

Chapter 1 : Take it from a retired meat cutter, iron sharpens iron

Iron sharpening iron is an opportunity to fulfill the Law of Christ. The apostle Paul says that we are to carry and share the issues and burdens that we face daily, to lament over personal sin, advise on how best to repent of it, and rejoice over the conquest of it.

It was probably frustrating â€” the problem: They needed to be Sharpened! Our passage today has a Biblical principle that teaches us how to be Sharpened! Now Proverbs is a book about Wise sayings and how important it is to be Wise. You will find general sayings of wisdom and truth to live with integrity, honesty, morally and in relationship with your spouse, children, friends, neighbors, your enemies, business associates â€” and of course the Lord! So these Wise sayings begin with us being in relationship with the Lord. So what do we learn about this Wise Saying and the Principle of how we can be Sharpened? We learn what it means to be Sharpened! It reflects the fullness of life: The Word â€” Chadah means to make glad, joined together, sharpened, to grow. So to be Sharpened is to be ready, useful, and productive in life and society â€” it means to be joined together and grow to meet the challenges in life and even ready for Eternal life, through faith in Jesus Christ. The Principle is clear: Just as Iron sharpens Iron â€” so we sharpen or Influence someone to: We learn the Process of Sharpening in life. What does it take? We need to seek those who can Sharpen us and we need to intentionally seek those whom we can Sharpen in life too. Intention also identifies our True Purpose. What is our Intention in Sharpening another person? The Intention according to Scripture is to help a person become complete and ready in every area of Life. Jesus is an example â€” Luke 2: What a great Intention we should have in Sharpening others and being Sharpened. The problem is that often we only focus on one area or we are just haphazard in seeking the Sharpening Process in life. The Sword has to be Present, in Contact with the other sword in order for it to be Sharpened. So it is with us too. Communing with One another; coming alongside each other. We need each other. It is essential for us and other in the Sharpening Process! Influence â€” Iron sharpens Iron as it is in contactâ€” The process of contact Influences each other and can Sharpen the pieces of Iron. However, in order to really Sharpen and not damage, ruin or make more dull â€” the Influence has to be done right. So it is with us. We Sharpen one another by Influencing each other. But it is also important to Influence one another in a right way. Bad company corrupts good character. The Bible also teaches us to be careful in the words we use the example we set, and what we are Influencing others toward. We must be Intentional, In Relationship, and Influencing. We learn some Models for Sharpening the lives of others. The example of Iron sharpening Iron is one example but the Scriptures also demonstrate for us the process of Sharpening each other.

Chapter 2 : 15 best Iron sharpens Iron images on Pinterest | Proverbs 27, Irons and Bible scriptures

*It Takes Iron to Sharpen Iron: What you are made of will determine if you are fit for use [Donald Devereaux] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Book by Devereaux, Donald.*

