



**Growth Group Questions**  
**May 24, 2026**  
**“Good (Goodness)”**

**CONTEXT**

The fruit of the spirit that we are focusing on this week is goodness. In Greek it is the word *agathōsynē*. Rooted in the word *agathos* (meaning inherently "good"), it represents active, generous goodness. Unlike passive virtue, *agathōsynē* is characterized by a big-hearted, charitable, and grace-energized desire to bless others.

As we dig into this concept, we look into the second letter of Peter as he writes it from Rome to some group of people, likely in modern day Turkey. Peter writes a challenge to attempt to become more and more like Jesus as a response to the knowledge that Jesus died for our sins.

Peter seems to understand that his life is coming to an end and we know from external tradition that he was executed by the Romans under the reign of Emperor Nero.

In 2 Peter, the author urges believers to add to their faith moral excellence (*aretē*), knowledge, self-control, and patient endurance. This progression from inward traits to outward, loving action is designed to lead to a productive, Christ-like life.

Peter’s goal is to make sure that the teaching that these people are getting are true and he is going against some thinking that is not quite right. Therefore, as his final address, he faces the accusations of the other leaders of the time.

**SCRIPTURE**

**Romans 7:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup> And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.



### **Romans 7:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

### **Galatians 5:16**

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

### **Galatians 5:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

### **2 Peter 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **2 Peter 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Pastor Mike said that we do not consistently do what we know we should do because of our sinful nature. What does it mean to have a sinful nature?
2. How do you define goodness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
3. How does this definition of “goodness” differ from the world’s definition of “being a good person”?
4. Last week we studied the fruit of kindness. What do you see as the relationship between kindness and goodness? Are they the same thing or different?
5. In 2 Peter 1:5, we are told that because of our sinful natures we should “make every effort to add to your faith goodness . . .” What does it mean to “add goodness” to your faith?
6. Make a list of the things in your life that you believe to be a manifestation of God’s goodness.
7. How does God’s goodness in your life help you to add goodness to your faith?
8. Pastor Mike said that it takes courage to live a Christian life. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
9. What can we practically do to cultivate the fruit of goodness in our lives?

