

Fruit of the Spirit

Week 6: Goodness: Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

Ray Anderson ---- July 16, 2023

Well, today I want to start out a little bit differently. Could you just take a deep breath? How about another one? I want you to relax for a little bit. You made it. You got here. I think the Lord has something for us this morning, so thanks for coming. Take another breath. Relax.

My spiritual gift in service to this church is in the area of leadership and shepherding. I am able to teach, but that's not my gift. But today you need me to be a teacher and I will trust the Lord to do that. But I also want to temper your expectations that I'm going to wow you with some great revelation from Scripture. Give me a break—I'm a shepherd! So, let's just be sheep together. And let's try to catch a glimpse of our Good Shepherd. And then, once we get a glimpse of Him, fix our eyes upon Him. For He is our Good Shepherd.

Let's pretend that after moving across the landscape of your week He has brought you here to a green, lush hillside. He wants to give you some water to drink. He wants to restore us. He knows it's been a hard week. He knows that maybe there's been conflict this week; that maybe things have been said or done that weren't so pretty. He knows that your heart and your mind might be wrestling with disappointment, hurt, or loss. I don't know what's dominated your thoughts this week, but the Good Shepherd does. He sees you. He hears you.

So, for a little bit of time, let's surrender our anxiousness, our busyness, our hurriedness, our desire for control, or those things that tend to drive us in the course of our week. And let's just rest. Take a deep breath while I pray.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, the flock of the people of Grace are seated before you. Would you teach us today to live in Your presence? Holy Spirit, You are welcome here. Come and fill us. Spirit, speak to our spirit. Teach us today how to walk with You.

And God's sheep said, Amen. (Or baaaaa would be fine.)

I'm a sheep. I'm in the flock of the Good Shepherd. Certainly, I'm an old sheep, if nothing else. I've been at this for a long time. I've asked the Good Shepherd to let me speak to you today about following as a sheep as we seek to follow the Good Shepherd.

Galatians 5:22-23a

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control.

Since the end of May we have been talking to you about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. For the last five weeks we've been talking particularly about the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

The fruit of the Spirit is the result of God's Spirit forming in us the character of God and then expressing that character out from us. We've been describing the biblical characteristics of love and joy and peace and patience and kindness thus far. Today I'll talk about goodness.

The Fruit of the Spirit Is the Result of Walking in the Spirit

Well, since we're at the halfway mark of the fruit of the Spirit, I wanted to clarify something for you and make it very, very clear. We do not want you to seek the fruit of the Spirit. We don't want you to seek the fruit of the Spirit. We're not telling you to work it up through self-effort to be more loving or to be more joyful, or to be peaceful or more patient, or tips for being kind to others. Don't seek the fruit by trying harder. That's simply self-effort.

The fruit of the Spirit is the result of something else that we do. And we want you to do that, not seek the fruit. We want you to walk in the Spirit. If you and I could achieve the fruit of the Spirit through self-effort, without the help of the Holy Spirit, it would be called the fruit of us, not the fruit of the Spirit.

So, before I talk about goodness today, I thought it would be helpful for us to put the fruit of the Spirit back in the overall context of Galatians chapter 5.

Now before we look at the overall passage, let me remind you what the role of the Holy Spirit is in the life of a believer. When I trusted Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, the Holy

Spirit is the one who came and took up residence in me. He testified to my spirit from that point on that I'm a child of God. It's the Holy Spirit that helps me to understand and apply Scripture in my life. It's the Holy Spirit that gives me a spiritual gift or gifts so that I can use them to build up Jesus' church. When I'm daily dependent on the Holy Spirit, He produces in me the character of God. Those characteristics are called the fruit of the Spirit. I don't have to seek the fruit; I have to live by the power. The Holy Spirit gives me the power to live the Christian life. When I'm dependent upon Him, He's giving me an alternative to living my life through self-effort. That's the alternative.

But He gives me another alternative, and that's to walk with Him.

After Easter, Matt preached through the Upper Room discourse. In that series Matt described Jesus talking about the impact of us abiding in Christ. And so, Jesus said, "I'm the vine, you're the branches." When the branches maintain a right connection to the vine, it produces fruit. So, the more it abides, the more fruit it produces. Do you remember that?

In Galatians 5 Paul is using a different metaphor, but he's describing the same relationship that produces fruit in the life of a believer. Jesus says to stay connected to Him in relationship and fruit will come. Paul is saying stay connected to the Holy Spirit and fruit will come. You and I have one job: to stay connected!

