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As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

## Thought for today...

Influence. We all have it, to a greater or lesser degree. One dictionary gives this definition of the word:- Noun: • A power to affect persons or events • Causing something without any direct or apparent effort • The effect of one thing (or person) on another.

TV ads, books, music, friends, family, colleagues, authority figures, testimonials or recommendations; perhaps some of these may have directly or indirectly influenced your thought process or life decisions.

John the Baptist was known to many people and had many followers, but rather than revel in the success of his ministry, recognition or fame, he used his influence to point others to Christ. John said “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am - so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be His slave and carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Matthew 3:11 (New Living Translation).

John knew that 'He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.' John 1:8 (New International Version).



Whether we are conscious of it or not, others are observing our behaviour; listening and watching, ready to take their cue from us. Being mindful of this, we can choose - like John - to point others to Jesus.

The Apostle Paul advises: **“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”** Ephesians 4:29 (New International Version).

During this time of uncertainty, the world is worried and anxious about what is coming next; tempers are easily frayed, selfishness is on the increase and fear has taken hold of many hearts. If then, as followers of Christ our words and actions demonstrate thankfulness, and that instead of fear the peace of Christ rules in our hearts (Colossians 3:15), others will be curious to know the reason for our hope and different behaviour.

God desires to use us to change someone else's destiny, and presents opportunities for us to do so through our words and actions.

Influence. What will you do with yours?...



*CJS - Kingdom Influencer* 