



**MRS. SCOTT**

**Five Minutes in the Word**

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WHERE TO LISTEN



**11 DAY BIBLE STUDY**

**1 CORINTHIANS 13 | THE LOVE CHAPTER**

**Compiled by Hope Scott**

## Introduction

*Five Minutes in the Word* is a short Bible study that spends a few minutes exploring God's word. These lessons were shared on my podcast, and it looks at one of the most beloved and powerful passages in all of Scripture: **1 Corinthians 13** — often called *the love chapter*.

Paul founded the church in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18). After leaving, he received disturbing reports (from Chloe's people and others) about divisions, moral issues, and confusion about doctrine and worship. The early believers struggled to separate themselves from the surrounding pagan culture. This was the impetus that prompted him to write this corrective letter.

When we get to 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul had just finished teaching the Corinthians about spiritual gifts and unity in the body of Christ. Now, he pauses to show us what really matters most — *love*. The Corinthian church, like churches today, needed to be reminded of the importance of love. Not just any kind of love, but a selfless, sacrificial, enduring love that reflects the heart of God Himself.

In a world that often confuses love with feelings or fleeting emotions, this chapter reminds us that love is a decision, an action, and the true mark of spiritual maturity. Love is more than just words. Paul says, "If I have all the gifts, all the knowledge, even great faith—but have not love—I am nothing." That's sobering.

As you read and reflect, ask God to help you love this way—not only in words, but in actions, attitudes, and daily relationships. Love is not optional in the Christian life. It is the *more excellent way*. Apostle Paul closes the 1 Corinthians with encouragement and warnings to remain strong in faith and love.

I leaned heavily on resources listed in the bibliography to help me understand the history and the audience Paul was addressing. These resources helped me to share insights, some of which I had not thought about, on 1 Corinthians 13 which are applicable today. I pray you gain fresh insight as you study this beloved and powerful passage.

My prayer, in the words of Apostle Paul: *"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen."* 1 Corinthians 16:23-24

~Hope Scott, inspired by ChatGPT

1 Corinthians 13 podcasts recorded February 26 – March 8, 2025. The podcast is available on several platforms including Apple Podcasts, Podbean, Amazon, YouTube, and more. Like and follow @minutesword on Facebook.

## About

"Five Minutes in the Word" is **a podcast that offers brief Bible studies, designed to be easily accessible within a short timeframe**. It features a calming voice and explores God's Word in bite-sized portions, making it suitable for listeners with limited time. ~From Google search.

## Day 1. Corinthians 13:1

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In chapter 12, Paul gave evidence of the Corinthians' lack of love in the utilization of spiritual gifts; chapter 13 defines real love; and chapter 14 shows how love works. While spiritual gifts are important to the functioning of the body (12:12-31), they lose their value if love is not behind them.

13:1 Great faith, acts of dedication or sacrifice, miracle-working power, or the ability to speak in any language in heaven or on earth will produce very little without love. Without love, speaking in a heavenly language, although a gift of the Spirit, becomes nothing more than meaningless noise. The gift of tongues, used without love, is as valueless as pagan worship. Without love, gifts do not build up other believers, so they are useless. Christians must not exalt gifts over character. Love is far more important. The word for "love" used here is agape. The Greeks had different words that described different kinds of love. The word agape connotes a deep, abiding, self-sacrificing love—the kind that looks out for the other person first. Life Application Study Bible. Greek culture had multiple words for love, but agapē (ἀγάπη)—selfless, sacrificial love—was not a common concept. The Corinthians were used to:

Eros (ἔρως) – Romantic/sexual love.

Philia (φιλία) – Friendship love.

Storge (στοργή) – Family love.

Paul's use of agapē was revolutionary—it shifted their focus from status and pride to selfless service.

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The Greatest Gift 13

***The New King James Version (1 Co 13:1).*** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

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Love Is the Greatest

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. *New Living Translation (1 Co 13:1).*

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians around A.D. 55 to the church in Corinth, a major Greek city known for:

Wealth and trade (a port city with many cultures).

Philosophy and rhetoric (valued eloquence and wisdom).

Pagan religious practices (notably at the Temple of Aphrodite).

Moral corruption (the city was known for immorality)

**1 Corinthians 13:1** *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”* (1 Cor. 13:1, KJV)

### Context & Purpose

Paul had just finished discussing **spiritual gifts** in 1 Corinthians 12, where he emphasized that gifts are given for the benefit of the whole Church. In chapter 13, he shifts the focus to the **most important virtue—love (agapē)**.

