

^[1] *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ^[2] And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ^[3] And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. ^[4] Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ^[5] does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ^[6] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ^[7] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ^[8(a)] Love never fails....*

[1 Corinthians 13:1-8^(a)]

Did you see the Divine definition of **LOVE** in 1 Corinthians 13:1-8^(a) above? I hope you did not read through it too quickly to see it, **BUT IF** you did miss it, please slowly read it again, this time taking time to consider each part of what **LOVE** is and is not.

Our English noun **LOVE** is the Greek noun ἀγάπη (agahpay)¹ and is defined as ‘affectionate regard’, ‘goodwill’, or ‘benevolence’. With reference to God’s **LOVE**, it is God’s willful desire toward us. It involves God doing what He knows is best for us and not necessarily what we desire. For example, John 3:16 states, “For God so loved (agahpay) the world, that he gave.” What did God give? It was not what we wanted. It was what God knew we needed, which was His Son coming into this world to bring forgiveness to all who truly believe into the name of Jesus.

Having defined **LOVE** not only from the dictionary, but also what it is truly shown to be in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8^(a), now consider what the Holy Spirit instructs us to do in 1 Corinthians 16:14 when He said through Paul,

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.

Do you remember what it was in 1 Corinthians 5:1 that caused Paul to be moved to say that it was, ... *actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the [nations], that someone has his father’s wife.*

Then, in the verses which followed, Paul gave them instruction of what they should do about this. Now, in 2 Corinthians 2:6-7, Paul told the Corinthian brethren that,

^[6] *Sufficient for such a one is this punishment, which was inflicted by the majority, ^[7] so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.*

Then in 2 Corinthians 2:8 Paul is moved to instruct them saying,

Therefore, I urge you to REAFFIRM YOUR **LOVE** FOR HIM.

Do you see what **LOVE** does? It REAFFIRMS your **LOVE** for those who need to be REASSURED of your **LOVE** for them. Remember, “**LOVE NEVER FAILS!**”

¹ “Love” is the Greek noun ἀγάπη (agahpay), Strong’s Greek dictionary noun number 26.

Now listen to what the Holy Spirit moved Paul to teach the Galatians in Galatians 5:13-15 concerning the Old Testament Law. Here the Spirit teaches us when He says,

^[13] FOR you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, BUT through **LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER**. ^[14] FOR the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU WILL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

Now listen to what Paul says about **LOVING** one another in 1 Thessalonians 4:9 where we hear him say,

Now as to the **LOVE** of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, FOR you yourselves are TAUGHT BY God TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER....

Also listen to what the Holy Spirit moved Peter to say in 1 Peter 4:8 where we hear him say,

Above all, keep FERVENT in your **LOVE** for one another, because LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS.

As I begin to close Today's Thought listen closely to what John is moved to teach us in 1 John 2:9-10 where he said,

^[9] The one who says they are in light and yet hates their brother is in the darkness until now. ^[10] The **ONE WHO LOVES** their brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in them.

One last Thought before we close is found in 1 John 4:20-21, where John is moved by the Spirit to say,

^[20] IF someone says, “I **LOVE** God,” and hates their brother, they are a liar; FOR the one who does not **LOVE** their brother whom they have seen, cannot **LOVE** God whom he has not seen. ^[21] And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who **LOVES** God should **LOVE** their brother also.

Lord willing, I hope you will join me here again tomorrow, when we will consider some special teachings on love!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Will you please now join me in prayer?

Loving Father, I come before You Today giving You thanksgiving for all You have taught us on love Today! I thank You Today for teaching us Love is patient, kind, and not jealous. Love does not brag and is not arrogant. It does not act unbecomingly; nor does it seek its own. Love is not provoked, nor does it take into account a wrong suffered. Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails! For Your teaching us these truths, I give You thanksgiving in prayer in the Name of Christ the Lord. Amen!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE LOVE NEVER FAILS, I CHOOSE TO WALK IN THE LOVE OF GOD EACH DAY! – tom