

pt.9 - The Slight Edge - The Power Of The Penny

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Nathaniel Bronner: You don't plant a seed and pick a seed. You plant a seed and reap a whole tree.

Female: You are listening to BrothersofTheWord.com. This is Part nine of the message titled, "The Slight Edge" subtitled, "The Power of the Penny", by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5630. That's 5630. Listen to over a thousand free messages on BrothersofTheWord.com.

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And now for 5630, The Slight Edge Part nine. The Power of the Penny.

Male: Praise of all at everybody. The pastor, he started the series a few weeks ago, called, "The Slight Edge" and now, I was intrigue by the things that he was talking about. So, I went out and purchased the book. And the book says that you should read about ten pages a day, I'm still kind of full from the ministry of the music. Amen?

But it recommends that you read ten pages a day. So, I started doing the ten pages a day. And now, I'm up to about 115 pages a day. So, I started reading a book, a week. I read the full book in a couple of days. It acts that you read all of the, you know, ten pages. But once I got into it, I couldn't stop reading. And not only did it help me in that area, it helped me in every area of my life. So, I asked God to do something for me. I said, "Lord, I want to be successful in life in five different areas."

There are other areas, about five particularly areas. Spiritual, physical, mutual, my relationship with my wife and my relationship with people, and financially. So, when I start doing, every day to something in every area. ten minutes, fifteen minutes, for some reason, the ten minutes just wasn't enough for me. So, I started doing things, I send my wife text every day. I didn't do it that first, now I'm still sending a text. I appreciate what we did last night, I appreciate the time we spent together.

You know, just little things that seems to be insignificant at the time, but over a period of time it will have a

tremendous effect. So, I start sending these texts and I notice that later on during the day, you know, when my wife and I got together, it was a better evening. Amen?

So, what I'm saying is, just that area, then I send it to my children. I send an email to them. They read down all of the different categories and things that you can do something every single day in every area. One thing got told them to do is put a quarter into a jar every day. Don't put a dollar and 75 cent in it but one quarter everyday for the rest of your life. But they didn't know that I'm going to match it. You see. So, just little bit of things, it will have a tremendous effect.

So, I'm reading two books a week now. And I'm being -- to be honest with you. I went to college and high school, straight A student (00:03:14). I've never read it as much as I'm reading right now. Even the college books that (00:03:19) you know, I did my school work but outside of those things, I'm doing something to better me, I'm doing something to develop me and you don't have to do what I'm doing, but just do a little bit every single day and I guarantee you, your life will never be the same.

Nathaniel Bronner:

Amen, amen, amen. Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. And today, I am continuing on in this series of the Slight Edge from the book called the same, the Slight Edge. And then few minutes ago, you heard a testimony from brother Ivan, those of you watching by television, you can go to BrothersoftheWord.com and listen to this part nine of the Slight Edge and hear his full testimony. But I wanted you to hear just what following the Slight Edge can do to your life and God is a slight edge God.

He really wants our lives be governed and guided and improved on a day by day basis. And today, for part nine, it is from the mp3 chapter 16 of the book on Slight Edge called, "The secret of the Penny." And it is interesting that even in brother Ivan's testimony, what it is done for him that he told his children to put a quarter in a jar every day without telling them that he would match what they put in because that's -- for those who have read the book, that's a part of the secret of the penny where

wealthy man told his twin son, he said, “Look, I give the choice between he had in one hand 1,000 dollar bills.”

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He said, “I give you a choice of a million dollars or I give you the choice of a penny.” But if you take the penny, I will double it every day from my treasury. One son immediately chose the 1 million dollars cash. The other son thought about it for a while and chose the penny. And many of you have heard this power of the fool but if you take a penny and double it every day, by the end of the month you will have over 10 million dollars. It is a small amount but it is the secret of the penny, that if you start with something small and constantly increase it, sooner or later you will have something that’s valuable beyond words. And that’s the secret of the penny.

I have in this bag in front of the pulpit, a bag full of pennies that I actually plan on giving you today. It’s a bag full of pennies and on the bag of course is a regular grocery bag but it has on the bag written the words, “thank you, pennies.” Most of us today will not even stop to pick pennies that are on the floor, but I want you to understand the secret of the penny. But all spiritual and natural things work in both directions. If you take a penny and add to it every single day, it won’t be long before your account is overflowing. But the reverse principle applies, if you go in debt, if you spend more than you earn, just a little bit, day by day by day -- it’s how credit card get creeps up on people. And they pay the minimum every month, but they charge more than the minimum and the interest. And as the result, month by month, the balance goes, up and up and up and before you before you know it, credit cards are maxed out.

