

PARADOX

The Spirit, Faith, and Christian Life



PRAYER

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

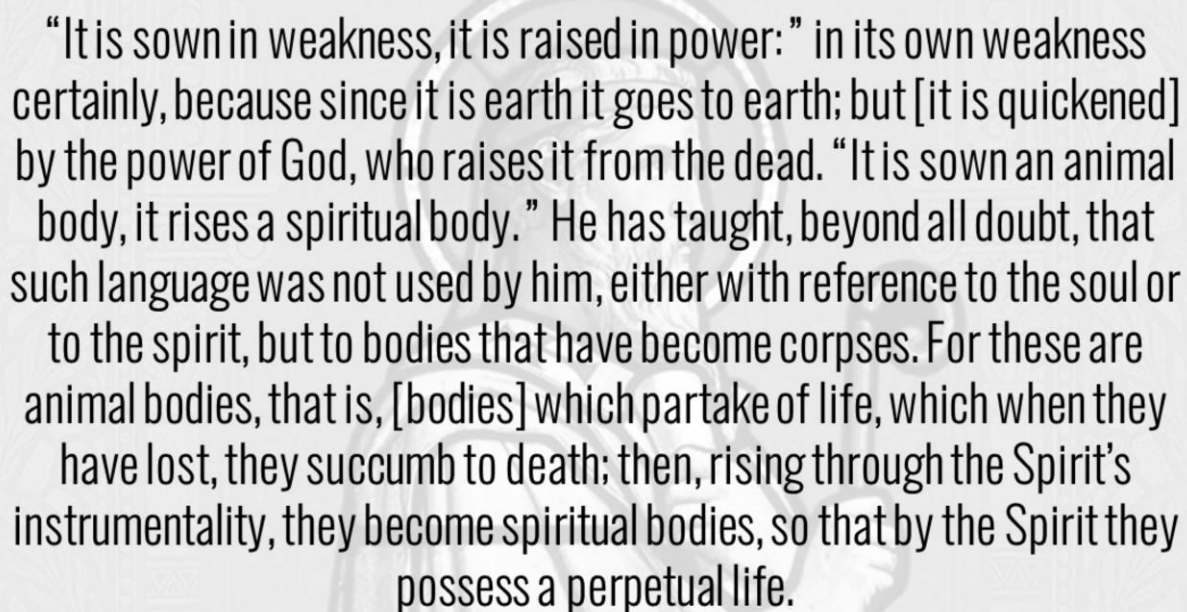
Collect for the Day of Pentecost





Irenaeus of Lyons

- Disciple of St. Polycarp; spiritual grandson of St. John the Apostle
- Originally from Smyrna (present-day Turkey)
- Became bishop of Lyons in Gaul (present-day France)
- Author of *Against Heresies*, one of the oldest theological works outside of Scripture and



“It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power:” in its own weakness certainly, because since it is earth it goes to earth; but [it is quickened] by the power of God, who raises it from the dead. “It is sown an animal body, it rises a spiritual body.” He has taught, beyond all doubt, that such language was not used by him, either with reference to the soul or to the spirit, but to bodies that have become corpses. For these are animal bodies, that is, [bodies] which partake of life, which when they have lost, they succumb to death; then, rising through the Spirit’s instrumentality, they become spiritual bodies, so that by the Spirit they possess a perpetual life.

From Against Heresies

Session 3: Bible

Bones | Ezekiel 37:1–14 (p. 860–861)

Promise | John 14:1–31 (p. 1070–1071)

Pentecost | Acts 2:1–41 (p. 1081–1082)

Law | Exodus 20:1–21 (p. 72)

Fruit | Galatians 5:16–26 (p. 1157–1158)



Session 3: Catechism

Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms

p. 31–38, 43, 133–208, 219–230

Didache

p. 15–18, 27–30



Session 3: Hymnal

Sermon | LSB 158

Hymn of the Day | LSB 158, 331–966



THE APOSTLES' CREED

Third Article



I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.