The Corinthian church was misusing spiritual gifts, particularly **tongues**, leading to pride, division, and confusion. Paul uses this verse to correct them: **Gifts without love are empty and meaningless.**

### Verse Breakdown & Key Insights

**“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels”**

- **Greek Word for "Tongues"** – *Glōssais* (γλώσσαις)
  - Can mean **human languages** or **spiritual utterances**.
  - The Corinthians **valued speaking in tongues** (1 Cor. 14:2), seeing it as a sign of spiritual superiority.
- **“Tongues of men”** – Likely refers to **earthly languages** (Acts 2:4-6).
- **“Tongues of angels”** – Could refer to **heavenly speech**, but Paul might be using **hyperbole** to say:  
*“Even if I had the most powerful, divine speech possible...”*

### Key Insight:

Paul is not making a doctrinal statement about "angelic languages" but using **exaggeration** to make a point—**even the most impressive speech is meaningless without love.**

**“And have not charity” (Agapē – ἀγάπη)**

- **Greek Word: Agapē** – Selfless, sacrificial love.
- Not romantic (*eros*), friendship (*philia*), or family love (*storgē*), but **God-like love that seeks the good of others.**
- This was **radical** in Greek culture, where love was often seen as emotional or self-serving.

### Key Insight:

Paul **contrasts spiritual gifts with love**—gifts are temporary, but love is eternal. **No matter how impressive a gift is, without love, it is worthless.**

**"I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal"**

- **Greek Word for "Sounding"** – *ēchōn* (ἠχῶν) – Echoing, loud, repetitive noise.
- **"Brass" and "Cymbal"** – Used in pagan rituals for **noise, not meaning**.

### Key Insight:

Paul is saying: *"Without love, my words are just noise."*

- A brass gong or cymbal is **loud but lacks depth**.
- Similarly, speaking in tongues **without love** is just meaningless sound.

### Conclusion

Paul's message is clear: **Gifts without love are useless**. Even the most eloquent speech—whether human or divine—**means nothing without agapē**. Love must be the foundation of all spiritual gifts and Christian service.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with hearts full of gratitude and humility. We acknowledge that even if we speak in the tongues of men or angels, without love, we are merely resounding gongs or clanging cymbals. Teach us the true meaning of love, that our words and actions may reflect Your love and grace. Fill us with Your divine love, so that everything we do is rooted in compassion, kindness, and selflessness. May our lives be a testament to the love You have shown us, and may we bring glory to Your name in all that we say and do.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 2. 1 Corinthians 13:2

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Paul continues his argument from verse 1, showing that even the **most powerful spiritual gifts** are meaningless without **love (agapē)**. In this verse, he expands beyond tongues to include **prophecy, knowledge, and faith**—gifts highly valued in Corinth.

Love is a genuine and selfless concern for the well-being of others. Paul identifies it as the greatest of the three Christian virtues (v. 13). Paul chastised the wealthy believers because they did not demonstrate love to the less wealthy believers (see 11:17–21). Without love, its noise, not praise or worship! People used cymbals to worship Dionysus, the god of wine. Paul mentions the crashing cymbal to suggest that spiritual gifts without love make the Corinthians' worship no different from the pagans. *Faithlife Study Bible* (1 Co 13:1).

13:2 The gift of prophecy was described in the commentary on 12:10 as a gift that might enable the person to see events in the future but mainly to bring God's message to the church under the direction of the Holy Spirit (see also 14:1-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20). Some people have been given a special measure of this gift with the ability to know everything. Such understanding and even the ability to share it with others, however, are worth nothing without love. The gift of faith was described in 12:9. This does not refer to saving faith, whereby people come to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior; instead, this is an **unusual** measure of trust in the Holy Spirit's power to do mighty works, much like Elijah received in 1 Kings 18. If a person has faith that could move mountains but does not have love, the faith is no good to anybody. *Life Application Study Bible*.

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***The New King James Version (1 Co 13:2).*** 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

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2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. *New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:2).

**1 Corinthians 13:2 (KJV):** "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

## Context:

This verse is part of Paul's famous discourse on love (agapē) in **1 Corinthians 13**; a chapter often called the "Love Chapter." It falls within his larger discussion on spiritual gifts in **1 Corinthians 12-14**, where he addresses the Corinthian church's misuse of spiritual gifts, emphasizing that love is superior to all of them.

## Word-by-Word Analysis:

### "And though I have the gift of prophecy"

- "Prophecy" (προφητεία, *prophēteia*) in this context refers not only to foretelling future events but also to inspired preaching and proclaiming God's truth. Paul sees this as one of the highest spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:10, 14:1), yet he warns that even this powerful gift is worthless without love.

### "And understand all mysteries, and all knowledge"

- "Mysteries" (μυστήρια, *mystēria*) likely refers to deep theological truths or divine revelations, which were highly valued in early Christianity (cf. 1 Cor. 4:1, Matt. 13:11).
- "Knowledge" (γνῶσις, *gnōsis*) was a major emphasis in Corinth, especially among those influenced by Greek philosophy and Gnosticism. Paul acknowledges that even possessing full understanding of divine truths is meaningless without love.

### "And though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains"

- This phrase recalls Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 17:20**, where He says that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains. Paul speaks of a level of faith capable of miraculous works, yet he asserts that even such extraordinary faith is insignificant if love is absent.

### "And have not charity, I am nothing"

- "Charity" (ἀγάπη, *agapē*) is the Greek word for divine, selfless love. This is the central theme of the passage—love is the supreme virtue.
- "I am nothing" (οὐθέν εἰμι, *outhen eimi*) is a strong statement. Even with the highest spiritual achievements, without love, a person has no true spiritual value before God.

