

*If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed (Eccl. 10:10).*

A proverb is a brief, pithy statement meant to convey wisdom. As such, we see that Ecclesiastes 10:10 conveys the wisdom that a dull axe will require considerable more strength than a sharp one. This information is both simple and sound. But, biblical proverbs often have farther reaching implications than their immediate applications. Such is the case here. An individual may also be sharp or blunt. We tend to associate dullness with I.Q. (Intelligence Quotient). However, while there is a connection between succeeding and natural ability, we have known plenty of smart individuals who live very stupid lives. We have all heard the adage: "He not the sharpest knife in the drawer." Therefore, we are persuaded to think of sharp or dull in terms of Eccl. 7:18; "For a man who fears God will succeed..." (NEB).

It is important that we stay sharp. Consider three dynamics for staying sharp:

1. God wants His people to succeed (Deut. 29:9; Jo. 1:8; Eccl. 7:18; 10:10; 3Jn. 2). See that God is involved in one's life.
2. God provides wisdom that His people may succeed (Prov. 1:1-7; Col. 1:9,28; 2:2,3; 3:16). Understand that God's plan is the power to succeed.
3. Stay sharp and work smart (Eccl. 10:10). Respond to God.

Perhaps, you have been sharp, but are now going through a dull period. You can feel your strength being taxed to the point of burnout. God has a way to whet your edge. And, it all begins with the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7). Dullards will suffer. So, stay sharp and work smart.

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