

Countenance – Iron Sharpens Iron

Countenance – refers to a person's face or facial expression, serving as a direct reflection of their inner emotions, character, or spiritual state.

- Our face is like an instrument cluster in the dashboard of your car. Just like the gauges and speedometer lets us know what's happening with the vehicle. Our face reveals what's going on inside of us
- If you're hurt, your face will show the pain, if you're tired your face will show your tiredness. Whatever current mood or emotion you're feeling at that moment your countenance will reveal it
- Your countenance reveals your heart

(Proverbs 27:17 nkjv)

As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

- If sharpening the countenance of your friend is compared to iron sharpening iron
- Then the person who is skillful to sharpen iron must be a blacksmith. A blacksmith is one who works with iron
- Blacksmiths can create armor, nails, tools, knives and everyday hardware by forging the iron or metal and using a hammer to shape it

(Show Blacksmith Picture)

- so if we are supposed to sharpen the countenance of our friend like iron sharpens iron then we need fire and a hammer

(Jeremiah 23:28-29 nkjv)

“The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat?” says the Lord.²⁹ “*Is* not My word like a fire?” says the Lord, “And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces?

- To sharpen the countenance of your friend the word of God needs to be applied
- The bible doesn't say to sharpen the countenance of your enemy or your neighbor but your friend
- The question I want to ask today is, who is your friend?
- A friend is one who loves at all times or is loyal

(Proverbs 17:17 nkjv,nlt)

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity. nkjv

A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need. Nlt

- A friend is someone who you can confide in and one that you are willing to lay your life down for

(John 15:10-15 nlt)

¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

- That's why it's very important to choose your friends wisely. Not everyone is capable to sharpen your countenance
- Choose friends that give good Godly advice and not lead you astray

(Proverbs 12:26 nlt)

The Godly give good advice to their friends;^[a] the wicked lead them astray.

- When sharpening iron there is going to be some friction, the heat is going to be turned up and the hammer is going to break and hit the iron to take shape
- A true friend will rebuke you and tell you the truth even if it wounds you

(Proverbs 27:5-10 nlt)

An open rebuke is better than hidden love! ⁶ Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.⁷ A person who is full refuses honey, but even bitter food tastes sweet to the hungry.⁸ A person who strays from home is like a bird that strays from its nest.⁹ The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.¹⁰ Never abandon a friend—either yours or your father’s. When disaster strikes, you won’t have to ask your brother for assistance. It’s better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away.

- God spoke to Moses face to face like a friend but it wasn’t until after they had some experience together and Moses proved himself to be loyal to God

(Exodus 33:8-11 nlt)

⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up and stand in the entrances of their own tents. They would all watch Moses until he disappeared inside. ⁹ As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover at its entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. ¹⁰ When the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, they would stand and bow down in front of their own tents. ¹¹ Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting.

- It wasn't the first time Moses climb a mountain to meet with God and God speak to him
- But this time was the first time speaking to God on top of the mountain like a friend speaks to a friend
- And when that happen, Gods words sharpen him that his countenance changed that his face was shining the glory of God

(Exodus 34:28-35 nlt)

²⁸ Moses remained there on the mountain with the Lord forty days and forty nights. In all that time he ate no bread and drank no water. And the Lord^[h] wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments^[i]—on the stone tablets.

²⁹ When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant,^[i] he wasn't aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the Lord.³⁰ So when Aaron and the people of Israel saw the radiance of Moses' face, they were afraid to come near him.

³¹ But Moses called out to them and asked Aaron and all the leaders of the community to come over, and he talked with them. ³² Then all the people of Israel approached him, and Moses gave them all the instructions the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses finished speaking with them, he covered his face with a veil. ³⁴ But whenever he went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with the Lord, he would remove the veil until he came out again. Then he would give the people whatever instructions the Lord had given him, ³⁵ and the people of Israel would see the radiant glow of his face. So he would put the veil over his face until he returned to speak with the Lord.

- Moses wore a veil for the remainder of his life whenever he was among the Israelites.
- His face glowed from being in Gods presence so he wore the veil while speaking to the people and only removed it when reentering Gods presence