## Theological Significance:

- **Love is superior to all spiritual gifts.** The Corinthians were overly focused on supernatural gifts, but Paul insists that these gifts, apart from love, are meaningless.

- **True spirituality is measured by love.** Knowledge, prophecy, and faith are valuable but must be exercised in love, or they lose their eternal significance.
- **Without love, even great spiritual power is empty.** Paul does not just say that such a person is "lesser"—he says they are *nothing*. This underscores the absolute necessity of love in Christian life and ministry.

**Gracious Heavenly Father,**

We come before You, acknowledging that even if we have the gift of prophecy, can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and have faith that can move mountains, without love, we are nothing. Teach us the power and necessity of love in all that we do. Fill our hearts with Your divine love, so that our actions, no matter how great, are rooted in genuine compassion and selflessness. May we seek to love others as You have loved us, understanding that love is the greatest of all gifts. Help us to use our gifts in service to others, reflecting Your love and bringing glory to Your name.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 3. 1 Corinthians 13:3

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13:3 True love produces willingness to give sacrificially and to suffer. Acts of charity and self-sacrifice can be done for the sake of an ideal **or** with pride as a motivation. But they are of no value for the Kingdom, wrote Paul, unless they are done from the foundation of love for others. Life Application Study Bible.

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**The New King James Version (1 Co 13:3).** 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

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3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. *New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:3).

### 1 Corinthians 13:3

#### Context & Purpose

Paul continues his argument that **love (agapē) is greater than any spiritual gift or sacrifice**. After addressing tongues, prophecy, knowledge, and faith (vv. 1-2), he now moves to **acts of extreme generosity and personal sacrifice**—showing that even the most selfless deeds **mean nothing without love**.

#### Verse Breakdown & Key Insights

**“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor”**

- **Greek Word for “Bestow”** – *Psōmizō* (ψωμίζω)
  - Means **to distribute food in small portions**—implies careful, intentional giving.
- Paul describes **total generosity**, giving **everything** away.
- Helping the poor was highly valued in Jewish and Christian tradition (Prov. 19:17, Matt. 19:21).

#### Key Insight:

Extreme **charity without love is empty**. True generosity is **not just about giving things away but about the heart behind it**.

**“And though I give my body to be burned”**

- Some manuscripts say, **“that I may boast”** instead of **“to be burned”**, but the meaning is similar:

- **"Give my body to be burned"** – Refers to **martyrdom** or extreme self-sacrifice.
- **"That I may boast"** – Suggests **self-glory in suffering** rather than true love.
- Christians in the early church **faced persecution and martyrdom**, but Paul warns that **even dying for the faith means nothing if done without love**.

#### **Key Insight:**

Even **dying for Christ is empty if done without love**—true martyrdom must come from love for God and others.

**"And have not charity (agapē), it profiteth me nothing."**

- **Greek Word for "Profit"** – *Ōphēleō* (ὠφελέω)
  - It means **no benefit, no reward, no value**.
- Paul says **not even extreme generosity or self-sacrifice guarantees spiritual gain—without love, it is worthless**.

#### **Key Insight:**

**Love is the only thing that gives true value to our sacrifices.** Even the most extreme acts of service **are meaningless without a heart of love**.

#### **Conclusion**

Paul's message is radical: **Even the greatest acts of charity and sacrifice are worthless without love**. God looks at the **heart** more than the **action**—love must be our motive.

#### **Loving Heavenly Father,**

We come before You, acknowledging that even if we give all we possess to the poor and surrender our bodies to hardship, without love, we gain nothing. Teach us the true meaning of love, so that our actions are not done for recognition or self-promotion, but out of genuine compassion and selflessness. Fill our hearts with Your divine love, so that we may serve others with humility and grace. Help us to reflect Your love in everything we do, bringing glory to Your name and advancing Your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 4. 1 Corinthians 13:4

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Paul teaches that **true love is humble, patient, and kind**. It is **not competitive, boastful, or arrogant** qualities that caused division in Corinth and still challenge us today. ChatGPT.

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***The New King James Version (1 Co 13:4).*** 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up.

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4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud *New Living Translation (1 Co 13:4)*.

### Context & Purpose

Paul now shifts from **the necessity of love** (vv. 1-3) to **the characteristics of love** (vv. 4-7). He describes **what love looks like in action**—not as a feeling, but as a way of living.

The Corinthian church **struggled with pride, envy, and division** (1 Cor. 1:10-12; 3:3), so Paul's description of love directly confronts their attitudes.

### Verse Breakdown & Key Insights

#### “Charity suffereth long” (Love is patient)

- **Greek Word:** *Makrothyme* (μακροθυμεῖ)
  - *Makros* = long, *Thymos* = passion/anger → “Long tempered”
  - It means **enduring offenses, being slow to anger, and showing restraint**.
- In Corinth, believers were **quick to argue and impatient with each other** (1 Cor. 6:1-8).

**Key Insight:** Love **patiently endures difficulties without retaliation**.

#### “And is kind”

- **Greek Word:** *Chrēsteuetai* (χρηστεύεται)
  - Means **active goodness, being gentle and helpful**.
- Kindness in biblical terms is **not passive**—it is **actively doing good** for others.

