

Sharpen the Blade

Daniel P. Curry, Jr. / General / Article / Camden Avenue / 2-28-24

Ever since a young boy, I carried a pocketknife. It was actually a requirement while at Mountain State Christian School that all young men were to have one. The principle expressed that a pocketknife is an essential tool, and we would gather much use out of it in our lifetime, but only if we had one available.

There are many rules for a young man or boy to take note of in this school: school uniforms, hair length, assignments, and one such rule to never allow your pocketknife to become dull. Have you ever heard that a dull knife is more dangerous than a sharp knife?

“If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success” (Ecclesiastes 10:10 NKJV).

Sharpening the blade is not a task so easily acquired. It was a skill that had been handed down to me by my grandfather. He had taken out his little pocketknife and opened the blade to reveal a blade that appeared to have been sharpened a million times. The years have worn away from the edge, but it is still as sharp as a surgeon’s scalpel. He would place the blade on soapstone and, with precision, glide the blade continually over and over and over again across it. The dull knife is a dangerous knife because it causes the one using the blade to apply more pressure and strength to the cut, which encourages a slip with great force.

As Christians, we are taught to keep the spiritual blade of our hearts honed. A heart sharpened by the word of God is an essential tool that we will gather much use of. It is a heart that has made contact over and over and over again with the word. Ensuring its blade remains sharp and wise. Avoid being like those whom Jesus spoke of who refuse to hear or see because of their dull hearts.

“For the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

A dull knife is a dangerous knife. “Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge...(Jeremiah 10:14).