

Keeping the Ax Strong

A young forestry worker was doing more work than anyone else, and his foreman couldn't believe how quickly the youth was felling trees with his quick pace and sharp ax.

The second day, he was clearly working as fast, but his production decreased, and the third day, it went down even more.

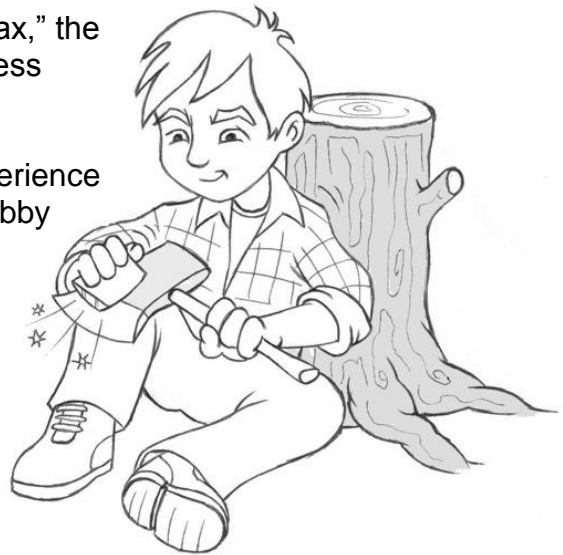
"You're new at this, aren't you, son?" the foreman asked.

"Yes, sir, and I can't figure out why I'm not getting as much done!"

"You've got to take time to stop and sharpen your ax," the wise mentor said, "or you'll just produce less and less every day."

An ax must be sharpened often if its user is to experience maximum impact. Whatever your occupation or hobby or interests, you know that your tools have to be maintained to get the best results.

A knife has to be sharpened frequently, and a gun has to be cleaned regularly. A uniform has to be laundered. A motor has to have oil, and a baseball glove has to be oiled. Computer software has to be updated.



Whatever you're doing, the tools you're using have to be kept in prime condition if you expect to achieve the best results for the task at hand.

The same principle is true in the spiritual realm. When it comes to a vibrant, effective Christian faith, it's also imperative that your "tools" be sharp, always ready for whatever situation you face. If you want your faith to be strong, regularly sharpen the tools that make it possible. Some of those tools are Bible study, prayer, fellowship, serving and worship.

Spend time reading the Bible, participate with a prayer partner or in a small group, find ways to serve others selflessly, which, in reality, is our occupation in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. And never forget the critical role of worship in maintaining a strong faith.

If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen its edge, then one must exert more strength (Ecclesiastes 10:10).

– Beecher Hunter