

# pt. 1 - The Slight Edge

Sermon Title: **pt. 1 - The Slight Edge**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Many of us think that our life depends on knowledge or information. That's not really true.

Female: You are listening to BrothersofTheWord.com. This is Part 1 of the message titled "The Slight Edge" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5622. That's 5622. Listen to over a thousand free messages on BrothersofTheWord.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:20 - 00:00:48)

Female: And now for 5622, The Slight Edge Part 1.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to brothers of the word because brother, you need the word. And today, beginning this season, I begin a series called, "The Slight Edge." The Slight Edge is taken from the book by that same title, "The Slight Edge." I urged all of you to get it to listen to it. I actually listen to the audio version, it's on audio book and it's easier for me to listen to books that are spoken because I can listen while I'm working out, if I'm driving, just makes it a whole lot easier. I don't have to read it; I can just hear it. The words were the same is on the written pages but I'm going to be talking from the book the, "The Slight Edge."

I want to tell you a story first of all of two cousins. Now, this is a real story; it's a personal story. Well, when I went to college, my two best friends were actually two cousins. They're from the same city in South Carolina. They were first cousins. They had virtually identical backgrounds. They both were middle class families, both had solid mother and father, both had very good upbringing, extremely good training for them to be in a college where I was met that they had a pretty (00:02:08) background. And we became excellent friends, they were my two best friends in all of college, and we maintained that friendship even long after college. They had the same moral and spiritual values. They both grew up in the church. They went to church even many times with me when I went to church in the city. One of them actually was – I'd going to a small hole in this church. He went with me every single Sunday to that small Pentecostal Church. They had the same spiritual and

moral background. They both had excellent character. None of them smoked, or did any wild partying or did any wild-crazy stuff. They were real decent regular guys. They had two radically different behavior patterns. One of them was a saver. He saved his money. He was very frugal. As the matter of fact, when they graduated from college, they both worked for the same company, made the same amount of money. One of them bought a house, the other lived in the apartment, made the same amount of money. One of them was a stickler for every dime that he spent, he watched it, he was careful with it. He didn't do anything wild and crazy. The other one was kind of typical. He bought when he wanted to bought. He lived to the limit.

One of them took care of his body. He actually, out of all of the students who where at the school, he was the one who actually followed me because I was the only vegetarian in the group. I was predominantly vegetarian. And one day he asked me, "Why don't you eat much meat?" And I explained it to him. And when I explained it to him, he changed. And even to this day, he's basically like I am. The other one ate a typical diet. He was about 75-85 pounds overweight. The other one slender. Same background, same spiritual beliefs, same church going. One of them called me for my birthday a few days ago to wish me a "Happy Birthday." The other one did not call me. He would have call me but he is dead. One of them who called me has several million dollars in his bank account. The other one still owes me some money. Same moral and spiritual and family background. Totally different life results. And the difference is, in the results, have to do with "The Slight Edge." See, there were no just huge drastic things different about their life. It went that one came from a wealthy family the other one you know, "(00:05:01)." No. They came from identical family backgrounds.

00:05:05

The difference between the two was, "The Slight Edge." As you begin to read or listen to the book, your hearer beginning quote, by Ralph Waldo Emerson which says, "Do the thing and you will have the power but they who do

not the thing have not the power.” The slight edge and actually this is the book that James brought me along time ago, not that long but a little while back. And he said, “I ran across this book and this book validates the program.” And what he meant by that; the program is the daily set of routines that God has spoken for me to do and I brought it here. This is the program and God made me write this thing and put it on three big posters. I’ve got one in my church office, and this is the one from the church office. I have one in my business office, and I have one at home. He said, “Put what you suppose to do up big where you can see it every day.” This is the slight edge. And the whole philosophy behind the slight edge is really very simple. First of all, many of us think that our life depends on knowledge or information. That’s not really true. That was one of the things that we talked about in those 10 minutes sessions that we had at 6:00 a.m. in the morning of Desire versus Decision. We many times think that life, it has to do with the knowledge you know if I just had the information. No. The vast majority of times, it has nothing to do with the knowledge, a little bit, but not a whole life.

You see, the cousins both had the same knowledge. It was not a knowledge gap between the two. The difference was the slight edge. We have more knowledge and more instant availability of knowledge than ever in history. Two hundred years ago, half the population could not read, and if you could read, you didn’t live near a library. And if you did live in the city, you had to get to the library, go to a ton of book trying to find stuff. It wasn’t easily indexed so unless you were an extremely well-educated person, you didn’t even have access to higher level information. Now, any subject that you won’t, you can be sitting in the church right now pull out your smartphone type it in the search engine on your smartphone and now within three seconds, you got half the information in the world on any subject that you want. It’s not a lack of information and you can get it for free! You don’t need a library card, you don’t have to drive anywhere, you don’t have to walk in, it’s right on your phone. Not to even mention your computer. You’ve got worlds of information on anything you want to know how to do. So, the problem is not a lack of knowledge or a

lack of information. It's the information age, there has been an information explosion and overload. You can find out anything you want to know about anything. And you can do it in an instant and you can do it absolutely free, so the problem is not information. The problem is not our attitude because attitude is fickle. It's fickle. This list, somedays, the first thing on the list is pray at 5:00 a.m. for 40 minutes. Somedays, I am so into God, I just can't wait to get with God. And I have an attitude that I want to get with God just to pray and to be in his Glory and to be in his presence but that's not every day.