The secret of the penny works both ways. As the truth of spiritual and natural things. The very thing that takes you up is the same thing that takes you down. Matter of fact you will go down faster and quick and much easier than you can go up. The principle of going down is way easy than the principle of going up, that’s another natural principle. It’s a lot easier for me to jump down these stairs than to climb back up. So, the principle and the

secret of the penny works both directions. And in the book he says, as he talk about the penny and one man was commenting “Wow, that’s something. If you start with nothing, you’ll have a fortune in --.” No, no, no, no, no, you don’t start with nothing, you start with the penny. It’s not nothing, it’s a penny.

I think Billy Preston had in his song, nothing from nothing leaves what? Nothing. It’s a mathematical principle. Any number be at even infinite, be at a zillion, zillion, multiplied by zero is still zero. So, you can’t do hardly anything with not or zero. You got to have something. If there is nothing for you to multiply, if there is nothing for you to increase, you got to have something to begin with and many of us because we despised our days of small beginnings, because we say I only have a penny. There is not much I can do. But it is the secret of the penny.

Do you know that you began as a penny? If you study from brother Ivan made his testimony, he said he text his wife just to thank her for what happened last night. Some of you (00:08:58) went to certain areas but for some of you with some happened last night, when conception begins, it begins with a sperm, that is so small, you cannot see it with the naked eye. If you took and had the sperm that fertilized the egg that made you and point it on a sheet of paper, you couldn’t see it. If you put it under a magnifying glass, you still couldn’t see it. It is so small that it is microscopic and you cannot see it. The egg is so small that you cannot see it. We began as a penny but the minute that the egg is fertilized by the sperm, cell division begins to occur. And into mammalian species, once the egg is fertilized, you get a dividing or a division of the cells roughly every 12 to 24 hours, every day the cell is doubled.

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And you begin with one cell, with one penny, the next day you got two pennies. The next you got four pennies, the next you got eight pennies, the next day you got 16 pennies, the next day 32 and finally, nine months later, a baby is born. From something so small, the naked eye

cannot see it. In Genesis 8:22, God spoke while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. You see, the pennies nothing but a seed but it is a seed that will grow if you act to it.

Day by day no matter what the penny is, brother Ivan, he named five areas, and he wanted growth in his life in. He says, "I want growth in my spiritual. I want growth in my mental. I want growth in my physical. I want growth in my relationship. And I want growth in my financial." He named five areas of life that he wanted growth in. He said, "I realized that if I want growth in those areas, I have to put a penny in those areas every day." And you have to ask yourself, "Are you depositing or are you withdrawing?"

In every one of those areas of life, you (00:11:36) take and you put a penny in, and I know (00:11:40) nothing but a penny. And he gave the example that he texts his wife every day are not any but a penny. Matter of fact, texts now don't even cost a penny. We just came out from another country and their texts will cost you five cents for incoming texts. Fifty cents for outgoing texts but if you're in domestic almost all of your cellphone plans now you have unlimited texts. They don't even cost a penny but yet he recognized that if I want growth, if I want interest, if I want prosperity in those five areas, I got to put a penny every day, and every one of those five areas. I got to do something for my spirit, I got to do something for my mind, I have to do something for my relationship, I have to do something for my body, I have to do something for my money. Are you putting a penny in or throwing a penny away? What are you doing? And see the thing about it, the penny that I just threw away, somebody else finds. See the money that you waste makes somebody else rich then disappear. The money that you waste makes somebody else rich it does not disappear.

The time that you spend idling away doing nonsensical amusement stuff, somebody else gets rich because you sitting up in the movie, because you sitting up on the

computer, because you're playing video game. James was telling me about a man who invented the video game he said, "He's making \$50,000.00 a day." He said, "Just shut the thing down because he just made so much money, it's messing up his life." Because folk was sitting in front of it playing all day long. The time that you invest doing foolish stuff makes someone else rich. So, the question becomes in all of those areas of life, "Are you depositing or are you throwing it away?" For somebody else to find, and someone else to get rich. And see, God gave you in Genesis 8:22. The pennies are nothing but seeds, and we plant seeds that are small but they grow, and they grow, and they grow, and they grow.

And He gave us those four examples because with seedtime and harvest, and you see the other three you can easily; cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night. You'd see those. But with seedtime and harvest sometimes that gets a little nebulous, and we don't see that as well but in life, there was a seedtime and there was a harvest, and there are three realities about the law of the harvest that I want to get you to understand. The law of the seed. The law of the penny.

