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IRON SHARPENS IRON

A MACHINIST'S HANDBOOK FOR THE SOUL

by Jarrett Bailey



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Iron Sharpens Iron: A Machinist's Handbook for the Soul

ABOUT THE BOOK

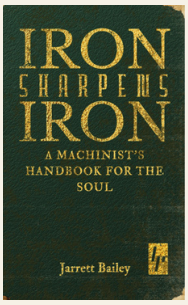
In a machine shop, a few thousandths of an inch is the difference between a part that fits and a part that's scrap. The same care applies to the heart.
Iron Sharpens Iron: A Machinist's Handbook for the Soul is a devotional written from the shop floor. Ernest Bailey ran a small machine shop in rural Louisiana for nearly 40 years, and his son Jarrett grew up in it. Laid out like the grease-stained *Machinery's Handbook* his father kept at the bench, each devotion pairs a real shop lesson with Scripture, alongside practical Shop Tips, Shop Stories, and "Dial It In" reflections that help readers slow down and let God's Word do the work.

This isn't a devotional wearing a machinist costume.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jarrett Bailey is a machinist, husband, and father of two. He grew up in Coushatta, Louisiana, in his dad's machine shop, *Bailey's Machine & Repair*, and worked beside him for about fifteen years until Ernest passed away in 2016. Jarrett earned his Mechanical Engineering degree from Louisiana Tech University in 2018 and now lives in West Monroe, Louisiana. *Iron Sharpens Iron* is his first book, written to honor his father and to speak plainly to men who work with their hands.

AS HEARD ON **The Pursuit of Manliness Podcast**, Episode 699, with host Jarrett Samuels



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SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Your dad's worn *Machinery's Handbook* sparked this book. How did a technical manual end up reminding you of your grandfather's Bible?
2. You worked beside your father for about fifteen years. What did he teach you at the bench that still shapes you as a husband and dad?
3. Walk us through one shop task, like indicating a part or reading a print, and the spiritual truth you see in it.
4. A lot of men who work with their hands feel church language doesn't fit their world. How does this book speak theirs?
5. You've said you never considered yourself a writer. What finally got you to sit down and write?

KEY TALKING POINTS

- **God isn't hidden.** You can find Him wherever you are, even in the shop! (Acts 17:26-27)
- **We are fearfully and wonderfully made!** God, like a true craftsman, took His time making you. YOU! (Psalm 139:14)
- **Your work matters to God.** Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, as if it's for Him! (Colossians 3:23)
- **Our mistakes do NOT define us, they refine us.** A machinist sees the purpose a rough piece of material has before it is polished and perfect. God sees that in you too! (James 1:2-4, Romans 12:2)
- **Iron really does sharpen iron.** Sometimes you need a brother to help align you and lovingly remove material that helps you become the finished product that The Master Craftsman wants you to be! (Proverbs 27:17)