People, I want to be perfectly honest with you that cannot be honest with you – Can we talk – Not only as that not every day. That is in most days! I hope your honest about it. At most days, where my alarm clock goes off at 4:55 and I opened my eyes and I looked over and see my hot wife and she “snore” that most of the time. When I wake up at 4:55 in the morning, my attitude is not that, “Whoa! I just can't wait; I just can't wait to be in the presence of the Lord! I just can't wait!” No. So, attitude is fickle. Somedays you feel like doing it. Somedays you don't feel like doing it. So, attitude will not carry you through. The only thing that really takes us for the vast majority is that slight edge principle and that principle will take you through because everybody in church fundamentally has the same religious beliefs. There is nobody in the Christian Church who didn't believe in God, didn't believe in Jesus. Look around you where you go if you didn't believe you won't be there. And now some people may have been, you know -- the philosophy is very a little bit here and that but for the most part, everybody seen in church, believes fundamentally the same thing. Everybody saved! When I call for salvation right in anybody know how to get up and everyday saved. So, that's not the difference.

00:10:02

So, what is the difference between those who have the fulfill life, those who have things handle, what was the difference between those two cousins? He would not believe in Jesus as a matter of fact, the one who's dead, he was the one who went to church with me, so that's not the

difference, so what is the difference between those two cousins? As one guy had his like, all to give, the other one had problems then just buy every single area, I had to go down and take him one time just I can get it all. While he's gone (00:10:39) but anyway the point is I have to go down (00:10:42) some stuff in his, nicest fellow in the world. Most of the folk who messed up nice. Do you understand? It's not personality, this is all grumpy and mean but no most the folk all messed up, they just as nice as they can be. This was my best friend, he was just as nice as he could be but he did not have the principle of understanding the slight edge and I believe absolutely, had they have understood those principles, his money would not have been messed up, his body would not had been messed up, and he would have been dead today. I believe that absolutely. So how do we -- first of all, get to the point -- and that's what the slight edge is all about.

See, we have to believe and we sometimes (00:11:30) principle. I even beginning to understand this thing differently now that maybe why God wanted me to start out teaching about the slight edge because all of us are waiting of what we think of, we call breakthrough. Sometimes a breakthrough is in truth a change of the way you think. See, what we're talking about, what breakthrough is all of a sudden, we wake up one morning, we go to bed broken, wake up rich. That's what we think of breakthrough. You understand what I mean? That's the kind of breakthrough, at which time you will meet prince charming, and prince charming will come in, you're going to change all your life. (00:12:03) open the door, (00:12:06) nothing to have like that. Now it could, it could happen like that but the probability of it, it is not going to happen like that. And see, even I have situations where women, they got to make all of his money, I don't like the way he has, he got no swag. So, into the man with the swag, the man with the Rolls Royce, when he does pull up, he does (00:12:31). He going to walk somebody hot, get in the car with you. So, you still going to have use your stuff together even if prince charming does pull up on a horse. He looking for a princess charming. So, you still got to have your stuff together if you shows up, but our mentality is taught breakthrough and is tore all this

big stuff, all of a sudden, all it want we go to bed and rest and wake up in riches and it doesn't work that way.

The slight edge deals with the slow gradual process of transforming you from where you are to where you could and should be. It talks about the fact that only 1 out of 20 people are truly fulfilled in reaching their life goals, only 1 out of 20. And as true with you, in the church or out of the church, when you got Jesus or not only 1 out 20 are fulfilled in reaching their life's goal. So, what is the difference between the 19 and the 1 and how do you move out of the category of the 19 to the 1, and that's what the slight edges all about. The slight edge is the mentality that life consist of small things that you do on a continual regular basis that will change your life. It's small every day decisions that appear to have no one affect in and out of itself. What they make a huge difference. If you decide to go and buy something. Let's just take a pair of shoes, and you see, these beautiful pair of shoes, they cost \$200, there was a choice between buying the \$200 shoes or saving or investing that \$200. Now, if you buy the \$200 shoes, that's not (00:14:37) in the poor house. It's not going to make you broke; it's not going to ruin you financially. That's not what the slight edges all about, the slight edges about the consistent choice, and see, that ruin you when you buy one pair what ruins you, you got 20 pairs in your (00:14:51). That's where the ruining comes in. Between the two cousins, the fellow who got all the money, he's just as cheap as he can be, he saves and yet he just as happy as he can be. He got everything he needs, he lives in a great big house, he got three cars, he has a motorcycle, as a matter of fact, we went riding together a few years ago but took a long trip, he only got by 2,000 miles on his motorcycle.