First law of harvest of the seed, of the pennies that we plant. Number one: You always pick what you plant. If you plant grass seed, you don't expect to grow corn. A farmer who plant soy beans knows that he will bear a crop of soy beans. Every kind of seed that grows exactly what it is. Tomatoes, seeds grow tomatoes. Squash seeds grow squash. The only exception to this principle and rule that I know of is bird seed didn't grow birds.

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But every kind of seed grows into its own kind. So, if you want your spirit to grow, and if you plant seeds that are none spiritual, that are (00:15:22), that are fleshly that take you down. What do you think are going to happen? And see, often the first penny doesn't ruin you. The first penny doesn't ruin you. It's not the first penny. Is the second penny? Is the third penny? The fourth penny? The hundredth penny? The two hundredth penny? The three hundredth penny? The thousandth penny? And

then all of a sudden, you are a whole different person. You always pick what you plant.

Jacob is a good example in the spiritual principle. He was with the oldest son so he and his mother hatched a plot to steal the birth right and blessing their right they belong to the older brother. When Isaac was a blind old man, Jacob came and said, "I am your son, Esau. Feel my hair that's on my arm," that they had placed there. And he stole the blessing. He planted the seed, the penny of deception in his family.

Years later, Laban fooled him into getting the ugly woman. And see, when you deceive stuff, you've got to wake up with some ugly every day of your life. It did. So, he calls deception. He sows the penny the deception and woke up with ugly. Years later, even after that, Jacob's own sons deceived him, and said that, "Your son, Joseph, has been killed by wild animals." And Jacob spent years mourning over his son. Whatever you sow, and I don't care who you are, whatever you sow, I don't care who you are, what you plant is what you pick. That's the first rule of the penny. The first rule of a harvest: You pick the same thing that you plant.

Rule number two: You always pick more than you plant. You don't plant a seed and pick a seed. You plant a seed, and reap a whole tree. Months ago, we handed out people a real mustard seed. Mustard seed so small. You could barely hold it in your hand but some people went and planted those seeds. And they brought me back photographs of the mustard plant that was growing. And that quitch was so small, and just a short time, it grown up into a big old (00:17:55) tree. You don't plant a seed, and reap a seed. You always pick more than you plant. When you plant a butter bean, a butter bean plant grows, and on the bush are parts of butter beans containing dozens of butter beans. A tiny acorn produces an oak that can sometimes be hundreds of feet high. A tiny word, deed or choice, may seems small but it can result in a big harvest. Seeds are small but they turn into large things. There is a harvest cycle that's true in life as well as farming. "Sow a thought, reap an act, sow an act, reap a habit, sow a habit, reap a character, sow a character, reap

a destiny.” You always pick more than you plant. Rule number two.

Rule number three of the penny and the harvest: You always pick after you plant. You don’t have a harvest, then plant. You always pick after you plant. See, sometimes we think we’ve got in the way with some stuff. No. harvest just hadn’t come yet, and sometimes it can go for years, even decades before that thing comes back. Some people live (00:19:24) at that stuff. You always pick after you plant. When you plant a seed, you don’t just go out the next hour and see your plant then. And sometimes our stuff comes back really quick but it’s always after you plant. Only in the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, the magic beans grew into a huge tree overnight. That’s only in the fairytale. In life it takes time for a seed to grow into a plant, and it takes patience. Too many of us give up because we start to read the book, and we start to spend 10 minutes a day of the 10 pages a day, of hour a day, and in a week, our worlds haven’t changed.

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So, we give up because we do not have the patience to allow the seed and to allow the pennies to grow. It takes time. All past to William (00:20:18) it takes time to be holy. It takes time. A family once summer planted some watermelon seeds and soon a watermelon vine started growing. That was a small round watermelon on the leaves but the father told his kids one day that the watermelon will be big enough to eat it. Every day the kids went out to see if the watermelon was big enough to eat. Never go out and check on the growth of the tiny watermelon. They were so impatient. They would say, “Come on watermelon, come on watermelon, come on grow!” How many of you got a see it out like that? And you are saying, “Come on watermelon, come on grow watermelon, come on grow.” There are some things that you may plant the seed but only God in time can grow it.