And in this case in Galatians 5, Paul is describing that as "walking in the Spirit."

Now let's look back at Galatians 5, starting in verse 16. And again, look for this metaphor that Paul's using of walking in the Spirit and staying connected to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The deeds of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, first of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other.

Verse 16: “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. And if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The deeds of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies”—and if that’s not clear enough, it’s things like that. “I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other.”

So, Paul here is saying that we are to walk by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, live by the Spirit, and keep in step with the Spirit. We can’t walk with Him or be led by Him or live with

Him or be in step with Him if we're not oriented in the same direction as the Spirit. **Walking in the Spirit is about orientation, not about effort.** It's about how you're oriented in your life.

Walking by the Spirit Is About Our Orientation, Not Effort

When I go for a walk with Diana, we start off in the same direction. If I choose to turn and go in a different direction, we're both still walking, but we're not walking together.

When my dog was a puppy, I had to train him how to walk with me. Because he wanted to follow all the different smells in every different direction. I worked with him to help him learn that us walking together was a lot easier and more fun than resisting me and going in other directions that he would choose. We covered more ground. We had a fuller experience when we were orienting ourselves in the same direction.

So, I want to illustrate to you this whole idea of walking in the Spirit. So, over here we'll have the Spirit. [*Puts up a sign that says "Spirit" on an easel to his right.*] When I'm oriented toward the Spirit, I'm letting the Spirit give me the power to live the Christian life. I'm letting Him control the thoughts of my mind, the intentions of my heart, and He's working in me so I can please Him and bring Him glory. It is me, in a sense, looking at Him and letting Him direct my steps. He's leading me as we walk together. When I'm oriented with Him, He is building in me to become like Christ in all of life, and He's producing in me the fruit of the Spirit.

Now in opposition to that, in contrast to that, the other option is to walk toward the flesh, or self-effort. [*Puts up a sign that says "Flesh" on an easel to his left, but the sign has trouble staying on the easel at first.*] (The flesh wants to get in control here.) When I'm oriented toward the flesh, this is my nature unchecked by the Holy Spirit. My will is ruling my life. I am oriented toward fulfilling the desires of the flesh. Unrestrained by the Holy Spirit, I will manipulate other people to get what I want and I will seek to put my needs above other people's needs. That's walking in the flesh.

I can live the Christian life—I can be a Christian, but orient myself toward the flesh. That is very possible. Paul is describing it here—what happens when the Christian is oriented toward the flesh. And that point when I am oriented this way as a believer, it is as if God does not exist in my world. It's about my self-effort. I'm a practical atheist. I am living my life on my own power, going after what I desire.

Now I may be a good Christian and say, “God, will you bless my plans?” But I’m still oriented in the wrong way.



It’s helpful here, I think, to distinguish between walking in the Spirit, walking with the Spirit, and spiritual maturity. This diagram illustrates spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is about a progression. In that progression, more and more, I’m mature in Christ, and the nature of Christ is cultivated into my life. I’m more and more like Christ in all of my life. It’s that progression. In Galatians 5, Paul isn’t talking about progression; he’s talking about orientation.

Here’s what can happen. I can be mature in my walk with Christ, walking up those stairs, that progression. But I change my orientation toward the flesh and at that point—I’m a believer, I’m mature in Christ—but I’m no longer spiritually minded. I’m fleshly minded.

On the other hand, someone could be lower in that step—a brand new Christian, let’s say. And they’ve turned from the sin that were experiencing and doing in their life. They’ve turned toward Christ and trusted Him as Savior. At this point they’re oriented toward the Spirit. They’ve become spiritually minded. This young believer oriented in that direction [*points toward the SPIRIT sign*] is more spiritually minded than a mature believer who’s oriented in that

direction [*points toward the FLESH sign*]. There's a difference in maturity. It's about orientation here, though. It's walking in the Spirit.

So, we need to be careful as mature believers, as we mature in Christ, that we don't let our maturity become a substitute for our orientation of walking in the Spirit. Get that distinction?

So, here's what's going on.

In this direction [*points toward SPIRIT sign*] I'm spiritually minded; in this direction I'm fleshly minded [*points toward FLESH sign*].

In this direction [*points toward SPIRIT sign*] I'm fulfilling the desires of the Spirit; in this direction [*points toward FLESH sign*] I'm fulfilling the desires of the flesh.

