

# The Greatest Pursuit

## 1 Corinthians 13

11/27/16

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. 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. 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. Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong against it, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth. All things are possible for him who loves. Love never fails, but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away, if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, and we prophesy in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**1 Corinthians 12:18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

<sup>19</sup> And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

<sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body.

<sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

<sup>23</sup> and those *members* of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly *members come to* have more abundant seemliness,

<sup>24</sup> whereas our seemly *members* have no need of *it*. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,

<sup>25</sup> that there should be no division in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.

<sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

<sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.

<sup>29</sup> All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they?

<sup>30</sup> All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

<sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

## The Necessity of Love

**1 Corinthians 13:1** 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

### **The Life Style of Love**

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient,

love is kind,

*and* is not jealous;

love does not brag

*and* is not arrogant,

<sup>5</sup>does not act unbecomingly;

it does not seek its own,

is not provoked,

does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

<sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

<sup>7</sup>bears all things,

believes all things,

hopes all things,

endures all things.

### **The Superiority of Love**

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.

<sup>9</sup> For we know in part, and we prophesy in part;

<sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

<sup>13</sup> But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**1 Corinthians 14:1** Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

All Scripture is from the NASV