And you got to wait until that thing grows. There is nothing you can do to speed it up but there are things you could do to mess it up. Often with seeds there’s nothing

you can do to speed it up but there are several things you can do to mess it up. So, one day, he saw that his kids were just so impatient. So, one afternoon he stopped on the way home and bought a big watermelon at the roadside stand. And he went back and he took off the little part and he put the big watermelon on and cover it up with the vines and everything and called the kids to come outside and look when they came outside, all of them are just screaming. "The watermelon is here. The watermelon is here." And then the daddy pulled the leaves away and showed them that it was not even attached to the vine. And he used it as a chance to teach them. It takes time. It takes patience to grow things. It's the law of the harvest. You always pick after you plant. And see the law of harvest does not just apply to individuals, it applies to everything. It even applies tenaciously.

In the Old Testament, the Israel had turn from God and started worshiping the idols of their neighbors. The result was national calamity. God spoke to the prophet Hosea these words. Israel has rejected what is good with their silver and gold. They make idols for themselves to their own destruction. Then God gave the Old Testament version of the law of the penny, of the law of the harvest. He said "They saw wind and reaped the whirlwind." There is a famous set of books called "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" written back in the 1700s but it details what was once the greatest nation on the face of the earth. And in these big six volumes, it goes to a great deal of historical detail but it bussed it down to the fact that there were four basic factors that caused the fall of the mightiest nation on earth, and often just as growth is gradual as a settled, is the slow addition of penny after penny after penny.

So is destruction in decline. It is the slow casting away of value after value after value. And in the series of volumes called "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." They mark four distinct things that caused roman to fall. It said, one invader that attacked Rome. Rome failed from the inside. They just got weak -- it's like when you catch a cold. It's not the germ from the outside, it's your immune system is getting weak. Germs are

everywhere. It's when you get weak on the inside, that the disease overtakes you. The four things they outline. Number one, they said was the rapid increase of divorce. The undermining of the family as the basis of society. That's the first thing they said. There was a whole big increase of divorce in the Roman Empire. Guess which country leads the face of the earth right now and the number of divorces? And we are now radically trying to change the definition of marriage and family. Number two was higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the population. They spent more and more of resources to get entertained. Number three was a mad craze for sports and blood sports becoming increasingly brutal. They like more and more entertainment that was more and more violent. Isn't it that sound familiar? Number four was the decade of religion and faith fading into mere formalism.

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In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that are non-denominational prayer in school that simply acknowledge dependence on God was unconstitutional. It was just a penny. Twelve years after that prayer was outlaw of the court ruled it was legal to kill babies in the wombs. Today, if you are under thirty, married and you have a baby born to you and your spouse, you are in the minority. Fifty-three percent of our children born to women on the thirty are born to single mothers. America sow the wind and often we can reap the whirlwind. I don't focus on the country and all that kind of stuff. I got enough time focusing and dealing with my own stuff. So, when you deal with your own five areas, that's enough stuff for you. When you get your own five areas handled in good order, then you worry about the nation.

We were driving back on the bus yesterday and we saw people standing on the bridge with a big old sign (00:26:03) impeached president. Now, that's not right to talk about that but every president (0:26:08) impeachment. There's always been a group somewhere want to impeach every president we have ever had. By the time, you will get your five areas and all, you don't

even got time to stand on the breach. You got to worry about getting your own pennies in order. So, people looked at those five areas that brother Ivan talked about, and ask in each one on those areas, “Are we adding pennies day by day or are we subtracting pennies day by day?” And the result of those additions or subtractions will produce the final harvest in our lives. And what I wanted to do today. I want to give everyone who want one of penny. I want to pray over these pennies and I know you’ll going to say, “Pastor, that is nothing but a penny.” I remember one year, I came in, I was tricking at an evening sun and I came in playing money by O’Jays, and I gave everybody a five-dollar bills. I had a big stock of five-dollar bills. I mean, the arch has never exploded, since like it exploded in. Brother, we’ve had some great news here but they have never exploded (00:27:12) five dollars. Folk just exploded with happy dancing, just exploded with that five dollars. So, this is not five dollars. It’s only a penny but it is the principle of it. And if you can take this penny and add to it, every day and everyone in the areas of your life, and those five critical areas.

If you can just take this penny and you have to detail what you are going to do. If a sending a text, that’s fine. If it’s given a gift, that’s fine. If it’s (00:27:48), that’s fine. If it’s (00:27:50) compliment, whatever it is. If you are trying to get your body in shape. My son, he is trying to do pull-ups and he said, “Daddy, I cannot do any pull-ups!” I said “Son, well, half up until you can fully pull-up.” And so, he half up and now. So, he started with half up and now he is about three quarters of and it won’t be long before he can fully pull-up. I said, “Look, don’t you know your oldest brother, when he started, he couldn’t do a pull-up either, he couldn’t do one. Not even do 25. Start with a penny. Don’t despise thy day of small beginnings. Start with this penny.” Now, if you do not want the penny, I do not want to give you a penny. I learned that. Because if you give somebody something that they truly do not want, if they despise the penny. If you do not see the value in the penny, I do not even want to give my penny because there’s is a penny wasted.

