
Grow Strong

1+1=1, Part 7: Ephesians 3:14-21

Introduction

Strength is an elusive idea. What looks strong in one situation is not necessarily strong in another.

Human bones have tremendously high compression strength. Put a human bone upright between two plates, and it will not buckle until you have put 15,000 psi of pressure on it. But twist it or bend it in the middle, and only one thousandth of that pressure is required to break a bone in half.

The right kind of strength is required for each situation.

Greek is one of those languages that is poetic by nature. Words have a variety of meanings, depending on their context. Various images can be evoked by the ways words are put together. It is one of the things about Greek that is endlessly fascinating to me.

In Ephesians 3, while speaking about strengthening the church, Paul uses a lot of words that alone are not very graphic, but used together, they evoke the image of a plant.

Strength comes from inner support (v 16-17)

Literally, *grant strength to you*. Paul prays that we will be strengthened by God – not that we might be strong. It is a strength of *total reliance*.

TURGOR PRESSURE KEEPS A PLANT RIGID
by water exerting internal pressure on cell walls. The walls themselves are completely fluid.

Rooted and Established (grounded) in love (v 17)

Rooted = ριζω, and θεμελιόω = foundation. Both are participles.

A ROOT goes deep to ESTABLISH a base for growth. It has no other reason to do it.

*Being 'deep' for its own sake just means
you're in a hole for no reason.*

How Wide? Long? Deep? (vv 18-20)

As wide/long/deep as it NEEDS to be. God simply IS. He doesn't stretch; he just is.

SPACE is wherever matter is. Never outside space.

And That's Beyond Me (v 21)

That's why Jesus gets eternal glory.