**Key Insight:** True love is expressed through acts of kindness, even to those who don't deserve it.

“Charity envieth not” (Love does not envy). Refers to the intense desire to advance at the disadvantage of someone else. Those who are jealous resent the success of others. *Faithlife Study Bible (1 Co 13:4)*.

- **Greek Word:** *Zēloi* (ζηλοῖ)
  - It means **to be jealous, resentful, or covetous.**
- The Corinthians were **competitive about spiritual gifts** (1 Cor. 12:15-26).
- Envy destroys relationships, while love **celebrates the success of others.**

**Key Insight:** Love **does not compare itself with others or resent their blessings.** “Charity vaunteth not itself” (Love does not boast). Refers to the desire to obtain adoration or acknowledgment from others by explaining to others your own self-worth (usually without them asking to know about it). *Faithlife Study Bible* (1 Co 13:4).

- **Greek Word:** *Perpereuetai* (περπερεύεται)
  - It means **to brag or parade oneself.**
- Corinth was full of **prideful boasting**—about wisdom, gifts, and social status (1 Cor. 3:21; 4:7).
- Love does **not seek to impress others.**

**Key Insight:** Love **does not promote itself—it focuses on others.**

**“Is not puffed up”** (Love is not proud). Refers to self-admiration that leads a person to consider himself or herself better than others. *Faithlife Study Bible.*

- **Greek Word:** *Physioutai* (φυσιούται)
  - It means **to be arrogant, inflated with self-importance.**
- The Corinthians were **proud of their knowledge and status** (1 Cor. 8:1).
- Paul reminds them: **love is humble.**

**Key Insight:** Love **values others above itself and does not seek superiority.**

### **Loving Heavenly Father,**

We come before You, grateful for the gift of love that You have shown us. Teach us to embody the qualities of love as described in Your Word. Help us to be patient and kind, not envious or boastful, and to avoid arrogance and rudeness. Grant us the grace to put others before ourselves and to resist anger and resentment. May we find joy in the truth and bear, believe, hope, and endure all things with love. Let Your love guides our thoughts, words, and actions, so that we may reflect Your character and bring glory to Your name.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 5. 1 Corinthians 13:5

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The apostle gives thirteen notes of a charitable person. Paul continues describing **the characteristics of true love** (agapē). In contrast to the **self-centered, competitive attitudes in Corinth**, he highlights love's **selflessness, humility, and emotional maturity**.

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**The New King James Version (1 Co 13:5).** 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil.

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5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. *New Living Translation (1 Co 13:5).*

**13:5 Love is not rude.** This refers to actions that are improper, impolite, discourteous, or crude. Believers who use their gifts with love will be careful to act in a manner worthy of their calling before God. They will **never** humiliate others. This may also have been a problem in Corinth, especially in their worship services (see 11:2-16). The Corinthians displayed **\*\* disrespectful behavior\*\*** in worship (1 Cor. 11:17-22), at the Lord's Supper, and in their treatment of others. Paul emphasizes that **\*\*love is courteous and respectful. \*\* \*\*Love treats others with dignity and avoids offensive or rude behavior. \*\***

**Love does not demand its own way.** Love looks out for others, seeks their best interests, willingly gives up its own for the sake of another. A person who wants his own way **may use his gifts but not with a serving attitude** or a desire to build the Kingdom. Instead, the gifts are only used if they can somehow benefit the self-seeking person. This is not God's way. Instead, because of love, the believers use their **gifts to benefit others first**, without "self" or selfish desires getting in the way. The Corinthians were **\*\*focused on personal gain\*\*** whether in lawsuits (1 Cor. 6:1-8), spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12-14), or status in the church. **\*\*Jesus modeled selflessness\*\*** (Phil. 2:5-8)—true love follows His example. **\*\*Love puts others first and does not demand its own way. \*\***

**Love is not irritable**, meaning easily angered or touchy, to be irritated, exasperated, or quick-tempered. Such people let things get on their nerves. One believer, in the process of exercising his or her gifts, may irritate another believer. These "easily angered" believers may not like the style or manner in which these others exercise their gifts. This is not the way of love. When believers exercise their

gifts in love, they will be able to give one another some latitude to follow God as they see fit. They will not let themselves be easily provoked over disagreements, but they will be able to always respond in a loving manner. The Corinthians were often **\*\*easily offended and argumentative\*\*** (1 Cor. 6:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:3). Love is **\*\*slow to anger\*\*** (James 1:19) and does not react impulsively. **\*\*Love is patient under provocation and does not harbor resentment. \*\***

**Love keeps no record of when it has been wronged.** an accounting term, meaning to calculate or keep a record. Such people will remember every offense against them as though it were written in a book and tallied. These “wrongs” are not sins that need to be dealt with in the congregation (such as that described in chapter 5) but minor offenses or misunderstandings between believers. Those who keep record of these wrongs and personal injuries will harbor resentment against other believers. Love, however, makes allowances for people’s foibles and flaws and willingly forgets when wrongs were done. Love does **\*\*not keep a mental record of offenses\*\***it forgives rather than holding grudges. **\*\*God does not keep a record of our sins (Ps. 103:12, 2 Cor. 5:19). \*\***Love does not dwell on past hurts but forgives freely. **\*\* This frees all believers to grow and mature in Christ and to grow in their ability to serve and use their gifts. When mistakes are made, love overlooks them and allows believers to continue to serve with the gifts God has given them. God does not keep a record of believers’ wrongs (2 Corinthians 5:19). Life Application Study Bible and ChatGPT**