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. In classical literature we see that friendship had a great part, both in the government of states and the lives of individuals. It is an aspect of politics and of human nature, and of all virtue. Partly owing to the different character of domestic life, the tie of friendship seems to have exercised a greater influence amongst the Greeks and Romans than among ourselves; and although these attachments may sometimes have degenerated into evil, we cannot doubt that much that was noble in the old life was also pure. See cases of Achilles and Patroclus, and of Pylades and Orestes. The school of Socrates was as much a circle of friends as a band of disciples. Roman friendships are illustrated in Scipio and Laelius, and in Cicero and Atticus. Shakespeare gives several types of friendship. In youth, when life is opening before us, we easily form friendships. A young man, even if he be poor in worldly goods, may reasonably hope to be rich in friends. Like draws towards like, and youth rejoices in youth. We cannot make friendships exactly as we please. Friendships are not made, but grow out of similar tastes, out of mutual respect, from the discovery of some hitherto unsuspected vein of sympathy. They depend also on our own power of inspiring friendship in others. Yet neither is the choice of friends altogether independent of ourselves. A man may properly seek for friends. He gets good, or he gets harm, out of the companionship of those with whom he lives. Such as they are he will be in some degree. The character of true friendship. The greatest element in friendship is faithfulness. The ancients spoke of three kinds of friendship--one for the sake of the useful, one for the sake of the pleasant, and a third for the sake of the good or noble. The first is a contradiction in terms. It is a partnership, not a friendship. Every one knows the delight of having a friend. Is there a friendship for the sake of the noble and the good? Like the other goods of life, friendship is commonly mixed and imperfect, and liable to be interrupted by changing circumstances or the tempers of men. Few have the same friends in youth as in age. Some youthful friendships are too violent to last; they have in them some element of weakness or sentimentalism, and the feelings pass away. Or, at some critical time of life, a friend has failed to stand by us, and then our love to him grows cold. But there are duties we owe to an extinct friend. We should never speak against him, or make use of our knowledge about him. A passing word should not be suffered to interrupt the friendship of years. It is a curious observation, that the most sensitive natures are also the most liable to pain the feelings of others. Friendship may be based on religious motives, and may flow out of a religious principle. Human friendships constantly require to be purified and raised from earth to heaven. And yet they should not lose themselves in spiritual emotion or in unreal words. Better that friendship should have no element of religion than that it should degenerate into cant and insincerity. All of us may sometimes think of ourselves and our friends as living to God, and of human love as bearing the image of the Divine. There are some among us who have known what it is to lose a friend. Death is a gracious teacher. Who that has lost a friend would not wish to have done more for him now that he is taken away? The memory of them is still consecrated and elevating for our lives. Friendship This is what one friend should be to another; a whetstone, to give keenness to the edge of his energy. A friend can encourage his friend when duty is difficult, or wearisome, or painful; can comfort, can advise. But friendship is too often made the stepping-stone to the worst falls; and many a sinner has his friends to thank for his having fallen into sins which, left to himself, he would have shrunk from with horror. God has mercifully hedged round most sins with many barriers--the barrier of ignorance, of shame, and of affection. This latter, in a personal friend, may be especially helpful. A friend may aid us in both the right and the wrong. It is sometimes the duty of a true friend openly to find fault with a friend. But the occasion is very rare. In most cases all that is wanted is to hold to the right, and you will do more towards holding your friend to the right than by all manner of exhortations. Few things can give acuter pain to the soul in after-years than the memory of friends misled by our friendship. Friendship, and sympathy, and cheerful example ought to help us more than anything else to grow up soldiers and servants of Christ, and to fight His battle when we are grown up. Iron cannot sharpen iron more than we might sharpen

