

**OHIO LAYMEN FELLOWSHIP
CONFERENCE
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"HOW TO HAVE FAITH LIKE IRON"

Proverbs 27:17

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IRON

SHARPENS

IRON

{FAITH SHARPENS FAITH}

▶ **Hebrews 11:1-6 NKJV**

- ▶ *1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*



▶ ***Faith Sharpens Faith***

▶ *Proverbs 27:17*

- ▶ *v. 17 - Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*
- ▶ *(It takes an iron file to sharpen an ax. Likewise, it takes a man with strong courage, holy ambition, and with a strong moral and Spiritual Life, to “Sharpen” or affect the lives of his friends and others.)*



▶ *Proverbs 27:17*

▶ The wise are not “The Lone Rangers” iron was used to sharpen the edge of other iron instruments, making them more effective. In the same way or matter, “One Man” can sharpen “Another”. Productive interaction with others can make people more effective and wise, particularly when includes constructive criticism and mutual encouragement to ward righteousness (*cf. 13:2; 26:6*).



i. **Proverbs 13:2** – “A man shall eat, good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence . He who keeps/guards his mouth preserves his life: but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. *(In the spiritual sense, the “fruit of our mouth” should be the Word of God.)*

ii. **Proverbs 26:6** – “He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off the feet, and drinks damage.

“Solomon names those we should avoid”

a. *(He who transacts business by the hand of a fool is like the one who cuts off his own feet; he renders himself helpless.)*

i. **“The wisdom enterprise is a community effort.”**

ii. *(Longman, Provb.)*

▶ ***Be friendly to every man you meet! We don't know who or whom he met, before he met you!!!***

▶ ***Some maybe "Immature".***

▶ **Ture friendship will occasionally involve some wounds (*v.5-6*) as you speak the truth in love (*Eph. 4:15*) because friendship cannot be built on deception or envy (*v.4*).**

▶ **Friends should encourage each other with loving counsel (*v.9*) and honest praise (*v.2*). But beware of flattery (*v.14*)!**



- ▶ *The way you response to praise will reveal your character, just as a jeweler's furnace reveals the nature of the best in David but the worst in Saul (1 Sam. 18:1-16). What does it do to you?*
- ▶ *What are we saying?*
- ▶ *As you read the history of Saul, you often find him with a spear in his hand. It was his symbol of authority and power, and he did not want you to forget it! David had a harp in his hand or a shepherd's crook or a sling or a sword. Remember; whatever task God has for you, like David, he will make it available to do it, and God will receive the glory!*



► *Friends should be faithful to each other (v. 10; 17:17), but you also need to be loyal to family and neighbors (v.10). You never can tell when you may need them or they may need you! Not everybody will become a close friend, so do not get so exclusive that you neglect other people.*



▶ **TEACHING AND LEARNING:**

- ▶ Good teaching comes from good learning – and Proverbs has more to say to students than to teachers. Proverbs is concerned with the learning of “*Wisdom.*”
- ▶ The book makes it clear that there are no good alternatives to learning wisdom. We are either becoming wise learners or refusing to learn and becoming foolish failures. This book Proverbs: encourages us to make the right choice.

▶ *Wise Learners:*

▶ *Gladly receive instruction*
▶ *And criticism*

▶ *Desire to be taught*

▶ *Listen to others*

▶ *Ask for advice*

▶ *Accept parents discipline*

▶ *Choose whom to listen to*

▶

Proverbs:

10:8; 23:12; 25:12

12:1

12:15; 21:11, 24:6

13:14, 15:7, 25:11

13:1

14:7; 15:7; 17:16

20:5; 29:1

Foolish Failures:

Ignore instruction

Refuse reproof

-Think they need no advice

-Plunge ahead

-Mock parents

-Don't learn from mistakes

▶ *Wise Learners:*

▶ *Receive life*

▶ *Receive honor*

▶ *Profit from constructive -*

▶ **Criticism**

▶ *Find life-long wisdom*

▶

Proverbs:

10:17

13:18

15:31; 32; 29:1

19:20

Foolish Failures:

-Lose opportunities

-Ends in poverty & disgrace

Self- destruction by refusing

: Criticism

Refuse to heed the advice

_of others.

Faith

▶ **Advice to teachers:**

- ▶ **Make your advice refreshing, an encouraging (12:14).**
- ▶ **Make learning a joy; for your learners (15:2; 16:21).**
- ▶ **Give wise advice – The right words, at The right time! (15:23; 18:20).**
- ▶ **Look to God for: Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding; then you will have Discernment!**