Heavenly Father,

We come before You, seeking to embody the selflessness and humility described in Your Word. Help us to be free from rudeness and to put others before ourselves. Teach us to be slow to anger and to let go of resentment. Grant us the grace to be considerate, kind, and humble in all our interactions. May we reflect Your love in our daily lives, treating others with the respect and patience they deserve. Let Your love guides our hearts, so that we may bring glory to Your name in all that we do.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 6. 1 Corinthians 13:6 "Rejoicing in Truth"

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Paul teaches that **love does not find joy in sin but delights in truth**. True love aligns with **God's righteousness and seeks what is good**.

Paul continues describing **the nature of true love (agapē)** by contrasting its response to **sin and truth**. Love is **not neutral**—it does not celebrate wrongdoing but finds joy in truth and righteousness.

In Corinth, some believers were tolerating **sinful behavior** (1 Cor. 5:1-2) and **boasting about their freedom** (1 Cor. 6:12-13). Paul reminds them that **true love aligns with God's truth, not sinful indulgence**. ChatGPT.

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*The New King James Version* (1 Co 13:6). does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth.

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6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoice whenever the truth wins out. *New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:6).

13:6 Love is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. When believers show love, they do not show superior morality by taking pleasure in another's fall. Love does not take pleasure in any kind of injustice. Instead, love does the exact opposite. Through their relationship with Jesus Christ, believers possess the one and only truth (John 14:6). Those who love should remain untainted by evil. Instead, they ought to always seek truth, desire that truth wins out, protect the truth, and proclaim the truth whenever possible. Life Application Study Bible.

**"Rejoiceth not in iniquity" (Love does not delight in evil)**

- **Greek Word for "Iniquity" – *Adikia* (ἀδικία)**
  - Means **injustice, wrongdoing, moral corruption**.
- Love does **not celebrate sin, injustice, or wrongdoing**.
- The Corinthians had been **boasting in sin** rather than grieving over it (1 Cor. 5:1-2).

**Key Insight: Love does not tolerate sin or take pleasure in others' failures.**

**"But rejoiceth in the truth" (Love rejoices with the truth)**

- **Greek Word for "Truth" – *Alētheia* (ἀλήθεια)**
  - Refers to **God's truth, righteousness, and moral integrity**.
- Love finds joy in **truth, righteousness, and godly living**.

- **God is truth** (John 14:6), and love aligns with His holiness.

**Key Insight:** Love **finds joy in what is good, pure, and righteous, not in sin.**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love that rejoices in truth. Help me to reject falsehood and deceit, and to delight in honesty, integrity, and righteousness. Fill my heart with a love that seeks what is good and pure, that stands firm in truth even when it is difficult. Let my words, actions, and thoughts reflect Your perfect love, bringing light to those around me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Day 7. 1 Corinthians 13:7 Love's Endurance

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Paul teaches that **love is strong, not weak**. True love **protects, trusts, hopes, and endurance** does not give up, even in difficulties.

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**The New King James Version (1 Co 13:7).** 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. *New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:7).

### Context & Purpose

Paul now describes **the steadfast nature of love**. In contrast to selfishness, impatience, and resentment, love is marked by **perseverance, trust, hope, and endurance**. This verse emphasizes that **true love does not give up, even in hardship**.

The Corinthians struggled with **divisions, lawsuits, arrogance, and jealousy** (1 Cor. 3:3-4; 6:1-8). Paul is showing them that love is **not fragile—it persists despite challenges**. ChatGPT.

After explaining what love does not do (13:4b-6), Paul listed **four positive attributes of love**.

**Love never gives up but** willingly protects others. **(Love always protects)**

- **Greek Word: *Stegei* (στέγει)**
  - Literally means **to cover, shield, or protect**.
- Love **covers and protects others from harm, disgrace, or unnecessary exposure**.
- Like **1 Peter 4:8**: “*Love covers a multitude of sins.*”

**Key Insight:** Love **does not expose others' faults but seeks to protect and support**.

This does not refer to hiding hurtful sin but to protecting someone from embarrassment, gossip, or any other such harm. When believers love one another, they refuse harmful gossip and protect one another from those who would try to inflict harm.

**Love never loses faith. (Love always trusts)**

- **Greek Word: *Pisteuei* (πιστεύει)**
  - It means **to have faith, trust, or confidence**.

- Love **chooses to believe in the best of others** rather than being cynical or suspicious.
- This does not mean **blind trust**, but a **heart inclined toward trust rather than doubt**.

**Key Insight: Love gives the benefit of the doubt and trusts in God's faithfulness.**

It is willing to think the best of others. It does not mean that believers must be gullible, trusting everyone; instead, it means that they are willing to think the best as opposed to the worst of others.