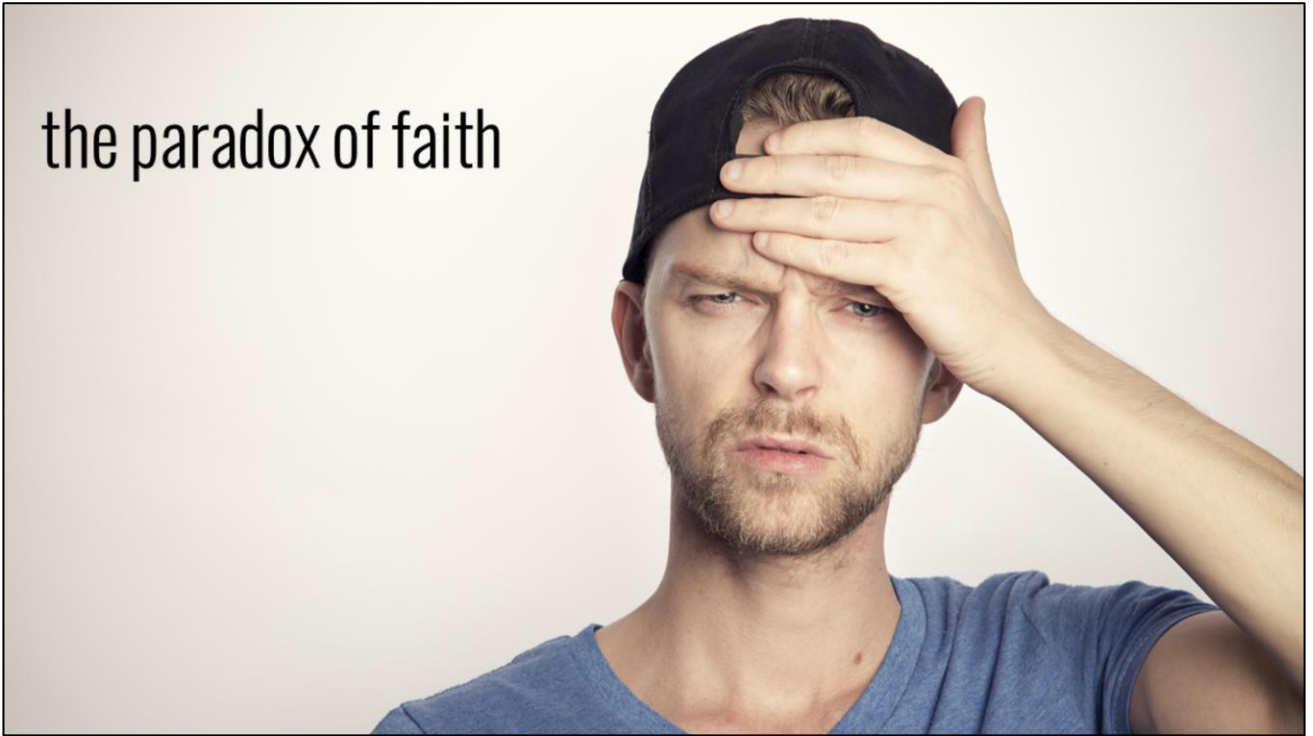
What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

