

Southside Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning – 1-7-24  
“Equipping for...”

1. Introduction:

a. Welcome to 2024

b. A look back with a look ahead:

1) Last year – Emphasis on equipping – Ephesians 4:11-16

a) Looking to narrow that focus this coming year.

2) Thinking about what is ahead of us this coming year –

3) The sense of urgency within the Pastors hearts remain the same –

a) “Equipping for...”

4) Being equipped for:

a) I Peter 3:15

b) Colossians 2:8 –

c. Let’s broaden our understanding for a moment.

1) Your ministry – is it at –

2) Ephesians 4:12 – “ministry” – “diakonia” – attendance as a servant, aid, service, minister.

a) The focus is on loving action on behalf of a brother or sister or a neighbor.

b) In the N.T you would see this word used for –

3) This fruit is awesome, but it flows from a work of the Spirit and the Word in the heart.

4) Believers tend to resist this work through inaction.

d. Does it really matter if a believer is being equipped?

1) How critical is it for you as a believer?

2) Let’s start with one of the most basic truths of scripture.

2. Why is walking in the Spirit so critical?

a. It wasn’t first taught in Galatians or Ephesians.

1) Jesus taught this to the disciples in John 15

a) “abide” – it means to continue in Him. To remain in Him.

2) The principle – the believer CANNOT bear fruit unless they are abiding in the vine.

3) Motive for being focused on abiding?

a) You realize that He, Jesus, is the SOURCE of life.

4) Eternal value, what is that? Does it matter?

a) The eternal things are God, the Word of God and the souls of people.

b. Let's take another step here:

1) To "abide" is a commandment. Jesus said, "Abide in me".

a) I John 2:6 –

2) Abiding means –

c. What do you desire when you see Jesus?

1) Have you ever really thought about that moment? How do you want to meet Him?

a) I John 2:28 –

b) Believer, are you catching a sense of the importance of your walk with the Lord?

d. The principle of abiding is further clarified in the command to walk in the Spirit.

1) Galatians 5:16 –

2) Romans 8:5-8 – reminds us that our flesh will never please God.

3) We know from Galatians 5:17 –

4) Romans 8:9 – Paul speaks of the believer who has the Holy Spirit here –

5) Romans 7 – Paul details his struggle with the flesh.

6) Romans 8:4 – What believers can do as they walk in the Spirit.

7) Often, we look at principles of the Word of God like looking into a tunnel.

e. The many-sided understanding of our walk:

1) "walk" used about 212 times.

a) Romans 13:13 – "Let us walk honestly as in the day"

b) Ephesians 4:1 – "Walk worthy of the vocation (position) wherewith ye are called."

c) Ephesians 5:2 – "Walk in love." That is a fruit of the Spirit.

d) Ephesians 5:8 - "walk as children of light" – this light speaks of the nature of God.

e) I John 1:7 – "Walk in the light as he is in the light"

f) I Thess. 2:12 – "Walking worthy of God,"

g) I Thess. 4:1 – "as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."

h) I Thess. 4:12 – "That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without..."

i) III John 4 – Listen to these words – "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

3. Today's Take Away:

a. Believer, are you abiding in Him?

b. Believer, are you walking in the Spirit?

c. Ephesians 5:18 -