

Tuesday Devotional

September 8th, 2020

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” – Proverbs 27:17

What an amazing picture and illustration of what a Biblical and Godly friendship is supposed to look like. Imagine two pieces of iron being hit together to be formed into something stronger. This is a continual and patient process. It may take a long time, but usually the final result is a much stronger product. This verse is emphasizing the importance of friendships, relationships, and people in our lives who are going to sharpen us, strengthen us, and make us better. However, this verse is not just talking about being a better person or being better at our jobs (although it can mean this). There is much more to this verse than being better or good as a person.

In order to properly understand this, verse we must look at the main theme of the book of Proverbs to understand the context of this verse. The book of Proverbs is filled with many themes, but the main theme can be found back at the beginning in Proverbs 1:7, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge”*. Fear of the Lord is not terror, distrust, or to be scared of the Lord, rather it is to have reverence and awe of God as creator, redeemer, and judge. It is knowing who God is and what He has done for us. Everything else that is emphasized in the book of Proverbs flows from this vital point, including Proverbs 27:17.

The purpose of us being sharpened by one another in relationships and friendships is to strengthen each other spiritually. This may not always be a pleasant experience. This may mean calling one another out for sin, revealing weaknesses to one another, and to keeping each other accountable. However, this also means to carry each other’s burdens, to pray for one another, and to love and care for one another. You need both of these elements of accountability and loving care to be truly sharpening one another. Because this is a spiritual matter, these relationships are vital for our growth as Christians. So, who is sharpening you? What relationships do you have that are helping you grow spiritually? What friendships do you have that are encouraging you to gain true knowledge by fearing the LORD?

For Further Study: 1 Samuel 18:1-5; Galatians 6:1-5; James 5:12; 2 Peter 2:18