The Right Tool **960930**

If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success. *Ecclesiastes 10:10*

I'll never forget one time when I was helping my Dad up on the roof putting up an antenna. I was the designated tool holder and gopher. Dad was actually on a ladder on the roof and he asked me for the pliers. I checked, and I didn't have the pliers, and told him so. He was slightly miffed at this, and declared that he knew I did have them, and that I should check my pockets. I did a check of each pocket, and once again told him that I did not have what he wanted. He assured me in an even stronger tone that I must have them. I respectfully asked if he had checked his pockets. A few seconds later, he said, 'Oh!'

This makes me think of man's search for the right tool to get his work done. Many times I find that I just can't stand to stop what I am doing and go get the right tool. I would rather bang up my knuckles, gouge out a screw slot, or stab myself with a screwdriver than break concentration. I am not sure that there is any limit to how far we will try to go with the wrong tool in our stubbornness and willfulness. With vice-grips, a small flat blade screwdriver, and some duct tape we think we can fix anything. An even better thing to have would be a tool like a Swiss Army Knife or a multi-purpose plier. My own son Zach has always been very interested in these. We think that if we can just put more features on the tools that we have, then we would not have to go all the way to the garage to get the right one. It is really a matter of control; we want to have power over our lives and circumstances.

We want to be able to repair our own spiritual lives as well. We struggle with our own tools, but all we do is make matters worse. The resultant patchwork holds together only for a little while before it falls apart again. The scripture quoted above does not work in this realm. We need to understand that there is no other tool but Christ which can repair our soul. He is complete enough to be able to handle any job, no matter how bad it is. But it takes more than just our recognition of the right tool; we must "go to the garage" and actually get it and use it. If we don't make use of Christ's power, we will continue to get banged up by life. And our soul will be in disrepair when we meet our God. The right tool is Christ. Let's make sure we use Him.

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