In this direction [*points toward the SPIRIT sign*] I'm experiencing the fruit of the Spirit; in this direction [*points toward the FLESH sign*] I'm experiencing the deeds of the flesh.

It's about orientation. Orientation also determines dependence.

In this way [*points toward SPIRIT sign*] I'm dependent upon the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life in and through me; and in this way [*points toward the FLESH sign*] I've rejected the Spirit's help and I'm embracing and using self-will or self-effort to live life on a daily basis.

So, you and I have one job. It's to orient ourselves toward the Spirit. That's what Paul calls "walking in the Spirit." So, don't seek the fruit; seek to walk by the Spirit.

Paul, earlier in this Book of Galatians, if we look at it, has rebuked the Galatian believers. And he says this about them. It's like, *You started off so well, oriented toward the Spirit. Who has bewitched you? Who is deceiving you that now you're trying to accomplish the Christian life through self-effort?*

They're believers, but they've changed their orientation. This is what being oriented as a believer toward the flesh begins to look like. What we try to do is resist the temptations of the flesh or try to suppress them through self-effort, through our will.

I'm going to have willpower. So, I'm not going to click that button on that website. I'm going to restrain myself from doing that. And then I do it.

I'm not going to get angry with my wife or my children and let that stuff come out of me. I'm going to count to ten, I'm going to walk away, I'm going to do all sorts of things as self-restraint to keep me from doing that.

That's self-effort. It's not going to accomplish what God wants to do.

The other danger of this is that when we're trying to live the Christian life through self-effort and it's working for us, it becomes self-righteousness. Right? Because what it is, is that *I'm doing good, I'm keeping away from evil*. And we think we're strong or that we have the willpower to do this. And it's simply self-righteousness. And that self-righteousness we turn on other people and begin to judge them and evaluate them. And we think, "God, look at how good I'm doing and at the good I'm doing for You"—all by self-effort. Self-effort is never God's methodology for us to live life by.

Another form of self-effort is this. I can keep myself from going in that direction but I never change my orientation. That's self-restraint. We can keep ourselves oriented in this way and try to move away from sin. We're trying to keep ourselves separated from it, all still through self-effort, because I'm oriented in that direction. This is not walking in the Spirit. He didn't say to walk backwards with the Spirit. He said to walk with the Spirit.

Now this would look really cool if I could do the moonwalk, and you'd be very impressed. But I've never been able to do that.

So, staying in this direction is self-effort, as opposed to orienting ourselves toward God.

But when we're walking with the Spirit and we're oriented in this direction [*points toward the SPIRIT sign*], He begins to help us become partakers of His divine nature of love, joy, peace, and those kinds of things.

How Do I Stay Oriented Toward the Spirit?

Well, our daily temptation is to try to live the Christian life through self-effort as opposed to walking with the Spirit.

What happens in the course of my life whenever I'm trying to walk with the Spirit and I'm oriented in that, I start the morning with, "Lord, You're my God, You're my Savior. I orient myself towards You. Holy Spirit, help me to walk through this day with Your power."

But in the course of that day, something happens. Let's say I'm driving along and someone—let's say they're not walking in the Spirit, okay? They cut me off in traffic and almost cause an accident. And I begin to hyperventilate, and in that, what begins to happen to me is I'm angry and I change my orientation. And in this orientation thoughts come to my head about what I think about that guy. And words come to my mouth and I might even express them. And my

hand moves into a non-friendly gesture. Right? So, I was doing fine until I found myself in a situation and I turned away from the Spirit and oriented toward the desires of the flesh, and I want to express my anger.

So, what needs to happen? What needs to happen is that I have to stop. I have to acknowledge that I changed direction, and then turn back toward the Spirit and say, “Holy Spirit, I need You to fill me with Your power. Help me deal with this situation I’m in.”

It’s called spiritual breathing. We’re walking along, we’re doing fine, but something causes us to turn, and we begin to go in this direction, and I can stop it quickly and turn back around and get myself on track. Make sense?

Galatians 5:19-21

The deeds of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealous, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

But here’s the problem. Sometimes we stay oriented in this direction [*points toward FLESH sign*] for so long that it becomes more of a rooted pattern in our life. And when we do that, we are cultivating in us the deeds of the flesh. Look at Galatians 5 again. “The deeds of the flesh are obvious.” I’ll come back to the obvious in a moment. “Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like.”

Look, that list is not exhaustive. He says “and things like these.” Now I don’t know what it looks like for you when you are oriented towards the deeds of the flesh, of the frustration that builds, or maybe the anger that builds, or the selfish desires you have. But here’s what’s going on. If you did a word study on those deeds of the flesh (and I’ve done that), some of these—about half of them—are about internal corruption. Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, selfish ambition, drunkenness, that sort of thing. Think of it this way. We catch a virus. The virus makes our body sick. We start having these symptoms that reflect that we have a virus in us. It’s something going on inside of me.

But that's not all the deeds of the flesh. The other part of the deeds of the flesh are how that sickness starts coming out of me and affects my relationships. It's external corruption. My relationships get characterized by the anger that comes out of me. It may produce fear in other people. It's creating conflict or strife or hatred or factions and discord. My anger comes out of me like a volcano erupting. And it affects my family and my friends and other people, my co-workers.

Now as a mature believer—remember maturity—it may be that that's far more subtle than overt in your life now. So, you don't have outbursts of anger any more. But you're figuring out a way to get even. You're undercutting another person in order to tear them down. You're trying to figure out how to manipulate them or even spiritually manipulate them to get them to do what you want. It's our attempt to try and control others through manipulation.

When I see those things coming out of me, it helps me to see I'm oriented toward the flesh and I need to change that orientation. What needs to happen is I need to stop. I need to repent. Repent simply means "turn around, change direction." I need to remind myself that Jesus died for me for all of my sins so I would have the freedom to choose a better way. And when I repent and turn around, I bring myself back in submission to walk with the Spirit of God so He can do things in my life and orient me and let me walk with Him from then on.

See, the Christian life, becoming like Christ in all of life, is not easy. We live in a fallen world and we're so easily tempted to try to live the Christian life through self-effort, suppressing those fleshly desires but staying oriented towards them. And so, what happens is we begin to walk in that direction, and we're more and more like this instead of more and more like that.

So, let's stop here for a minute. We have the Spirit and we have the flesh. Those are our options for our orientation.

So, here's the question. In the last week, which direction did you spend most of your time oriented toward? Was it toward the Spirit? Then thank the Lord that He used the Spirit in your life to guide you through the course of your week to help you deal with the various situations that came up, but you kept walking with Him.

But who was in this orientation? [*Points toward the FLESH sign.*] It's time to turn around. It's time to set this aside. Is fulfilling the desires of your flesh really how you want to live your life, how you want to orient your life? If not, you can repent and turn around and tell the Holy Spirit, "I don't want to keep fulfilling the desires of the flesh. I surrender. I give up."

Would You fill me with Your Spirit? Would You help me to know the forgiveness and grace I have in Jesus? And now help me, Holy Spirit, to orient my day towards You.”

See, you and I will never become strong enough in self-will or through self-effort to produce a good person. We can't do it. We'll never have enough power to do that. It will always lead us toward corruption, internally or externally.

So, here's the deal. Years ago, as an old sheep here, when I first started learning how to walk in the Spirit, this became almost a moment-by-moment thing at first. Or then it became at various points in the day that I would just stop and say, “Ray, are you oriented toward the Spirit or toward the flesh? I want to be oriented toward the Spirit, so that's what I'm going to do, and stay in that direction.”

As I practiced that in my daily life, what began to happen was my spirit became sensitive to when I started to do this [*points toward FLESH sign*]. And when that happened, I could quickly reject that direction and reorient myself to the Spirit. It's called spiritual breathing. It's just exhaling the bad and inhaling the good, moving forward.

But if you have been giving yourself for a long time to this orientation [*points toward FLESH sign*], to fulfilling the desires of the flesh and expecting other people to live with you because that's just how you are, God wants you to repent. He wants you to reject that. He wants you to turn and accept His forgiveness for how you've been living, but move in this direction [*points toward the SPIRIT sign*].

Now if that's been habitual in your life, you may need some help. You may need to get around a small group of people who are going to keep you walking in this direction, oriented toward the Spirit. Friends close enough to you when they say, “You know what? It's that junk coming out of your life now. You've reoriented. Time to change back.” We need people like that. Sometimes we've given ourselves to this for so long we need to get counseling, we need to get in Celebrate Recovery to put us in a place that will give us skills to break that cycle of sin. We need a care minister—Robin will tell about that a little bit later—to come alongside of us in those moments when we're tempted to go like this.

