

BUILDING A STRONG WINNING HAND
Psalm 139:14, Ecclesiastes 7:18
Series: "Building Strong"
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Psalm 139:14 (NLT) "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!"

Three facts that affect our cards we are dealt--- Ecclesiastes 7:18

1. Nothing is perfect except **God's Word** ___, on this planet.
2. God sent Jesus as our **Savior**
3. One day you will give an **account** to God

FIVE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE MY IDENTITY

"Life is like a hand of poker. You have to play the cards you're dealt."

1. My ______. (No **flaw** is sinful or shameful)
2 Cor. 12:7, Galatians 4:13
2. My _____ (You are a product of your **relationships**)
Matt. 22:39, Rom. 3:23
3. My _____ (You are a product of the **circumstances** in your life)
4. My _____ (**Feelings** aren't facts)
Proverbs 23:7, Proverbs 4:23, Job 3:25
5. My _____. (You have a free moral **choice**) ***Wild Card**

FIVE WINNING CHOICES

1. I can choose to get _____
Psalm 119:73 (LB) "You made my body, Lord; now give me sense to heed your laws."
2. I can choose to deepen _____
(The fear of **rejection** prevents connection) *Love
1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out all fear."
1 Cor. 14:1a (NLT) "Let love be your highest goal."
Eph. 3:17 (NCV) "I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love."
1 John 4:18 (NIV) "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."
3. I can choose to _____ **God no matter what happens**
(I'm a **product** of my past but I'm not a **prisoner** of it)
Rom. 8:27-29 (MSG) "God knows us far better than we know ourselves... That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him."
Psalm 34:1 (LB) "I will praise the Lord no matter what happens."
4. I can choose what I _____ **about**
Rom. 12:2 (NLT) "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."
Philippians 4:8 "Dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."
5. I can choose Jesus as my _____.
2 Cor. 5:17 (LB) "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!"