to see God that it is done for them and not to them my God.

That it is something that you've placed within their souls my God that they cannot forget my God. That you've called them to higher, that you called them to greater my God. That they may take it for granted, every single day father, but they may never forget my God. That you have called them to more than what they are settling on right now God. So, I asked today my God that you come to them into their very flesh in their bones my God that they may feel on today God; the vigor and the fire for what you have for them to achieve in this world God.

That it is not simply for them my God, it is for their family, for their community and for the world God. But then maybe 10,000 souls my God that hinge upon the decisions that they make on a daily basis father. Souls that they'll never know, my God, that they'll never meet my God, that they'll never see my God. But that you will be accessing through them father. So, father we thank you today for the Thorns that you've placed in our flesh my God. And we ask on today that you give us power over those thorns as we surrender them to you, God.

So, you four before me, I ask that you just open your mouth and repeat after me, to God right now. Heavenly Father, I thank you God for my Thorns, I am sorry. That I have pitied myself, that I've taken it for granted father that you have called me to hire and on this day God, I declare that I will, I must let you use me.

00:30:03

And I will use these storms as the reminder of the greatness you have for me to achieve in this life. In the name of Jesus, I declare, amen. Hallelujah. Amen, amen, amen.

Female: You are listening to BrothersoftheWord.com. This was Part 3 of the series titled, "The Seven Thorns of Life" subtitled, "Born With A Thorn" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is No. 5911. That's 5911. To listen to thousands of free messages or to send this message number 5911 to a friend, go to BrothersoftheWord.com.

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00:31:09