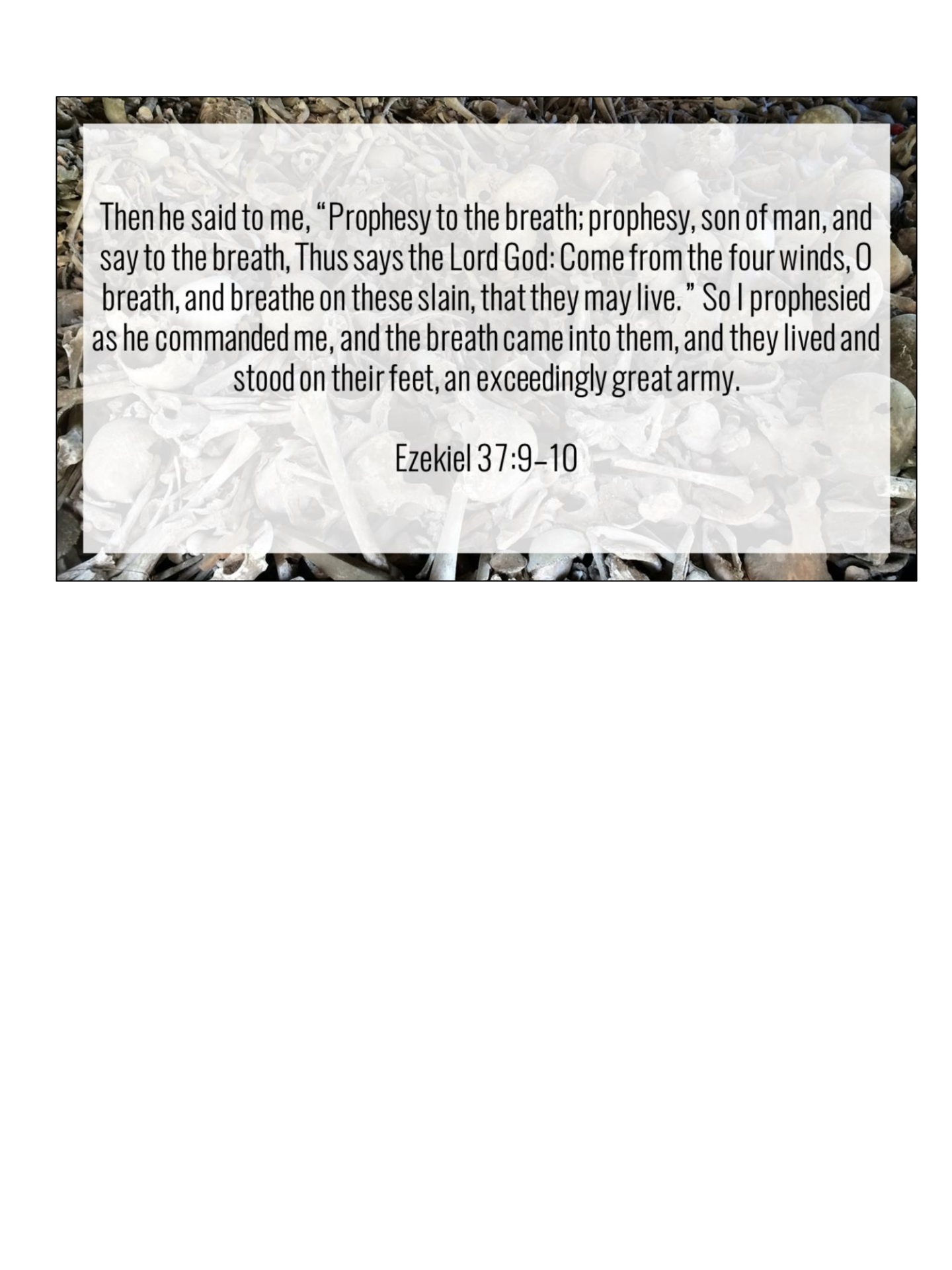
This is most certainly true.



the paradox of faith



1. Faith and Sanctification
 - a. I believe that I cannot...believe
 - i. The Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Article presents a paradox of faith
 - ii. "Neither you nor I could know anything about Christ, or believe on Him, and have Him for our Lord, unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel" (LC III 38)
 - iii. Faith is not a work we produce; it is a gift received
 - iv. Faith before God is entirely passive and the work of the Holy Spirit
 - v. Faith comes through the means of grace, which are the Holy Spirit's instruments to deliver and maintain faith
 1. The preaching of the Gospel
 2. The sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion



Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Ezekiel 37:9-10

faith & sanctification



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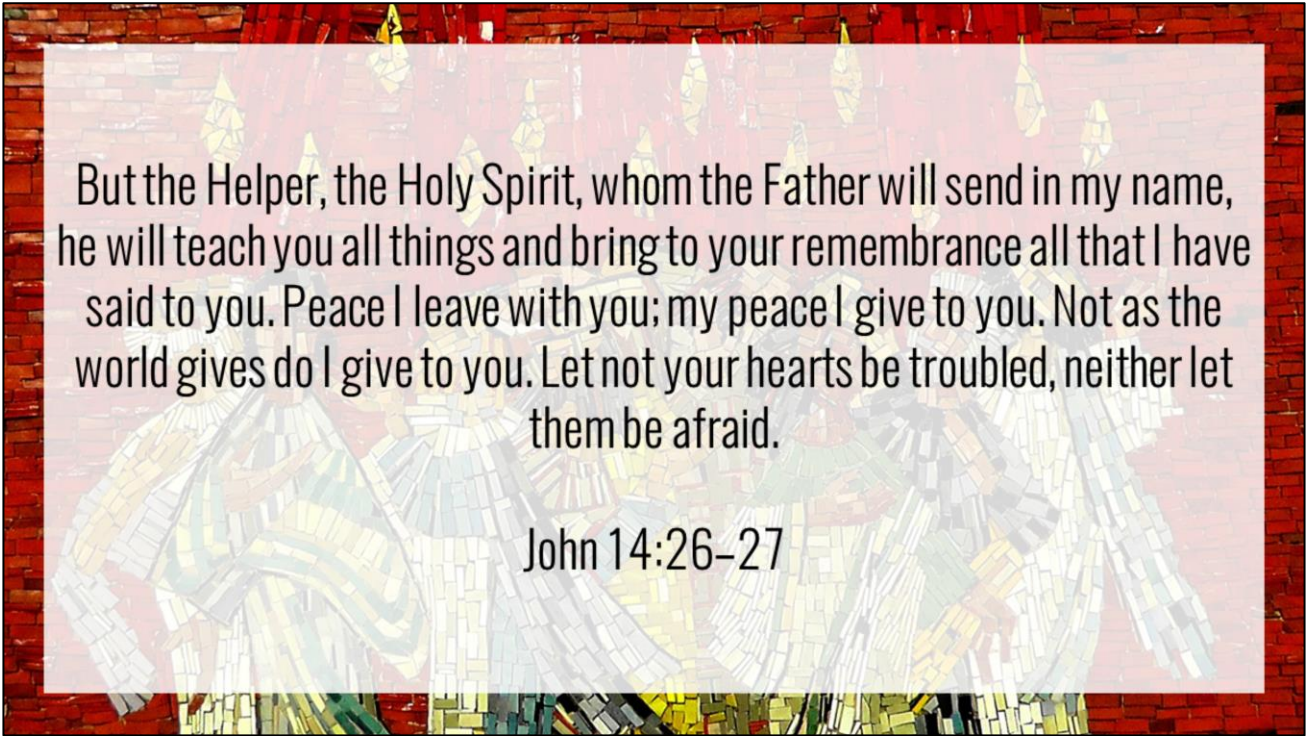
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1. The preaching of the Gospel