I want to pray over these pennies but be honest about it, there is not going to be in the super natural power in

these pennies. So, don't go "(0:28:47) I got a blessed penny." No, no, no. The power is in the blessing that will go into your spirit if you hear and if you (00:28:59) this. Do you realize the number one resolution for starting out every new year is to lose weight? Do you realize that if you loss -- and many people sometime you (0:29:10) these big old (00:29:10)? If you just loss an ounce a day, just one ounce a day, passing a good gas almost as an ounce. If you just loss an ounce a day, then you say for pastor, what did the ounce can do? Let me tell you what an ounce is got to do. An ounce is seven ounces every week but is thirty ounces every month, it takes 16 ounces to make a pound. So, that means every 30 of 32 days, you lose 2 pounds. Over one year, that 2 pounds a month becomes 24 pounds. In two years, that is 48 pounds. In three years, that's 72 pounds.

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In four years, that's nearly a 100 pounds. Do you understand the difference? But supposed you gain an ounce every day. See, it didn't just show up on you overnight? You don't go to sleep a broom stick and wake up a barrow, no! It didn't happen that way. It's a penny and it's a penny everyday added to your treasure or taken from your balance. Every day, it's a penny one way or the other, and you have to make a decision which way is the penny going and you can't see an ounce. If you lose an ounce every day for a week, you're not going to walk into (00:30:43) how much weight did you lose? Seven ounces, no!

No one will see that at all. No one will see it. No one will complement on you that, no one will notice. But in that year, they'll notice the 24, they notice the 48, they notice the 72 and so will you, it's the way the penny works. So, I'm going to pray over to these pennies. I'm going to get my brothers to come and pray with me over these pennies. We're going to pray over these pennies but the prayer is not for the penny, the prayer is for you to understand the secret of the penny. I'm going to ask my brother James and C. Elijah if they were coming and just -- now, I've got the pennies spread out on the floor, so we're going to pick them up off the floor. See, someday I'm I will just got to

pick up some stuff. And from just a biological point, the nastiest thing you got is money. Do you know how many germs on money? How many hands -- the nastiest thing you got is money, so don't get worry about this on the floor. The nastiest thing you got on you right now is money. Got a higher density of germs and microbial contamination in anything you own but none of you are going to throw it away.

So, yes, it's on the floor; that's all right, it is on the floor. Some of your stuff right now is nasty, some of it needs to be cleaned up, some of it needs to be disinfected with the spirit. So, even though it's nasty, even though it needs to be cleaned, even though it's full of arrows and all kind of stuff, you can still put the penny on it and change direction day by day.

If you will just hold his bag and -- dear heavenly father, we just pray right now that even upon these pennies, the denary I have owed. Father we pray that as the people take these pennies, that the principle of the penny, the principle of seed, time, and harvest shall enter into their lives and it shall begin to grow and prosper into those five areas. Their spirits shall grow, their mind shall grow, their relationships shall grow, their health shall grow and their money shall grow. Father, we just pray that as I put these principles in practice and every day add a penny to the pile, that the pile shall get higher and higher and higher until eventually they shall be wealthy in all of those areas of their lives in thy son Jesus His name, the great God Jehovah we pray, amen. Amen.

Well, I'm getting to dismiss, so for those of you who would like to go, you're free to go but those of you who would like only a penny, I'm going to invite you to come down and get your penny. We haven't opened the doors of salvation nor for membership today and not going to, I'm just going to give you a penny today because salvation is like that. It's a day by day thing. And for those of you who want the increase in life in those areas, take the penny, treasure the penny not the coin; the principle. Not the coin; the principle. Treasure the penny and watch every area of your life that you truly invest in, just a little bit every day, watch it grow, watch it expand, watch it improve.

Dear heavenly father, we just thank you for your word, we thank you even for the provision of the pennies because all of everything comes from you. Help us to be good stewards, and father we pray that as we plant it is you who brings the increase that you shall bless and prosper that, which you have given us that we have planted in good soil in thy son Jesus His name we pray, amen.

You are dismissed. For those who would like a penny, I invite you to come now and get a penny. Amen. God bless you. God bless you.

Female

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