

# Stronger Together - The Christian Life

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Ecclesiastes 4:12b - a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Big Idea: We are stronger together only in God.

A prayer for strength: Ephesians 3:14-19ESV

## 1. We are stronger...

- This strength is an internal strength; strength of mind and heart.
  - This is not a strengthening of the physical body
    - 1 Timothy 4:7-8
  - Paul's prayer for strengthening is for the inner being; the heart and soul and mind and spirit
  - Faith, Love, Knowledge

## 2. We are stronger together...

- This strength is found in community.
  - Every family – all our named by God because he created them. We humans are connected.
    - ***For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named***
  - All the saints – Paul narrows his focus to believers: ***that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints***
  - You/your – ***you be strengthened, your inner being, your hearts***

### 3. We are only stronger together in God.

- Our strength comes from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
  - It is a strength derived from who we are in the Father – named by the Father
    - ***I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened***
  
  - It is a strength derived from who we are in the Spirit – strengthened with power
    - It is the Spirit who applies the riches of God for our empowerment: ***through the Spirit***
    - It is the Spirit that enables Christ to live in our hearts: ***to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts***
  
  - It is a strength derived from who we are in the Son – indwelt through faith
    - ***so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints***
    - The importance and centrality of union with Christ:
      - It is the core of our salvation, for everything involved in the fullness of our salvation flows out of our union with Christ.
        - Every spiritual blessing flows from it: Eph 1:3
        - Salvation flows from it: 2 Tim 2:10
        - Our completeness in grace flows from it: Col. 2:10
        - Everything we need is in Christ and thus comes through union with Him: 1 Cor. 1:30
  
  - It is a strength found in the fullness of God: ***that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***