each other. The very differences in our character might be such a help to us in making friendship valuable, because when one friend is much tempted the other is strong, and can uphold him, and yet, when another kind of temptation comes, will receive back as much support as he gave. Alas, for the dire contagion of evil friendships! He can never have any true friends who is often changing them. Bring your friend to a proper understanding of himself. Persuade him of his follies. True friendship is tested in the hour of adversity. Wait until you are in trouble, and many a professed friend will be shy of you and give you the dead cut. Many people expect too much from their friends. He is our best friend who is a friend to our soul. Give a wide berth to the sneering sceptic. In Christ alone the proverb at the heading of this outline finds its fullest verification. Friendly converse This proverb is described by Edward Irving as forcibly expressing the effect of religious converse and communion by a beautiful figure, which also not inaptly represents the way in which the effect is produced. Iron sharpeneth iron by removing the rust which has been contracted from their lying apart; so intercourse between friend and friend rubs down the prejudices which they have contracted in their separate state. And as the iron, having removed the rust which entered into the good stuff of the blade, and hindered its employment for husbandry or war, straightway applies itself to the metallic substance, brings it to a polish and to an edge, shows its proper temper, and fits it for its proper use, so the intercourse of friends having removed the prejudices which were foreign to the nature and good conditions of each, proceeds, in the next place, to bring out the slumbering spirit which lay hid, to kindle each other into brightness, and prepare each other for action. We are also well aware that the blade, when sharpened, may be used for a good purpose, or abused for a bad one. The axe may be used to fell the timber of the temple, or to break down all the carved work thereof. The steel or the whetstone to sharpen, fits the blade for doing good or doing evil, according to circumstances. We must take care who our friends are, lest we receive mischief; take care what kind of friends we are, lest we impart it. Those who countenance what is wrong are answerable for much of the evil their countenance leads to. For instance, all persons should take great care to what they are led by the countenance and encouragement of friends on occasions of public festivity or show. Many on such occasions have their countenances sharpened as they are not on other days. They are encouraged to say, to do, to boast, to indulge, as they never would do, and never do, when sitting at home in their own houses. There is nothing more false upon true religion than to imagine that it stunts our minds, that its design is to withdraw them from the genial warmth of social life, where it may blossom--where, like a healthy plant, it may open and expand, and place them alone, to become proud and selfish. True religion, like every other good sentiment, requires society to bring it to perfection. Now, if there be something so valuable in the intercourse of true Christians, they should seek it in the spirit best calculated to profit by such communion. They should seek it in Christian friendship. They should constantly be on the look-out for those who are willing to drink deep with them at the fountain of Divine truth. But our expectations from this truth are not to be limited to the exercise of private friendship. We cannot all be bound together by such ties, desirable as they are; but then, again, all real Christians are real friends. They may never have spoken; they may want introduction one to another; distance of situation may keep them apart; circumstances may keep them unacquainted though near in point of neighbourhood; yet have they, being all partakers of the same Spirit, that which is calculated, under altered circumstances, to make and keep them friends. All Christians, I repeat, are friends; and, therefore, we may expect many circumstances, short of strict and intimate friendship, calculated to bring into play the principle upon which I have been dwelling. I shall mention two circumstances under which this may happen. I would recommend all persons to seek this means of improvement in their families. With his family is every Christian bound to share, and by sharing to increase, his devout affections. There are innumerable degrees of life among the members of our Lord: But this is not all: If we know ourselves, we know that we want every kind of motive, every sort of help. Then let every Christian try the power of meeting each morning and evening to pray together with his family. But, if so, how much more should we thank God for those further helps which He affords to us in the public assemblies of the congregation. Here especially the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. If we came to His house expecting much, imploring much, desiring much, we should gain much. Copyright Statement These files are public domain. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.

Chapter 3 : Daily Favor: When Iron Sharpens Iron

The Paperback of the It Takes Iron to Sharpen Iron: What you are made of will determine if you are fit for Use by Donald Devereaux at Barnes & Noble. Buy 1, Get 1, 50% Off Jigsaw Puzzles Goodnight Goon Only \$ with Purchase.

If you look back on your life, what has most helped you grow? I am sure you could name a few particular moments, but generally, they are along the lines of challenging times, teachings, hard work, or maybe friends. When we talk about Iron Sharpening Iron, we are talking about how our friends and family help us grow. How should this be present in your life? What does it mean to be Iron that can sharpen your friend? What does it mean to be sharpened by friends? It does not bend or break easily. Fierce fire can only mold it. Only God can mold us to be more like Him. Only God can put us through enough heat to shape us. Iron, however, can be easily sharpened by another piece of iron. We too can easily be sharpened by each other. When we want to sharpen a friend and help them in their faith, we first have to be Iron, tough and strong in our faith. The first step in this process is to become iron. This is done through prayer and study. Make your relationship with Jesus your own. Everything you learn, double-check it with the bible. Make your faith your own. Just as one man sharpens another, you can sharpen your friends. Encourage them in their walk with Christ. Look to the new believers and remember you were in their position not long ago. Encourage them in the same way that others encouraged you, with love and grace. Call your brothers and sisters out when they fall into sin, but remember to take a look at yourself before you call them out. Remember to approach these situations with love and kindness, directing them to the Father. We have no right to judge them, for judgment is from the Lord. We are, however, called to point out the sin in each other. If you are a follower of Christ, you have a duty to sharpen one another. You are asked to help your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ with their walk. God has asked you to fulfill an important role. Just as we sharpen others, they are here to sharpen us. We must remember this at all times. When a brother points out sin to you, you must not get mad at them. Take a look at yourself and bring it before God. Just as we point out sin to others, they are pointing it out to us in our own lives. They do this not to hurt us, but to help us. If they are truly doing this with grace and love, there will be no judgment. Ready yourself to be sharpened. We can either get mad or take what they say and work on it. So how should this be present in our lives? It should always be present. We should be ready to encourage and help others with their walk at all times. We must also be ready to take the sharpening when it comes our way. Do not be afraid, but ask God to give you eyes to see those who need sharpening and how to do it. Also, ask God to give you ears to hear and a heart to take it and learn from it. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and we are all here to help each other with our walks. Take a step forward into the arena and sharpen your brothers and sisters with their walk and be ready to be sharpened as well. A sharp knife is more useful than a dull knife, which will you be?

