

FIRST FRUITS

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NIV)

❖ What the Bible Teaches About Love:

1. The Greek word "PHILIA".

So the sisters (Mary and Martha) sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love (Lazarus) is sick."

John 11:3 (NIV)

2. The Greek word "STORGE".

They are slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Romans 1:30-31 (NIV)

3. The Greek word "EROS".

4. The Greek word "AGAPE".

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV)

❖ The PRIMACY of Love:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I

am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

1. A SUPERNATURAL GIFT without love is nothing.
2. A SPIRITUAL INSIGHT without love accomplishes nothing.
3. SELF-SACRIFICIAL LIVING without love means nothing.

❖ The PERSONALITY of Love:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV)

1. Love revealed is LONG-SUFFERING.

Love is patient...

1 Corinthians 13:4a (NIV)

2. Love expressed is GRACIOUS.

Love is kind...

1 Corinthians 13:4a (NIV)

3. Love before others is HUMBLE.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

1 Corinthians 13:4b (NIV)

4. Love that is harmed is FORGIVING.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

5. Love in private is TRUSTWORTHY.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:6-8a (NIV)

❖ The PERMANENCE of Love:

But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we

prophecy in part,¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:8b-13 (NIV)

1. Spiritual Gifts, as important as they are, will CEASE.

But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

1 Corinthians 13:8b (NIV)

2. Spiritual Maturity, as good as it can be on earth, will INCREASE.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12a (NIV)

3. Our Spiritual Journey after we leave this earth will be COMPLETE.

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:12b-13 (NIV)