**Love gives the benefit of doubt. (Love always perseveres)**

- **Greek Word:** *Hypomenei* (ὑπομένει)
  - It means **to remain, persist, or endure under pressure**.
- Love **does not quit, even in trials, rejection, or suffering**.
- It reflects **God's unwavering love** for us (Rom. 8:38-39).

**Key Insight: Love is not temporary—it endures every challenge.**

With real love, believers can deal with conflict lovingly. When everyone willingly thinks the best of everyone else, people are free to be honest and open.

**Love is always hopeful. (Love always hopes)**

- **Greek Word:** *Elpizei* (ἐλπίζει)
  - It means **to expect with confidence, to anticipate good**.
- Love **remains hopeful even when situations seem bleak**.
- It reflects **biblical hope**—not wishful thinking, but confidence in God's promises.

**Key Insight: Love does not give up hope—it trusts in God's ability to bring change**

**and restoration.** Believers who love to look forward, not backward. They seek for growth and maturity in the church, knowing that God is working in every person.

Love endures through every circumstance. Believers who love are active and steadfast in their faith. They hold on, no matter what difficulties they face.

Hardship and pain do not stop love. When believers persevere, they face suffering within the body. They face persecution. They hang on when the going gets tough.

They strive to save their marriages despite disappointment, to continue to trust God despite setbacks, and to continue to serve God despite fear or sorrow. When believers truly persevere, nothing can stop them. Life Application Study Bible.

**Heavenly Father,**

Thank You for a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Strengthen me to love as You do—patiently, steadfastly, and without fear. When trials come, help me to bear them with grace. When doubt creeps in, renew my faith. When hope seems distant, remind me of Your promises. And when I feel weak, give me the endurance to keep loving as You have loved me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Day 8. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 "The Supremacy of Love Over Temporary Gifts"

.....

Paul is contrasting **the eternal nature of love** with the **temporary nature of spiritual gifts**. Paul teaches that **spiritual gifts—prophecy, tongues, and knowledge—are temporary**. They serve a purpose now, but **when God's fullness comes, they will no longer be needed**. However, **love is eternal—it will never fail, fade, or become obsolete**.

.....

*The New King James Version* (1 Co 13:8–10). 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

.....

8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! 9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! 10 But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. *New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:8–10).

### Context & Purpose

The Corinthians were **obsessed with spiritual gifts** like prophecy, tongues, and knowledge, often using them **to compete for status** rather than to edify the church (1 Cor. 12-14). Paul is refocusing them:

- **Love is permanent.**
- **Spiritual gifts are temporary.**
- **What we know and experience now is partial—God's ultimate perfection is coming.**

### Verse Breakdown & Key Insights

#### "Love never faileth" (Love never ends)

- **Greek Word:** *Agapē oude pote piptei* (ἡ ἀγάπη οὐδέποτε πίπτει)
  - *Piptei* = "to fall" or "collapse" → Love **never falls away, never collapses, never comes to an end.**
- **Love is eternity**, even when all else passes away.
- **God is love (1 John 4:8)**, and since God is eternal, so is love.

**Key Insight:** Unlike **spiritual gifts, which are temporary, love will never cease.**

**“But whether there be prophecies, they shall fail” (Prophecies will cease)**

- **Greek Word for “fail”** – *Katargeō* (καταργέω)
  - It means **to be abolished, rendered useless, or become inactive.**
- Prophecy is a **gift for this present age**—it will no longer be needed when God’s full revelation comes.

**Key Insight:** Prophecy is temporary—it serves a purpose now, but it will pass away.

**“Whether there be tongues, they shall cease” (Tongues will stop)**

- **Greek Word for “cease”** – *Ραυō* (παύω)
  - Means **to stop, come to an end.**
- Speaking in tongues was a **supernatural gift for communication and edification** (Acts 2:4-11, 1 Cor. 14:2-4).
- Once God's full revelation comes, **tongues will no longer be needed.**

**Key Insight:** The supernatural gift of tongues was temporary and will not last forever.

**“Whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away” (Knowledge will pass away)**

- **Greek Word for “vanish away”** – *Katargeō* (καταργέω)
  - Same as for prophecy—means **to be abolished or come to an end.**
- The **gift of knowledge** (special insight or revelation) will be **obsolete when God's full revelation is given.**

**Key Insight:** Human knowledge is limited—when God’s fullness comes, our partial knowledge will no longer be necessary.

**“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.” (1 Cor. 13:9)**

- Everything we know now is partial and incomplete.
- Prophecy and knowledge give us a **glimpse of God’s truth**, but they are **not the full picture.**

**Key Insight:** Our current spiritual understanding is limited—God’s ultimate revelation will complete it.

**“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” (1 Cor. 13:10)**

- **Greek Word for “perfect”** – *Teleion* (τέλειον)
  - It means **complete, mature, full-grown, or perfect.**
- **What is “that which is perfect”?**

Some interpret it as **the completed New Testament** (Scripture).