Chapter 4 : Iron Sharpens Iron - The Faith of the Philadelphia Eagles - FaithGateway

A hard iron tool was used to make soft iron tools and was used to sharpen soft iron swords. Doctrine is the 'hard iron' in the analogy. The 'man' here is the communicator of doctrine whose teaching of the Truth 'sharpens' the character of his friend.

We sit together at daily mass and go to breakfast or out for coffee a few times each week. Some are employed, some unemployed, some retired. We work in a variety of fields from insurance to taxes, communications to medicine, and pharmaceuticals to construction. And, we all have different interests and ministries. Some are involved in healing ministry, some serve the homeless, other are involved in Legion of Mary, St. Vincent DePaul and catholic radio. Yet, we all have one thing in common, our love for Christ and his church. And, just as iron sharpens iron, we sharpen each other! Fewer and fewer people are attending mass and Sunday services. A disproportionate share of that decline is among men. More and more, men are attempting to navigate the tough problems of life alone. They have no one to share their frustrations with, no one to go to for advice, no one to hold them accountable and no one to pray with. It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. A dull knife is still a knife, but when sharpened, it is sharper, brighter, and fit for use. The same is true for men. A man going it alone is still a man, but he is dull, sad and inactive, and sometimes confused and paralyzed. But, friendship is like the sharpening instrument. It sharpens our thinking, refreshes our direction, revives our love of God, and clarifies our actions. It takes a different kind of iron to sharpen them. The fact that my friends are all different gives each of us the opportunity to sharpen others. We all have our strengths and weaknesses and I have learned something different from each of them. Spending time together gives us a chance to pray, encourage, exhort, admonish and help each other. It was easy back in college, but those guys are gone. You need to find some new friends. Here are a couple of suggestions: Find or start your own breakfast or lunch group. Years ago, when I lived in Atlanta, we had a group of guys that met for lunch on Wednesdays. Not all of us could make every lunch, but there was always a few guys each week that could help provide a mid-week lift in faith. Find men with a common interest at work, school or on a team and get together away from that activity. Often guys are just waiting for someone to ask. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. We need male friends to help us on our life journey. If you enjoyed this reflection, you can have them emailed to you every Monday morning, and not miss a single one. Subscribe by clicking [here](#). You will be sent an e-mail to verify your subscription. A new episode is posted every Wednesday. They are less than three minutes long and a great way to start your day. I love it when you share my stories with your family and friends. Below are links to share on your social media sites.

As iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens his friend. It means we should and can work with our fellow man to improve each other strengths and suppress weakness. In the days before steel refining, iron cutting tools cutting edges were ground against each other to sharpen both tools thus making them more useful.

