

III. GIVE THANKS “TO GOD THE FATHER” (5:20c)

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father...” James 1:17a

A. Don’t forget to give thanks to God.

“15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” Hebrews 13:15-16

B. Remember to give thanks like the leper who Jesus healed.

“15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” Luke 17:15-17

IV. GIVE THANKS “IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST” (5:20d)

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” II Cor. 9:15

A. Because of Jesus we can go directly to God.

“19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,” Hebrews 10:19-20

B. Because of Jesus we can have the gift of eternal life.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

LET’S ALL BE STRONGER TOGETHER IN THANKFULNESS

“Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:12

STRONGER TOGETHER

Based On The Book Of Ephesians
Stronger Together In Thankfulness
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A. Health pandemic, Social strife. Political division. Everywhere you look, the world is in trouble and experiencing hard times. The good news is we have the hope that people are searching for, and it’s only found in Jesus. We must tell and show our community that we are stronger together through Jesus!

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” Ephesians 6:10

- B. Drawing from the book of Ephesians the Stronger Together Teaching Series will help you thrive in uncertainty and flourish as one. You will discover how we can be stronger together in a world gripped by chaos. The messages include:

Oct 4	Stronger Together In Jesus
Oct 11	Stronger Together In Reconciliation
Oct 18	Stronger Together In Prayer
Oct 25	Stronger Together In Unity
Nov 1	Stronger Together In Purity
Nov 8	Stronger Together In Humility
Nov 15	Stronger Together In Victory
TODAY	Stronger Together In Thankfulness

C. **TEXT:** Ephesians 5:20

This command is a “hard saying”. It may be the toughest command in the Bible.

“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?” John 6:60

STRONGER TOGETHER IN THANKFULNESS

I. GIVE THANKS “ALWAYS” (5:20a)

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm 34:1

A. We should give thanks in public.

“I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.” Psalm 35:18

B. We should give thanks in private.

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” Daniel 6:10

C. We should give thanks in the morning.

*“1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,”* Psalm 92:1-2

D. We should give thanks at midnight.

“At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, Because of Your righteous judgments.” Psalm 119:62

E. We should give thanks before we eat.

“And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.” John 6:11

F. We should give thanks after we eat.

“When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.” Deuteronomy 8:10

II. GIVE THANKS “FOR ALL THINGS” (5:20b)

“And he said: Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Job 1:21

A. We should give thanks for our blessings:

1. Spiritual Blessings

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

Ephesians 1:3

2. Material Blessings

“So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” I Timothy 4:4

3. Relational Blessings

“do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:” Ephesians 1:16

4. Physical Blessings

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.” Psalm 139:14

B. We should give thanks for our burdens.

1. We should be thankful for our burdens because they are part of God’s plan for our lives.

“in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you..” I Thessalonians 5:18

2. We should be thankful for our burdens because they are part of God’s purpose for our lives.

“28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Romans 8:28-29