00:15:16

So, he got it, he just did even have to use it and I can't talk too much about it because we went riding, I don't have a full thousand on mine but he got his stuff, but he is real frugal with all of his stuff. And he does what he needed to do, when he needed to do so now, he just retired. He was one of the top executives in the huge Fortune 500 Company, he was like an Executive VP and

he retired, I think about a year ago. He's a year younger than I am, and he retired, now his making up a huge amount of money and when he retired, he said, they offered him a position with another company because he was (00:15:54), he said they offered me a half million dollar (00:15:57) and he turned it down. You know why he turned it down? He need the money, he said, "First of all, when I'm retiring, I'm getting 80% of my old salary. And I got enough, if I got no salary, I would have to get another dime for the rest of my days," so they offered this man \$500,000 a year actually, he was the only fellow I've ever allowed to live with me, he's been my only roommate, well, that's a good cutting the ribbon in there. They offered him \$500,000, he turned it down and something never take it easy but he actually didn't take it easy, he's president now with another big association but he does it on a voluntary basis. Two different cousins, same religion, same spiritual, different application of the slight edge.

So, I'm going to start teaching you within this next few weeks. The principles of the slight edge because the slight edge is easy to do, it really is. It's easy to do but it's just as easy not to do. I'm just going to give you one principle of the slight edge that he talks about, one very simple principle. How many of you have a Ph.D. or Doctorate Degree which is equivalent of either a Ph.D. or Juris Doctor? Raise your hand, how many in here have a doctorate degree? We got about one, two, three maybe four people in here with a doctorate degree. Let me tell you right now how to get a doctorate. It's not going to be official, but let me tell you how to get a doctorate. It takes you by the time you come college, graduate school, generally you going to spend a minimum of eight years of advanced education beyond high school to get a doctorate degree, many of you only have graduated from high school, some didn't graduate from high school. Let me tell you how to get a doctorate degree. The slight edge recommends that you have a study program every day and that's number four, study for two hours a day. Not two hours a day, simply recommend that you read 10 pages a day. Now raise your hand if you can read, that's pretty much everybody, so you can read. So, if you can read, and if you have the eyes to read 10 pages a day,

depending upon how fast you read and what type of book it is that could be in 8 to 15 minutes as a general average. Let's just say 10 pages takes you 10, 12 minutes a day, so if you read 10 pages a day, 6 days a week, you take one day off, how many pages that it will be? 10 pages a day, 6 days a week, 60. You've got a roughly four and a half weeks a month, that's roughly about 250 pages a month. The average book is about 250 pages, so how many books are there a year? 12. It takes eight years to get a Ph.D. How many books what you have read in eight years? 96. That's roughly 100 books. Now, the people with the Ph.Ds, do you have a hundred books in your head? Some says more, some says, "hmmmm." A hundred books especially when you choose the areas of your interest, a hundred books, do you know what that would do to the knowledge and to the wisdom, and to the skills that you have? And it's 10 pages a day, 10 pages a day is easy to do but it also very easy not to do. Ten pages a day in eight years, you have a hundred books, that's in your head, that's in your spirit, that's in your knowledge, that could transform your life. This is the reading part, so that's what the slight edges all about. It's a small faith and that's what God is giving me this, it transforms your life, it's easy to do but it's easier not to do but the results of the difference of the two cousins, one is life and one is difficult. And with the other cousin, my wife and I took a trip with him at the first of the year and his wife prepares breakfast for all of us.

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"Sweetheart what did I tell you about their breakfast"? Yeah, that's what I told her. I said, "Sweetheart, if I eat like this every day, I'll be dead" and when five months later, he was dead. But the breakfast was good. It was good, don't get me wrong, like it was good. It (00:20:24) and butter then fry. That thing was good. I could say it was good. That breakfast was good. But I knew, and I told her what, I said, "If I eat like this every day, I'll be dead." It was a slight edge and I said, 'I ate the meal that day. Feel good. It didn't kill me.' So, one day doesn't make the difference but day after day, after day, after day, and month after month and month and year after year after year, that's why they called it the slight edge.

It doesn't make that much difference on a day to day basis. It's over time. When you start saving money, your first week, you don't need a whole out of money, now you can only see the difference. Don't make that difference in a small silver time. It's day after day after day after day. It's why -- when I went to my car this reunion, they gave me the most preserve man award. And he couldn't understand why you lead that way when I was in college. See, they couldn't see it. It didn't make the difference with us in college. When I graduated, we left the same, you go back 30 years later. Now, you see the difference. I mean, I'm seeing some of my club, now you see the difference. So, the slight edge takes time to take a fit. But this is what God wants you to do and this may be the breakthrough that some that of you have -- it's a change and a snap-in mentality. So, stay tune for the first part for the slight edge as we go through to change mentality which changes lives, which changes the future and the destiny of generations to come. Thank you for joining us today at brothers of the word because brother, you need the word. Amen.

Female:

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