NIV I am a Christian. I believe in Genesis 1: NIV " I am a biochemist and a pharmacist by education. As such I have a desire to understand nature. I am writing this blog as my way to express the facts of true science as I understand them, from the perspective of one who believes that all things were created by God, for God and for His purposes. Feel free to comment, to offer your perspective, or to give suggestions for subjects. Please take a minute to "Like" us on Facebook. NIV " What does this proverb mean? When was this written? It was written during the Iron Age in the Middle East. Iron was not very pure at that time but contained other metals, such as nickel and copper, as well as carbon. Steel is iron with a certain proportion of carbon between 0. Pure iron is soft and carbon steel can be as much as times harder than iron. Iron in those days contained varying amounts of impurities and was of different strengths. Sharpening is defined as the process of creating or refining a sharp edge to an appropriate shape on a tool or implement designed for cutting. Sharpening is done by grinding away material on the tool with another abrasive substance harder than the tool itself. This is sometimes followed by a process to polish the sharp surface, increasing smoothness and correcting small mechanical deformations without regrinding. When one thing sharpens another, the substance on the sharpening surface must be harder than the material being sharpened, such as two different alloys of iron. In a similar manner, one man who is stronger in faith can sharpen another to help him become stronger. This can be in knowledge of the Word or in action and deed to become more like Christ. Material, iron in this case, is scraped off as the edge is made finer and more acutely angled to make the cutting edge of the sword or blade. This removing of the burrs refines the edge until it can easily cut through the toughest materials. In the same way bad habits and negative thoughts and actions are removed from our lives as we are sharpened by the encouragement and loving criticism of a fellow believer. In the sharpening of iron with iron, both pieces change " the sharpener and the one being sharpened. In the same manner our faith is strengthened when we test and encourage another. We must help each other to remain strong in the faith, able to defend the faith, even against the direct attack of the enemy. Just as the Bereans searched the scriptures daily to confirm the Word Acts Sharpen can also mean intensify or focus. The cutting edge of the blade is more intensely focused into a very fine line as it is sharpened and can cut more deeply. The sharpening itself may be thought provoking and at times even painful, but in the end we are stronger and better for it. The Scripture gives many examples of God honoring communication between friends: Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Chapter 6 : Proverbs As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

When one thing sharpens another, the substance on the sharpening surface must be harder than the material being sharpened, such as two different alloys of iron. In a similar manner, one man who is stronger in faith can sharpen another to help him become stronger.

February 17, at 6: It might interest some to know that in the marginal notes of the Geneva Bible produced 51 years before the KJV and was the preferred version by people like William Shakespeare and John Bunyan of *Pilgrims Progress*, it offers the following interpretation related to this verse: I found that interesting. When also observing the verses immediately preceding Proverbs The Living Bible translation curiously words this passage as follows: Steel can be called an iron alloy and cast iron is harder than iron that is simply smelted and then there is iron from meteors which is a pure form of iron. Iron will sharpen iron of at least the same hardness or harder. Great comments though everyone! So, trying to bring this literally over into English gives us something like: It appears as if the English exegetical tradition of sharpen started by giving the Septuagint priority. It is interesting that you consider a file and a tool to be sharpened. In that case, this verse seems to suggest that one is sharpened by a person that grates on their nerves. It is true that we never get better at taming the tongue or being humble until we learn to do so toward one who aggravates us exceedingly. I think the verse would suffice as is, because iron is a hard thing, and two men at odds will find it hard to change their stance on the issue. The KJV makes it sound like more of a contest than a direct pressure or removal of material. Sharpening the countenance makes one stand more upright and walk in the light more faithfully. There is nothing that makes a person want to do something more than someone telling them that they are not good enough at it. Mike Sangrey April 23, at 2: I think the main difficulty comes from our English conceptual metaphor of to sharpen. That is, when we sharpen something, we improve it. Improvement and to sharpen are associated within the same linguistic frame or lexical frame, if you like. Therefore we try to understand the proverb in a positive way. I think the original author and readers had a different lexical frame. For them, sharpening was a way of producing something that would cut and cause pain if the cut happened to a living being. So, sharpening was a negative thing. Basically, my current exegetical understanding is: As one iron implement and another come into contact, an impression is made. As equals, with intent to be right, it does rub people to irritation for the constant drip of noticing the splinter in the eyes of others. The interpretation by the Holy Spirit of God to us has infinite applications, even in the most basic and simplest of matters. Personally, I like to consider all the different aspects that have been suggested here and can see in certain situations they all have validity. Its an inclusive interpretation rather than exclusive. My opinion is that we should all strive to agree with The Truth, to evaluate the thoughts that come into our minds and test them against The Truth. We should hope to agree with and walk in The Truth, and help others do the same as God inspires, first by example, then with words when He desires. One has a teachable spirit, the other a judgmental one that wants to correct others rather than themselves. For future consideration, the Ten Commandments are actually the fundamental elements of self-discipline.

Chapter 7 : Proverbs - NIV - As iron sharpens iron, so one man

The Lord has given me wisdom, guidance and understanding to recognize what happens when iron sharpens iron. In other words, what I can expect to happen when faith sharpens faith, and that is what this luncheon was all about for me.

Without supernatural help from the Lord there was no way I could achieve this on my own in one day. Last Saturday I prayed for strength physically to handle all the tasks that I had before me. However, it was the meeting earlier that week that gave me emotional strength to endure in the first place. Welcome new friends this week from: You are welcome to leave comments or prayer requests below. I would love to hear from you and how Daily Favor has worked in your life. Setting A Date While hubby was in the hospital I had to run errands that he usually made, including paying the local bills. I remember distinctly that it was a Friday afternoon when I needed to drop off the car insurance payment before they closed. The place was empty except for the receptionist. She seemed glad for the company and expressed that it had been a quiet day. Since she knew us I filled her in on how my husband was progressing. I was glad to hear the details, but intrigued as to how she handled the situation, especially because she had children. Their journey was quiet difficult with him having his operation over miles away from their home. The verbal engagement left me wanting to learn more, so I asked Merry if we could have lunch to discuss what things she did to help her stay in faith. On Friday, June 12th, we kept that purpose driven lunch date. Not a second was wasted in our outing. Even our order was exactly the same with both of us getting iced tea mine unsweetened , and a baked potato with broccoli and cheese. Our discussion was seamless and flowed from topic to topic, with each of us interjecting our life story throughout the conversation. To my surprise the things that concerned me had also plagued her thoughts during her family crisis. Both of us discussed how we prayed while we were in the midst of the storm. In some instances our requests before the Lord were mostly the same when it came to healing our loved one. Not wanting to sound grim, I asked her about the emotional part and if she thought about what might happen. No, my thoughts were mostly about not wanting to be alone. It felt good to openly discuss what we had been experiencing emotionally, since neither of us had shared these feelings with anyone before that time. Being able to remind one another of how God was in all of it was a comfort and boosted our faith. Around fifteen minutes into the meal we talked about the physical side of all this. Merry assured me that her strength to persevere did come from the Lord, but that she cast some of the burden on to her children when it came to chores around the house and farm. My lunch buddy totally understood the humor coming from an extremely large family on both sides of her parents. Large families have to work together or the household would always be in chaos. After we finished laughing about the sizes of our families, she followed with this statement. One of the things I prayed was for someone to mow and weed-whack trim around the bushes, trees, etc. That was one prayer God answered, but there were others. I cast the burdens on the Lord and He met each need as they came. My friend said she never thought to pray that way. Several years ago I may not have either. I confessed to her that teachers have no problem asking for help or designating duties, so I did what I knew to do. Knowing what the Bible promises was another thing that helped me in decision making. God may give me strength to do a task on my own, but being of a small stature he often sends someone to do those things for me. What I was in need of at that time was spiritual and emotional encouragement. The Lord has given me wisdom, guidance and understanding to recognize what happens when iron sharpens iron. In other words, what I can expect to happen when faith sharpens faith, and that is what this luncheon was all about for me. King David gave this declaration of faith in the promises of God concerning favor on his life. Whom shall I fear? He chooses how He will answer my requests and who He wants to use to accomplish the plan He has for me. I have to trust that those He brings into my life are for a specific reason by embracing every encounter as God ordained. It will take fellowshiping with Him for me not to mess it up or miss it! Find God, Find Favor My husband and I have both sought out ways to sharpen with iron this week to uplift others and kindle our faith. Our decision over who we were to fellowship with came from time spent with the Lord and seeking His wisdom. In doing so each individual come away from the meeting encouraged and enriched. When we take action in doing the Word of God it means we want to find the Lord, because we are inviting Him to be a part