Others (more commonly) see it as **the return of Christ and the fullness of God's kingdom.**

- **When the perfect comes (God's full revelation in eternity), all partial things (prophecy, tongues, knowledge) will no longer be needed.**

**Key Insight: Spiritual gifts are temporary, but love remains forever because it is part of God's eternal nature.**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love that never fails. While prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will pass away, Your love remains forever. Help me to seek what is eternal rather than what is temporary. Teach me to love as You love—to be patient, kind, and enduring.

Lord, I acknowledge that my understanding is limited, but I trust in Your perfect wisdom. Fill my heart with the desire to pursue love above all else, that I may reflect Your glory in all I do.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Day 9. **1 Corinthians 13:11** "From Childhood to Maturity"

.....

Paul reminds us that **childhood is temporary, but maturity is the goal**. Just as spiritual gifts will one day fade, we must grow into **the maturity of love, which lasts forever**.

.....

11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. *New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:11).

.....

### **1 Corinthians 13:11**

*"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."* (1 Cor. 13:11, KJV)

#### **Context & Purpose**

Paul uses a **metaphor of growth and maturity** to illustrate the temporary nature of spiritual gifts compared to the permanence of love. Just as a child eventually matures and no longer needs certain things, **spiritual gifts serve a temporary purpose**—but love remains eternally.

#### **Verse Breakdown & Key Insights**

**"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child"**

- Paul describes **three aspects of childhood**:
  1. **Speaking** – Immature communication. That cannot speak plain, aims at words rather than expresses them, delivers them in a lisping or stammering manner: hereby the apostle illustrates the then present gift of speaking with divers tongues, which was an extraordinary gift of the Spirit, was peculiar to some persons, and what many were very fond of; and yet this, in its highest degree and exercise, was but like the lisping of a child, in comparison of what will be known and expressed by saints, when they come to be perfect men in heaven. Gill
  2. **Understanding** – Limited perception. My understanding was feeble and imperfect. I had narrow and imperfect views of things. I knew little. I fixed my attention on objects which I now see to be of little value. Barnes Notes
  3. **Thinking** – Incomplete reasoning. The word may mean either. I thought, argued, reasoned in a weak and inconclusive manner. My

thoughts, plans, and argumentations were puerile, and such as I now see to be short-sighted and erroneous. Thus, it will be with our thoughts compared to heaven. There will be, doubtless, as much difference between our present knowledge, and plans, and views, and those which we shall have in heaven, as there is between the plans and views of a child and those of a man. Barnes Notes

- This represents **our current, limited spiritual understanding** before reaching full maturity in Christ.

**Key Insight: Our present spiritual knowledge is like childhood—it is real but incomplete.**

**“But when I became a man, I put away childish things.”** childish talk, childish affections, and childish thoughts and reasonings; so when the saints shall be grown to the full age of Christ, and are become perfect men in him, tongues shall cease, prophecies shall fail, and knowledge vanish away; and in the room thereof, such conversation, understanding, and knowledge take place, as will be entirely suited to the manly state in glory. Gill

- Maturity means **outgrowing what is temporary**.
- Just as an adult no longer relies on childish ways, **believers will one day no longer need spiritual gifts** when God’s fullness comes.
- Love, however, is **not childish, it is the mark of true spiritual maturity**.

**Key Insight: Spiritual gifts are temporary, but love is the ultimate sign of maturity.**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for guiding me on this journey of spiritual growth. Help me to put away childish ways and pursue true maturity in love. Teach me to focus not on temporary gifts, but on the eternal love that reflects Your nature.

Lord, shape my heart to speak, understand, and think with wisdom. Let me grow in Christlike love, that I may honor You in all I do. Strengthen me to embrace what is lasting and let go of what is temporary.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## Day 10. 1 Corinthians 13:12 "From Dim Reflection to Clarity"

.....

Paul teaches that **our understanding of God is limited in this life**, like looking into a dim mirror. But one day, we will see **clearly, face to face**. Until then, we walk by **faith, trusting that God will one day reveal all things**.

.....

12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. *New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:12).

.....

### 1 Corinthians 13:12

*"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."* (1 Cor. 13:12, KJV)

#### Context & Purpose

Paul continues his contrast between our **current, limited understanding** and the **full revelation** that will come in the future. He uses **a mirror as a metaphor** to show that right now, our perception of God and His truth is **imperfect**, but one day, we will see Him clearly.

#### Verse Breakdown & Key Insights

**"For now we see through a glass, darkly" (Our current vision is unclear)**

- **Greek Word for "glass" – *Espathēron* (ἔσθπτρον)**
  - Refers to a **mirror**, often made of polished bronze in Paul's time. Paul may be referring to the idea of a mirror as an instrument of self-reflection (e.g., Jas 1:23–24). In the ancient world, the city of Corinth was known for its bronze. This may explain Paul's use of the mirror metaphor. *Faithlife Study Bible* (1 Co 13:12).
  - These mirrors **gave a dim, imperfect reflection** compared to modern glass mirrors.
- **Greek Word for "darkly" – *Ainigmati* (αἰνίγματι)**
  - Means **"in a riddle" or "obscurely"**—our understanding of God is **partial and unclear**.

