

# 31: THE POWER OF ONE MAN WALKING BESIDE ANOTHER

By John Leavy  
In Brotherhood & Accountability

3 Min read



**“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” — *Proverbs 27:17***

When we lived in Colorado, many people spent their free time climbing the state’s tallest mountain peaks. I never saw that as a sport one should attempt alone. A man walking alone on a trail faces simple, real hazards. If he twists an ankle or gets injured, there’s no one to help. He can take a wrong turn and get lost. The weather can change quickly. He may run out of water or supplies. Wildlife, rough terrain, or slipping on loose ground can become serious problems. And if something goes wrong, there’s no one there to get help.

Why is it that many men don’t see the hazards of living life in isolation? A man reads his Bible, says his prayers, and keeps his struggles locked behind quiet strength. From the outside, he looks steady, but the trail becomes dangerous when a man walks it alone.

Scripture speaks plainly: “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17 does not describe casual friendship. It describes friction. Iron scraping iron produces sparks, noise, and resistance. Yet that pressure creates an edge.

Left alone, small compromises grow quietly. Discouragement lingers longer. Pride hides deeper. But when two men walk the trail together, blind spots surface, courage grows, and truth is spoken before drift becomes distance.

God never designed discipleship to be a solo hike. Strength forms where men walk honestly, challenge one another, and keep each other moving toward Christ—step by steady step along the narrow trail of obedience and daily faithfulness.

## **APPLICATION**

Men talk about brotherhood, but few actually walk it. Many attend church faithfully, shake hands, and exchange polite updates, yet never allow another man close enough to sharpen them.

Brotherhood requires humility. A man must admit that things in his life are not what they seem. It requires honesty, because sharpening only happens when truth replaces image. It also requires openness. Brotherhood fosters accountability. Why do many men shy away from being accountable? Accountability on the trail removes many of the dangers waiting to sabotage the journey.

On the disciple's trail, brotherhood becomes protection. A brother reminds you who you are in Christ when life gets you down. He steadies your steps when anger rises or discouragement sets in. Sometimes, he simply keeps walking beside you until your strength returns.

This is why mature disciples intentionally walk with other men—not as spectators, but as fellow travelers. They share Scripture, speak truth, confess struggles, and pray honestly.

Over time, that steady sharpening forms stronger men. Edges become clearer, character grows deeper, and the trail that once felt lonely becomes a path walked with courage, clarity, and shared endurance forward.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

This week, identify one man you trust enough to walk honestly with. Start simple. Share Scripture, speak truth, and ask real questions. Sharpening begins when pride steps aside, and two men choose the same direction toward Christ, one steady step at a time on the trail.

### ***PRAY THIS...***

***“Father, let men sharpen my life and give me opportunities to sharpen other men as well.”***

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Practice builds the man.***

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