of our lives. Since He is in on the task, His favor will always be available. In the physical realm it is when two iron objects are struck against one another making the object s sharper. Obviously a sharp tool is more effective than a blunt one. The same metaphor is used in scripture concerning people of like faith, whether it is a man or woman. People of like faith stimulate, excite, spark, inspire and fuel a fire of God inside one another. The devil tries to extinguish that flame by using anxiety, worry or fear. This is why we need one another to keep our spirit man sharp even when the flesh is weak.

Chapter 8 : Proverbs - Iron sharpens - Verse-by-Verse Commentary

Let's explore a new writing proverb this week. This one extends far beyond our writing endeavors. Proverbs (VOICE) tells us "In the same way that iron sharpens iron, a person sharpens the character of his friend."

Jordan Matthews was traded to the Buffalo Bills along with a third-round draft pick for cornerback Ronald Darby. Wentz and Matthews had just traveled to Haiti together a few months earlier. Matthews was his go-to wide receiver on the field and one of his closest buddies off the field. Everyone on the team loved Matthews, a hard worker who did whatever he could to help his teammates. As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. These men truly sharpened each other. They lifted each other when someone was down. They encouraged each other in tough times and pushed each other to dig deeper in their relationship with the Lord. The six players gathered for an emotional sendoff dinner the night the trade went down, and then drove Matthews to the airport. Replacing a guy like that in the locker room is not going to be easy. Players, when they leave Philadelphia, they tell other players that what we have here is special. Same for the champion Seattle Seahawks with Russell Wilson. But the Eagles were a different breed of young players who passionately shared the gospel, held each other accountable, and encouraged, motivated, and inspired each other to walk their talk daily. If I am going through some things, I may not express that to the next man. And when you realize that you can apply biblical principles to it, it helps us all grow. He began his career with the Oakland Raiders and spent one year with the Jacksonville Jaguars before coming to Philadelphia in Millions of people follow us. He could not have imagined a better situation. He Himself is living in a relationship in a community. When Jesus sent out the disciples, He sent them out two by two because they need each other to spur each other on. You always just need people to help keep you on the straight and narrow " keep you on that path and really encourage you. Are they building you up? Are they lifting you up? Are they spurring you on? Are they tearing you down? Often those who walk closely with the Lord are going to be challenged by the enemy and pulled in the wrong direction, so having accountability partners is a vital part of the Christian journey. But several of the players on the Eagles had the courage to hold each other accountable, and equally important, they were willing to be held accountable. One player told me one of his teammates pulled him aside after he reacted angrily to questions from reporters and gently reminded him that it was important to represent Christ at all times. He thought twice about lashing out the next time he faced difficult questions. Off the field, I am holding them accountable as well. We truly care about each other, we truly care about the growth that each individual has in the Word, as believers, as well as friends and family. There are a lot of guys who are truly trying to boost me up along the way and keep me focused on the main thing, which is obviously the Word and Jesus. I look back on my past, and it is a miracle that I am with the Philadelphia Eagles. We can dive deep; it is such a huge thing because being vulnerable with someone, you know they know everything, and it is a scary place to be. But when you go there, that is when the real change happens. You can hit those points that hurt. We see each other every day all the time, and we are lucky to have that. Community is such a strong concept that you know I think that every believer should have. Who are your people? Come share with us on our blog. We want to hear from you!