2. The sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

b. Sanctification refers us back to Christ's redemption

- i. Sanctification is the application of Christ's work to the individual believer
 1. If Christ's work remained buried in the past, it would do us no good
 2. The Spirit makes Christ known through the Word
 3. "Therefore, sanctifying is just bringing us to Christ so we receive this good, which we could not get ourselves" (LC III 39)
- ii. "You can then answer, 'I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy, as His name implies'" (LC III 40)
 1. Sanctification is not primarily about active obedience
 2. Sanctification is about setting you apart in a holy community - the Church

A mosaic background depicting the Holy Spirit as a dove with outstretched wings, resting on a globe. The dove is rendered in white, grey, and yellow tiles. Above it, several golden, flame-like tongues of fire are visible against a red brick wall. The entire scene is set within a semi-transparent white rectangular frame.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:26-27



2. The Holy Christian Church

- a. The Holy Christian Church is a communion of saints
 - i. The Church is the congregation of saints called by the Spirit, with Christ at its head
 - ii. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic (Nicene Creed)
 - 1. One Church - not fractured into many churches
 - 2. Holy Church - the place of the Holy Spirit; a people set apart by God
 - 3. Catholic Church - universal, whole Church manifest in each local congregation
 - 4. Apostolic - founded on the teaching of the Apostles; sent into the world
- b. The Holy Christian Church is ordered toward the forgiveness of sins
 - i. "Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered toward this goal: we should daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences, as long as we live here. So even though we have sins, the grace of the Holy Spirit does not allow them to harm us. For we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but continuous, uninterrupted forgiveness of sins" (LC III 55)
 - ii. Outside of the Church is no forgiveness
- c. The Holy Christian Church anticipates the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting
 - i. The Holy Spirit is the Lord and giver of life (Nicene Creed)
 - ii. On the Last Day, the Spirit will enliven all flesh in a general resurrection (see Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones)
 - iii. The saints will receive not only new life, but everlasting Life

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Second Table





3. Ten Commandments: Second Table

Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or
maidservant, his ox or donkey,
or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



honor your father
and your mother



- 3. Ten Commandments: Second Table
 - a. Honor your father and your mother

Honor your father and your mother. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

- i. The 4th Commandment is a “hinge” between First Table (our relationship with God) and the Second Table (our relationships with each other and the world)
- ii. “Honor” distinguishes father and mother as those with a “hidden majesty;” vocational representatives of God (LC I 106, 126)
- iii. There are three kinds of fathers
 - 1. Fathers in blood
 - 2. Fathers in office
 - 3. Spiritual fathers



body and life husband or wife possessions and reputation

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b. Respect God’s gifts to your neighbor: body and life, husband or wife, possessions and reputation

You shall not murder. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

- i. Our neighbor’s body and life is the first gift God gives; only God may take it away

You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

- ii. Our neighbor’s next nearest gift is husband or wife
 1. The two shall become one flesh (Mark 10:8)
 2. Guards God’s gift of sexuality and gives it a healthy direction for the good of

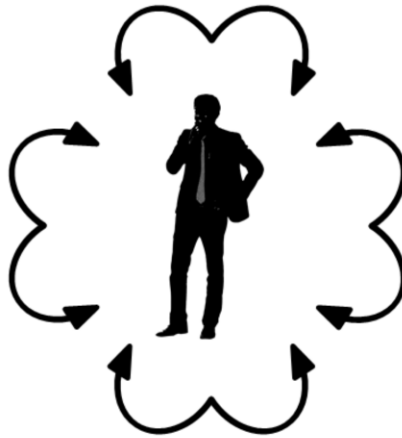
the neighbor

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

- iii. Possessions are God's gifts; He promises to give you what you need and more

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

- iv. Reputation is a good gift that is easily lost
 - 1. Not only avoid gossip
 - 2. "Explain everything in the kindest way" (SC 8th Commandment)



sinful desire

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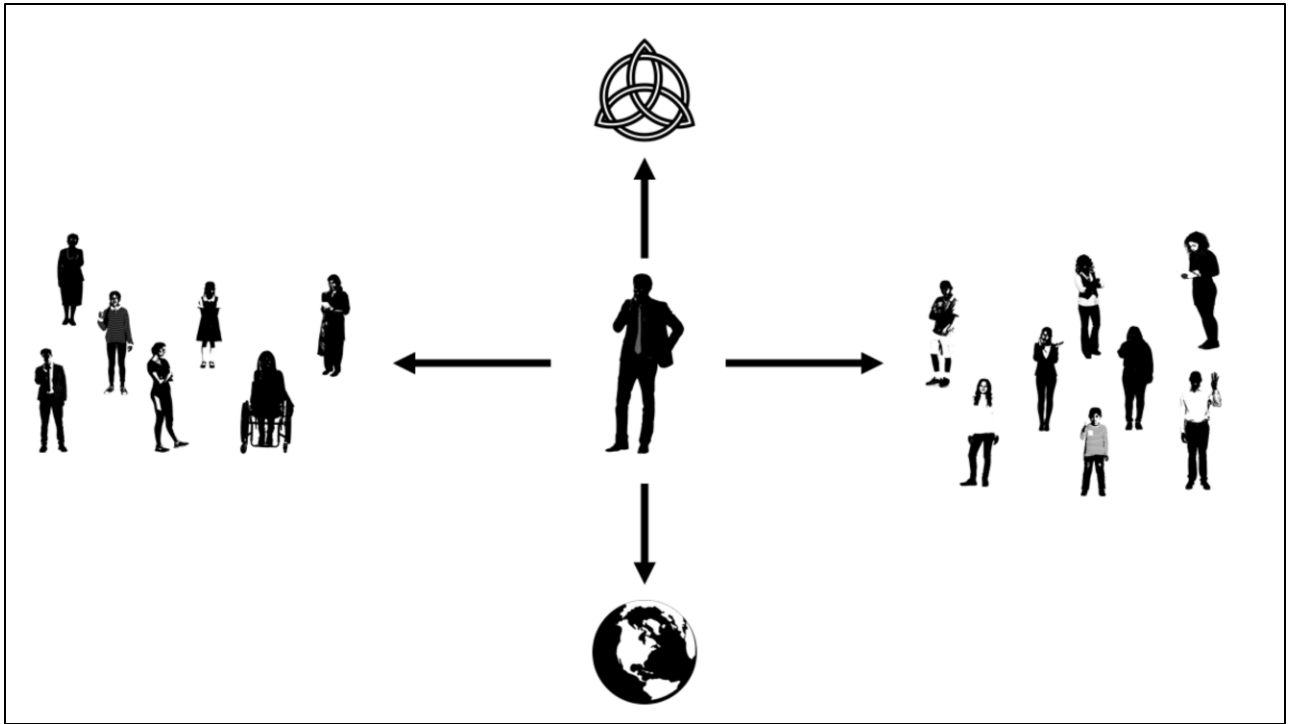
c. Desire to sin is truly sin

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not

scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

- i. 9th and 10th Commandments implicate coveting (desire to sin)
- ii. Original sin is defined as "the inclination to sin"
- iii. We must also be forgiven for "the sin behind the sin"



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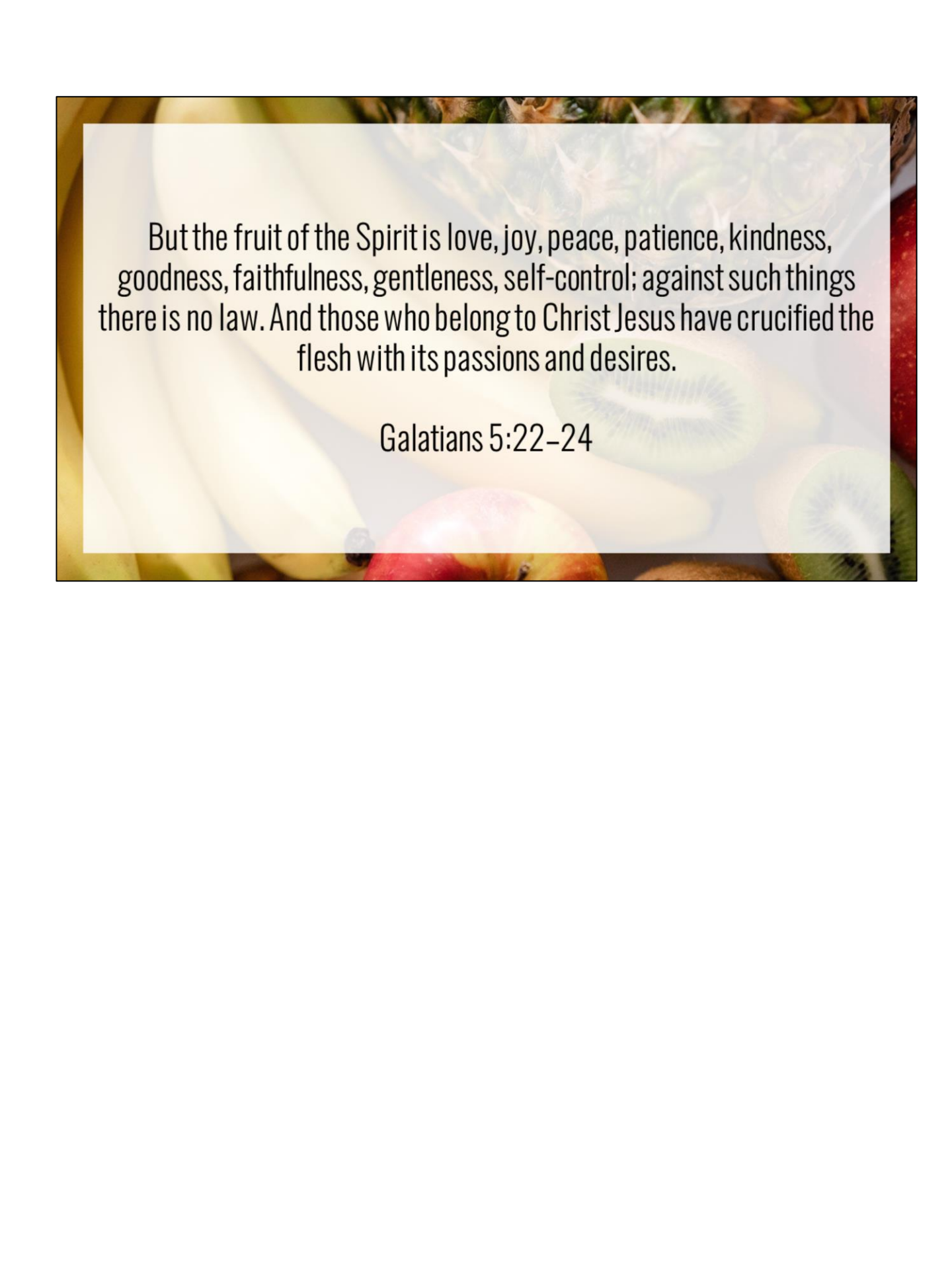
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- iii. We must also be forgiven for “the sin behind the sin”
- a. The Spirit’s indwelling produces fruits that exceed ethics and morality
 - i. The Spirit’s new life gives us the beginnings of obedience, though imperfect because of our sin
 - ii. We are simultaneously justified sinners
 - iii. The Spirit gives us a new attitude, which produces good works



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:22-24

WORSHIP

Sermon

Hymn of the Day



THE DIVINE SERVICE



4. Worship

- a. The sermon is the high point of the Service of the Word
 - i. The reading of Scripture is a general proclamation of God's demands and promises
 - ii. The Sermon is a particular application to God's people in a definite place
- b. The Hymn of the Day is a Lutheran tradition that presents the Word of God in poetic and musical form