

WITH THE BODY: Iron Sharpeneth Iron

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

What does this text mean? How do we apply it?

1. Remember your sharpeners!

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; **2 Timothy 1:4** Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; **2 Timothy 1:5** When I call to remembrance **the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.**

Acts 9:17 And **Ananias** went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. **Acts 9:18** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. **Acts 9:19** And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. **Acts 9:20** And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 9:25 Then **the disciples** took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

Acts 9:26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: **but** they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. **Acts 9:27** But **Barnabas** took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. **Acts 9:28** And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

For Timothy: Paul, grandmother Lois, mother Eunice

For Paul: Ananias, Barnabas, unnamed group of disciples

Thoughts:

- You **didn't** get here alone
- **If you are here, others helped you get here!**
- Others helped in specific ways
- Others helped at specific times

Who? What? When? How? Where?

2. Become a sharpener!

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Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: **who went about doing good**, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

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| Be positive | Stop being negative / neutral | Smile |
| Make a small, mental shift | Lean in | Do good |
| Point to good | Find good or become a good-finder | Encourage toward good |
| Enable good | Walk with them toward good | F inance good |
| Get your hands dirty | Give of your time & money | |

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3. (Find &/) **Maintain** your sharpeners!

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Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, **It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.** **Genesis 2:19** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. **Genesis 2:20** And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; **but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.**

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, **and exhorting** them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. **Acts 14:23** And when they had **ordained** them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they **commended** them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Thoughts:

- Life changes
- Needs don't~

- **Sharpeners must change also!**

I've lost two~ the last few years

- **Someone has to maintain that relationship!**
- **Be the one**

I personally have several cycles....

4. **Avoid** the non-sharpeners!

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; And with a furious man thou shalt not go: **Proverbs 22:25 Lest** thou learn his ways, And get a snare to thy soul.

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle **not** to company with fornicators: **1 Corinthians 5:10 Yet not altogether** with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; **for** then must ye needs go out of the world. **1 Corinthians 5:11 But now** I have written unto you **not** to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; **with such an one no not to eat.**

He / she / they are **not** good for me!

Final thoughts:

- No negative / destructive relationships
- No neutral relationships **either** (contacts – yes)
- **Either sharpening or being sharpened or both!!!**