

# SHARPEN YOUR SAW

*Since a dull ax requires great strength, sharpen the blade.  
That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed.*

*Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NLT)*

Pastor Bryan Hudson, D.Min



**Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NJKV)**, *If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom produces success."*

**(NLT)**, *Since a dull ax requires great strength, sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed.*

**(NIV)**, *If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.*



How many of you know that Solomon was not talking about axes and lumberjacks?

He was talking about his life and life in general.



SHARPEN THE SAW

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the saw.

~ Attributed to Abraham Lincoln



## **Symptoms of Lost Edge**

(Charles Simpson)

- Goals without grace
- Stress without relief
- Zeal without balance
- Work without play
- Producing without partaking
- Relationship without reciprocity
- Battles without hope
- Forces without faces
- Need without supply
- Introspection without direction



**Ecclesiastes 10:10**, *If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom produces success.*

**“.....Wisdom produces success.”**



**Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV),** *If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed **but skill will bring success.***

The NIV suggests that “skill” is needed for sharpening or knowing how to use the edge.

Skill comes from learning and developing good practices and habits





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To attain knowledge add things every day. To attain wisdom subtract things every day. —Lao-Tzu

McKeown, Greg . Essentialism (p. 185). Crown.



## From a knife sharpening guide: “**Maintaining Your Edge**”

A properly maintained knife is sharp. A dull knife can be dangerous because you will apply much more pressure than you would with a sharp knife and your hand will be much more likely to slip.

A honing tool will realign the edge and also bring to the surface the carbon molecules that provide most of the cutting action. Frequent honing is essential and will keep your knife cutting like new for months.

Use your honing stool virtually every time you use your knives.



## KEY WORDS

**Ax (Saw)** – The instrument of service; our lifestyle

**Edge** – The cutting edge; the action edge; What we actually do; our gifts and unique contribution to God's purpose

**Wisdom** - Ability to make proper choices and reach proper conclusions and decisions; Shrewdly aware and subtly resourceful; Using the proper means and procedures in attaining an end; Knowing how to restore and maintain your edge.

**Sharpen:** Raising the level of your skill and effectiveness through  
RENEWAL



## Tools to Sharpen

- **Doers of the Word:** because slothfulness produces decay (Eccl. 10:18)
- **Prayer & Worship:** Individual, corporate, John 4:23
- **Simplicity/Declutter Life:** 2 Cor. 11:3
- **Fellowship:** ("Iron sharpens iron") Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 John 2:7
- **Personal Preparation:** 2 Tim. 2:15, 1 Cor. 14:12
- **Accountability:** Heb. 13:7, 17
- **Faith:** 2 Cor. 5:7 ("He who observes the wind shall not sow.." Pr. 11:4)
- **Teaching & Training:** Sermons, Bible Study,
- **Other...**



## 1 Timothy 4:6

*If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. 7 But reject prone and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. 9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.*



## 1 Timothy 4:10

*For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach,[a] because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. 11 These things command and teach. 12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit,[b] in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*



## 1 Timothy 4:14

*Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*