

# LIFE IN BALANCE

ECCLESIASTES 4

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1. Failing to see OPPRESSION from an ETERNAL perspective can bring despair. v. 1-3
2. It is better to be POOR and content than WEALTHY and restless. v. 4-6
3. There is FUTILITY in isolation but value in COMMUNITY. v. 7-12  
Two are better than one for:
  - a) A better PROFIT from one's labor. v. 9
  - b) Help in time of DIFFICULTY. v. 10
  - c) COMFORT in time of need. v. 11
  - d) Protection in time of DANGER. v. 12
4. EARTHLY rulers and kingdoms will rise and fall but only one KINGDOM will endure forever. v. 13-16

# FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Jeff shared how he found much encouragement from Ecclesiastes, what has been your experience so far?
2. It is easy to become self-absorbed in life, how has the study of chapter 4 made you think about others? "Not me but we."
3. What are some examples of your daily life that you struggle with keeping in balance?
4. Do you struggle with how to respond to the big issues of poverty, oppression and injustice? Why? What does the Bible teach us of how to respond?
5. In verse 6, the Preacher talks about a handful of quietness vs. two hands full of toil striving after the wind. What does this look like today? What passages provide perspective to find balance and comfort?
6. How do you understand the expression: "two is better than one"?  
What examples of companionship can you give that exemplify this principle?
7. How do you understand the expression: "a cord of three strands is not easily broken?"
8. Do you see our struggle to find perfect balance meaningless and/or elusive? Why or why not.
9. How do we understand God's grace in the vertical sense as we toil in the horizontal?