For me now, when I wake up in the morning, the first thing I do before I get out of bed is I start praying. And I say, “Holy Spirit, I need You to fill me with the Spirit. Guide me in the course of this day.” The best pathway I have for this day is through walking with the Spirit. And so, I orient myself first thing in the morning toward that.

So, you and I have one job: to stay connected. And in this case, staying connected means to orient ourselves toward the Spirit, and then walk through our daily life with the Holy Spirit, letting Him lead us; living by the Spirit, being in step with the Spirit. That's what Paul is asking us to do in Galatians 5.

Galatians 5:22-23a

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.

Now with that context in mind, let's go back to the fruit of the Spirit. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." The fruit of the Spirit is a byproduct of walking in the Spirit. While we are walking in the same direction He is forming in me the character of God. The character of God looks like love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness—those traits.

Look what God is doing. When I'm walking in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is sowing into me the characteristic of God called love. And then what comes out of me is love. He is sowing into me joy. And then what comes out of me is joy. He's sowing in peace, and so on, until we get to today's fruit called goodness.

Luke 6:43-45

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the out speaks what the heart is full of.

Goodness is simply defined as this: choosing what is good and right over what is bad and evil. This is what Jesus says in Luke 6: "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an

evil man brings out evil in his life through the evil that is stored in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

In regards to goodness, the nature of God is goodness. Therefore everything He does is an overflow and expression of that nature. God does good because God is good. As a believer, when goodness is resident in my life, it expresses itself towards others. I have a zeal to do good.

Our good deeds are an expression of love to others by doing then good, using our resources to relieve their need and seeking their welfare in every possible way.

---- Easton’s Bible Dictionary

Goodness is expressed through good deeds and good works and doing good toward other people. *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* describes good deeds as “an expression of love to others by doing them good, using our resources to relieve their need and seeking their welfare in every possible way.”

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Now most of us are familiar with Ephesians 2:8-9 where Paul says that salvation is by grace through faith, not as a result of good works. But verse 10 says this: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Good works don’t bring us to salvation, but as we’re saved and the Holy Spirit takes residence in us, we’re His good workmanship. We have the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, the character of God is sown into our life and it begins to come out. He’s created us for good works and He’s prepared them in advance for us to do.

So, here’s what is going on. As I’m walking with the Spirit, the Spirit of God is cultivating in me this characteristic called goodness. He has also prepared for me ahead of time

good works that I get to do. So, He's prepared me for those good works; He's prepared the good opportunities for me to do a good work, so that when I come in contact with that, goodness comes out of me and I meet the need of the moment. I do good because God's prepared that, and He's also prepared me to be good.

You and I have one job. It's to walk in the Spirit so that He can prepare us for that.

“A good man brings good things out of the goodness stored up in his heart.”

So, for you and I, as people of Grace, let us do our one job. Let us walk in orientation and let us walk daily and moment by moment, resisting the urge to turn away, and walk daily in the Spirit. And as long as we stay fixed on that, we will not carry out the deeds of the flesh. It won't be characteristic of us. They won't be characteristic of our relationship.

So, let's do our one job this week—to stay oriented toward the Spirit, to walk with Him.

Unfortunately, we've come to the time when we have to say that our time sitting on a green hillside and drinking cool water comes to an end. But you don't have to pick up the anxious thoughts that you came in here with, or the busyness or the harried-ness or the anger. Just leave it here. We'll clean it up and throw it away for you. But you do have to make a choice. And that choice for you this week is to stay oriented toward the Spirit; to walk with Him through whatever you experience this week. Let Him be your guide. Let Him lead you, and He will lead you through the situations that you face this week. And whenever you see yourself wanting to turn away from that, turn right back around. Repent and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit and reorient yourself that way. And when we're doing that and His power is working in us, He will help us discover the good works, the good deeds, that He has prepared for us to do in advance. And we will be prepared to do those good works. That's goodness.

Let's pray.

Good Shepherd, thank You for letting us lie down in green pastures this morning. Thank You for giving us, hopefully, a drink of cool water. Thank You for asking us, our Good Shepherd, to not try harder, to do more. You're simply asking us to stay connected to You.

Holy Spirit, You are asking us to not grieve You, but to walk with You this week; to let You lead us so that You can sow in us good fruit, and then express it outwardly toward others. We look forward to discovering the good works that You've prepared beforehand for us. May we

use our spiritual gifts to serve You and this church. May we use our daily walk to bring You glory. Help us to stay oriented towards You. In Jesus' name. Baaaa.