

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys.

“Iron Sharpens Iron”

Why Are Good Friendships Significant?

Proverbs 27:17 NLT

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron, **so a friend sharpens a friend.***

**Heb. a friend sharpens “a friend”... “the face of another.”*

“face” can also refer to the edge of an axe or sword

What Is True Friendship?

- 1. Companion** Gen 2:18 NLT “...**not good** for man **to be alone.**”
- 2. Committed** Prov. 17:17 NLT “A friend is **always loyal**...help in time of need”
- 3. Challenges** Prov. 27:6 NIV “**Wounds from a friend** can be **trusted...**”
- 4. Candid** Prov. 24:26 CEV “Giving **an honest answer** is a sign of true friendship.”
- 5. Costs** Jn 15:13 NLT “...**no greater love**...**to lay down one’s life** for one’s friends.”

**“Nothing but heaven itself
is better than a friend who
is really a friend.”**

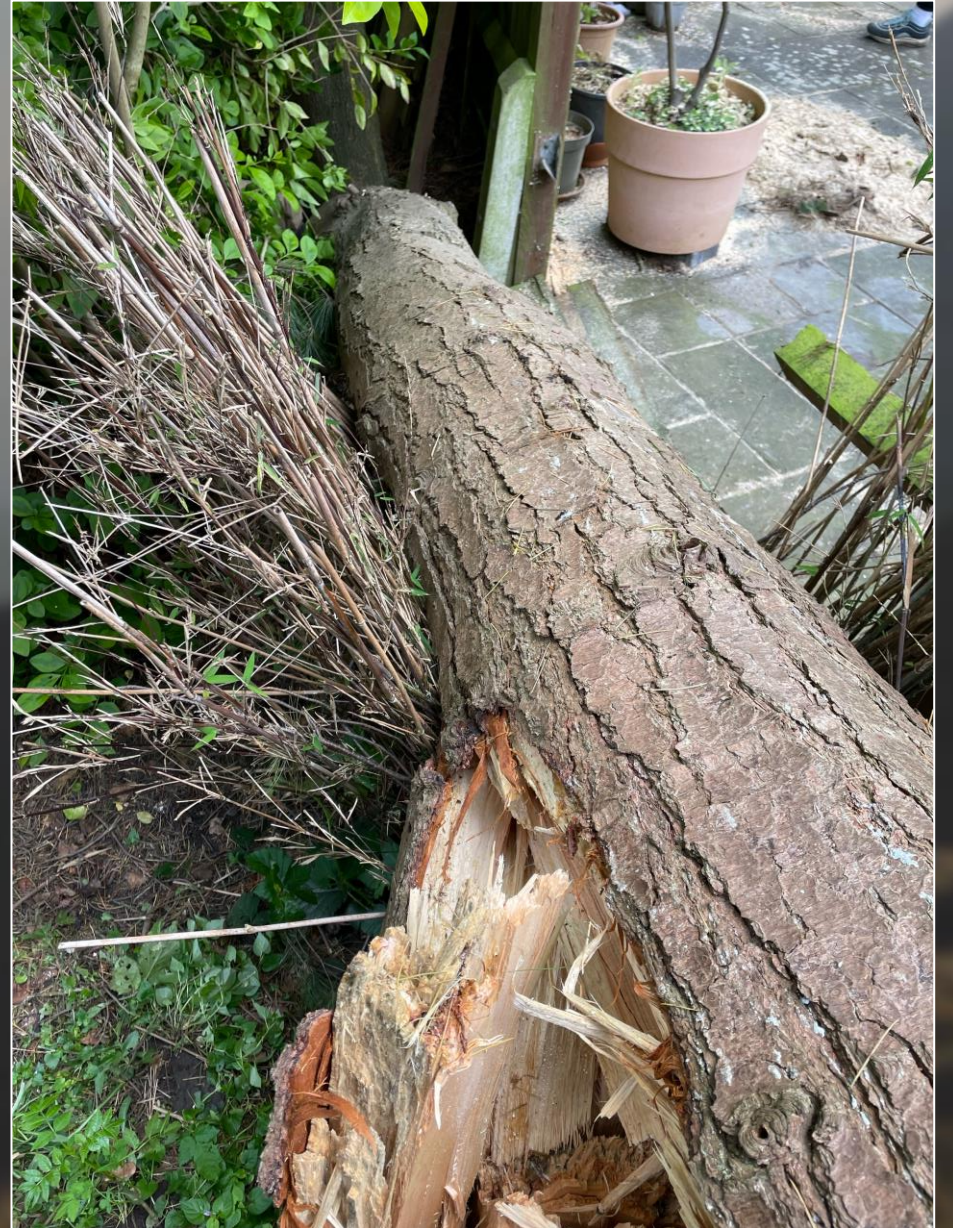
Plautus (*Roman Playwright, 150BC*)

1. What Happens If We Become Blunt?

Ecclesiastes 10:10 NLT

¹⁰ Using a dull axe requires great strength, so sharpen the blade.

- **None stop?**
- **Not noticing?**
- **Not enjoying?**



2. What Does Being Sharpened Look Like?

Hebrews 4:12 NLT

¹² For **the word of God is alive and powerful**. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

- Intentional...
- Mutual...
- Real...

3. What Changes When My Edge Is Back...?

I judge situations better

I become clearer about my direction

I hear God's voice more clearly

I bring value to others

People want my opinion – influence increases!

I handle spiritual challenges decisively

My prayer life gains new power

I don't have to try so hard

I'm more fun to be around... others benefit

4. Key Friendships Unlock Lives...

John 3:1 NLT

¹a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader... a Pharisee.
² **After dark one evening**, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, **“we all know that God has sent you...”**

John 4:7 NLT

⁷ ...a Samaritan woman **came to draw water**, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.”...

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