

## Friday - March 27

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

*Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)*

Our life journeys and our faith journeys can be intertwined in ways that are sometimes not so obvious to us. Such was the case when job changes forced us to move our family several times over the course of five years in the mid 1990's. It was an especially challenging time for our three daughters as they tried to fit into their new surroundings, acclimate to new schools and forge new friendships. Watching their self-esteem and self-confidence unravel for them as they struggled to fit into these new environments was a new experience for us as a family. It was my wife's idea to get them involved in a Christian youth group, Young Life of Southern Michigan. What a wonderful idea this proved to be. It was an incredible experience for our daughters as their lives were filled with the love of the young leaders of this youth group and so many others. In this new environment, they experienced the love of Christ like never before. Watching all of this positive change in our daughters' lives was reassuring, but little did I know, that my life was about to change as well. It was a 26-year-old Young Life leader named Brian, who touched my life and my faith in ways I had never experienced before. His love of young people and others, his faith and his commitment to God was as passionate as any I had witnessed in my life. So, my wife and I set out on a journey to help our daughters and in the process, my faith was lifted up and set on a higher ground by a young person filled with the Holy Spirit. I am thankful that Brian and God joined me on my faith journey, for my life was forever changed in a most amazing way.

Alex

**Prayer:** Loving God, we know that You are always waiting for us with Your steadfast love. Awaken us and lead us on with the light of life that You are. Bless us and keep us and let Your face shine upon us and give us Your peace. Amen.