

FINDING YOUR TRIBE

Day Four: Iron Sharpens Iron

Theme Scripture: “*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*” – Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

There’s an old saying that goes, “*Show me your friends, and I’ll show you your future.*” The people we spend the most time with will either build us up or wear us down. That’s why it’s so important to know who your people are—and to make sure they’re people who sharpen, not dull, your faith.

Have you ever tried to cut something with a dull knife? It’s not just frustrating—it’s dangerous. You end up pressing harder, working longer, and still making a mess. The same is true in our spiritual lives. When you surround yourself with people who are dull in their faith, their words, or their attitudes, you’ll find yourself drained and struggling to stay sharp.

But when you surround yourself with *iron friends*—those who love the Lord, speak truth in love, and call you higher—you begin to grow stronger. These are the friends who won’t let you settle for mediocrity. They challenge your excuses, pray over your problems, and remind you of God’s promises.

We need people who will tell us, “Hey, I think you’re better than that.” Friends who don’t just agree with our emotions but point us back to Scripture. Iron sharpening iron isn’t always comfortable, but it’s

always productive. Sparks fly when metal hits metal—but those sparks are what make both pieces sharper.

Think about Jesus and His disciples. They didn't always see eye to eye, and they didn't always get along. But they grew together, challenged one another, and ultimately changed the world together. That's what happens when you surround yourself with people who sharpen you instead of dull you.

So today, take inventory. Who are your “iron” people? Who in your circle pushes you closer to God rather than pulling you away? Who speaks life when you're ready to quit? And—just as important—are you being that kind of person for someone else?

Sometimes God will use your relationships to refine you, just like iron in the fire. It might not feel good in the moment, but He's shaping you into something stronger, wiser, and more resilient.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the people who make me better. Help me to recognize the ones who sharpen my spirit and encourage me to grow. Teach me to be that same kind of friend—one who lifts others up and points them toward You. In Jesus Name We Pray Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. Who in your life challenges you to grow spiritually?
2. Are there relationships that drain you instead of sharpening you?

3. How can you be an “iron friend” to someone else this week?