**Key Insight: Right now, our spiritual vision is limited—we see only a blurred, partial picture of God's truth.**

**"But then face to face" (We will one day see clearly)**

- **“Face to face”** suggests a **personal, direct encounter with God.**
- This points to **either seeing Christ at His return or being in God’s full presence in eternity.**
- Like **Moses speaking with God “face to face” (Exodus 33:11),** but even greater.

**Key Insight: One day, we will have full, unhindered knowledge of God—no more partial glimpses.**

**“Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”**

- **Our knowledge now is incomplete**—we only grasp **fragments** of God’s full reality.
- But in eternity, we will **know fully**, just as **God fully knows us now.**
- This does **not** mean we will be all-knowing like God, but our **understanding will be complete.**

**Key Insight: In eternity, our knowledge of God will be full, just as He fully knows us now.**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the glimpses of Your truth that You reveal to me. I know that my understanding is limited, like looking through a dim mirror, but I trust that one day, I will see You clearly, face to face. Until that day, help me to walk by faith, not by sight.

Give me patience when I don’t understand and strengthen my heart to trust in Your perfect wisdom. Fill me with a longing to know You more and guide me in Your love until the day when all is made clear.

Father, I will **trust in God’s wisdom even when I don’t fully understand my circumstances.**

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## Day 11. 1 Corinthians 13:13

.....

Paul ends **1 Corinthians 13** with a clear priority: **love surpasses all**. Faith and hope are crucial, but **love is the ultimate mark of a Christian** because it is eternal and reflects God's very nature.

.....

*"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."* (**1 Cor. 13:13, KJV**)

13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. ***New Living Translation (1 Co 13:13).***

### Context & Purpose

Paul concludes the **"Love Chapter"** by emphasizing **three enduring virtues: faith, hope, and love**. While spiritual gifts like prophecy and tongues will pass away (v. 8), these three remain. However, **love is the greatest**, because it is eternal and foundational to Christian life. ChatGPT

13:13 Paul was showing that love is a spiritual reality of a different kind, like hope and faith, and not to be considered as one of the spiritual gifts. In eternity, the gifts will drop away in significance, but faith, hope, and love will endure.

**"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three"**

- **"Abideth" (μένει, menei)** – Means **"remains, endures, continues"** → Unlike temporary gifts, these three **persist** beyond this life.
- **Faith:** Trust in God's promises (Hebrews 11:1).

**Faith** sometimes refers to a spiritual gift (12:9; 13:2) or to saving faith that God has forgiven sins. In this context, it refers to trust in the goodness and mercy of the Lord. Such trust will see believers through until they live face-to-face in God's presence.

- **Hope:** Confident expectation of God's future fulfillment (Romans 8:24-25). Believers also **hope**; they look forward to the arrival of God's promised Kingdom in its fullest form, knowing that God will deliver them in times of suffering.

- **Charity (Love, agapē):** Selfless, God-like love (1 John 4:8).

Paul added that the greatest of these is **love**.

**Key Insight: Faith, hope, and love are the core virtues of Christian life—they outlast spiritual gifts.**

**“But the greatest of these is charity (love).”**

- **Why is love the greatest?**

- **Faith and hope are temporary:**
- Faith is necessary **now** because we don’t yet see God fully (2 Cor. 5:7).
- Hope exists **now** because we await the fulfillment of God’s promises.

**2. Love is eternal:**

- When we see God face to face (v. 12), **faith will become sight** and **hope will be fulfilled**, but **love will remain forever** (1 John 4:16).

**Key Insight: Love is the greatest because it is the very nature of God and lasts for eternity.** Love is the greatest because it is one quality of the Christian life that will be fully active both in the present and for eternity. Believers’ faith in God will be realized when they see God face-to-face—**for where there is sight, faith is no longer needed**. Similarly, the believers’ hope will be fully realized.

Love will endure forever as those in the new heaven and new earth continue to love God and his people. Life Application Study Bible.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Help me to trust in You completely, to hold onto the hope of Your promises, and to walk in love daily. Teach me to love as You love—selflessly, patiently, and unconditionally.

May my life reflect the truth that love is the greatest virtue. Strengthen me to choose love in every situation, knowing that it is eternal and the foundation of all You have called me to be.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## Closing Reflection by ChatGPT

Thank you for spending a few minutes in God's Word with me.

1 Corinthians 13 calls us to more than giftedness, more than success, more than good intentions—**it calls us to love**. A love that's patient, kind, not jealous or boastful... a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. That kind of love doesn't come naturally—it flows from a heart shaped by Christ.

Paul ends the chapter with these words: "Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." As we go about our day, let's choose love—because that's the truest reflection of God in us.

Until next time, this is Hope Scott with *Five Minutes in the Word*. Be blessed and keep walking in His love.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of Your Word and for this beautiful reminder of what love truly is. Help us not just to hear these words, but to live them. Teach us to be patient, kind, humble, and forgiving—just as You are with us. Strip away anything in our hearts that hinders love and fill us with the kind of love that never fails.

May Your Holy Spirit guide us today and every day to walk in the *more excellent way*—the way of love. Let it shape our conversations, our relationships, and our responses. And may we reflect the love of Christ in all that we do.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

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