Chapter 9 : What does the phrase "iron sharpens iron" mean, and how does it apply to you? | Yahoo Answers

Indeed iron sharpens iron There is a property of iron that bears mentioning, and that is the ability to abrade itself. As one takes two like pieces of iron (without getting too technical and for the sake of argument assume these pieces of metal are alike in all manner) and rub them together, one does not preferentially abrade the other.

This article also appeared in the "Edifying the Body" section of www. Likewise all of us have something to give to other people. A proverb in the Old Testament encourages people to help each other. It says, "Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend" Proverbs In considering this proverb I thought about a few physical examples in my life that might be helpful in putting it into practice. When I was a young boy my brother and I spent a summer with my grandparents on Nantucket Island, Mass. My grandfather, Joseph Gill, wore a suit coat and vest every day. In his vest pocket was a small, sharp pocketknife. Some of my early understanding about sharpening knives came from my grandfather. My grandfather would make kites, paddle-wheel boats and other simple toys out of wood for my brother and me. When he was finished carving and whittling a project, he would carefully clean the knife. Then he would take out a small honing stone and sharpen it. He would tell us the importance of having a sharp knife. He could make so many wonderful toys with his knife because he took care of his knife. He regularly sharpened it. Later I spent a lot of time with knives. I was a professional meat cutter for 31 years. I retired in When I was 30 years old I served an apprenticeship in the retail meat business. I learned how to cut up cattle and turn them into steaks, roasts and other cuts. When I was working as a meat cutter I had to work with large chunks of meat. That is not generally true of retail meat cutters today. Most of the stores today receive meat prepackaged in smaller sizes. Years ago the retail market worked with the entire animal. Giving meat a weigh The frontquarter a quarter of the animal weighed pounds. The meat that came from the frontquarter was the chuck steaks and chuck roasts. The rib of beef weighed pounds. The meat that came from this section was standing rib roasts. The loin of beef weighed pounds. The meat that came from this section was sirloin steaks, porterhouse steaks and T-bone steaks. The highest-priced section of the animal is the tenderloin meat, which comes from only three to four pounds of the animal. This type of work meant we had an assortment of knives. It was important to learn to use them properly. But it was also vital to learn to take care of them. Some of my coworkers neglected their knives, and their neglect showed up in their workmanship. There were times when their neglect of their equipment affected their production. The cuts of meat were not smoothly and evenly cut. Our business had an important rule: Some of the workers took such good care of their knives they knew immediately if someone had used their knife, if only for a short while. Spiritual lessons What can we learn about helping a friend from the simple physical act of sharpening a knife? I have chosen three points for this comparison: A responsible person, like a good knife sharpener, will take great care in helping his friends stay on the cutting edge. Do we have a strong desire to help people stay on the cutting edge of the Kingdom of God? Jesus said our words reflect our heart Matthew If we want our words to edify other people, our heart must be right. As each knife is different, so each person is different. When we sharpen a knife, what is its condition? What is the quality of steel in the knife? What type of stone should we use: We will want to remove only as little metal as necessary. In 1 Corinthians 9: We have different heredities, different past environments and different present environments. We are all different personalities with different strengths and weaknesses. When sharpening a knife we must hold it at the proper angle. In sharpening a friend we must take the proper approach. The cutting edge of a knife is usually maintained with a special tool called a steel. Gentler steeling The steel, which is magnetized, is drawn back and forth over the edge of the knife to create a fine, sharp edge. People sometimes used a powerful magnifying glass to see when the edge was still a little too rough. At that point it needed gentler steeling. Good memories Paul wrote about the importance of choosing the right words: In our lives it is not necessarily what type of job we did that we remember. Rather, we call on the good memories from the associations and relationships of the people we worked with. God is in the people business. He is interested in every one of us.