

Sawing with a Dull Blade

A harried homeowner was having a tough time cutting down a big tree near his house.

A neighbor – more experienced with large cutting jobs – happened by and, after watching the homeowner struggle, quietly pointed out that the saw blade seemed dull.

“Yeah,” the homeowner readily admitted. “I know it needs sharpening in the worst way.” He went right on cutting and struggling.



After a polite pause during which he appeared to be restraining himself, the neighbor said, “So don’t you think you might be better off sharpening it now?”

“Probably, but I just can’t,” the homeowner replied.

“Why’s that?” queried the neighbor.

“Well,” said the homeowner, “I’ve got to cut down this tree first.”

We chuckle at the story, but there are lessons to be gleaned from it:

1. It’s easy to let tradition – or habit – dictate what we mindlessly do. When a new idea or suggestion is floated, all too often this reply is invoked: “But we’ve always done it this way.”
2. A second set of eyes or – in the case of health care – a second opinion can be instructive.
3. Always be alert to opportunities to work smarter instead of harder to get the desired results.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly: He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints (Proverbs 2:6-8 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter