

Love Never Fails

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

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Scripture Meditation

Love is the fulfillment of the law!

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, 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 have not love, I am nothing.

3 And if I bestow all my goods to feed (the poor), and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing. (ASV)

✠ If all your motives and all your actions are not based on love you can have total knowledge of God's word, be used to remove mountains, even give your body to be burned, but it won't profit you anything.

✠ Next we will look at the attributes of love. Judge yourself using verses 4-7. If you are looking for a goal in life, this is one for you. Pattern your life after His character. Love is God's moral strength and His reputation. He bases everything He is, says, and does on love. GOD IS LOVE. (1 John 4:16)

4 Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

6 It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.

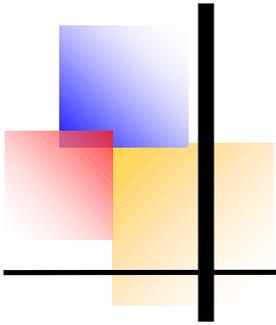
7 Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything (without weakening).

8 Love never fails (never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end). As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away (it will lose its value and be superseded by truth).

(AMP)

Romans 5:5

...God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us. (AMP)



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1 John 4:16

And we know and have believed the love which God hath in us. God is love; and he that **abideth (3306)** in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him. (ASV)

✠ If you want to know how to abide in the vine this is your answer. When we abide in love we are abiding in God, and when we abide in God and God is abiding in us our love is made perfect.

1 John 4:17

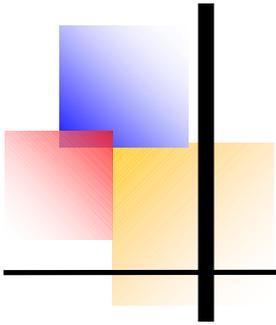
Herein is love made **perfect (5048)** with us, that we may have **boldness (3954)** in the day of **judgment; (2920)** because as he is, even so are we in this world. (ASV)

✠ Perfect love will give you boldness on the day of judgment. This boldness however is not to be confused with arrogance or pride. People get the idea that if you are bold you could never be humble. Boldness expresses a confidence, a belonging. In a family setting do the kids crawl up to the table and ask for the crumbs that fall from the table? Of course not, they have a boldness, a belonging. God is your father and you are His child. On the day of judgment you will have the same belonging as children that come to a loving table for dinner. We have been made an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus (Romans 8:17). True Bible humility is to submit yourself to the Word of God completely, in word and deed, even when it doesn't look or feel like it is so. **DECLARE THE WORD!** Let the weak say they are strong. Boldly declare I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. We have been made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor 5:21). "Because as He is so are we in this world". Let us come boldly to the Throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need. (Heb 4:16)

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love: but **perfect (5046)** love **casteth (906)** out fear, because fear hath punishment; and he that feareth is not made **perfect (5048)** in love. (ASV)

✠ For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. There is no place in the believers life for fear. Perfected or completed love will violently or intensely cast out fear. Fear has punishment [rough handling; mistreatment]. If there is still fear in your life love has not been made perfect. It is possible for fear to be in your life and you not be aware of it. In some fashion fear has been a part of your life since childhood. Adam was the first to experience fear. Adam hid himself out of fear when he heard God coming. Adam was never afraid before he fell. Fear became part of his fallen nature. Jesus came to redeem us from the bondage of fear. There is no need to focus on the fear, but rather focus on letting love be perfected in you. Love will take care of the fear.



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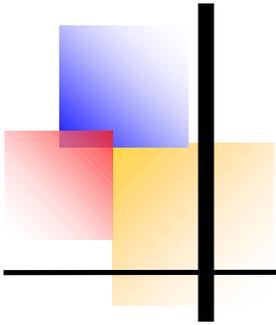
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Romans 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: love therefore is the fulfillment of the law. (ASV)

- ✠ When I was first saved in February 1976, I asked the Lord how I would know if I loved Him. This was His answer. "If you love Me you will keep my commandments and do what I ask you to do." Jesus said to love God with all your heart, soul and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. This is the first and second commandment. Love is the fulfillment of the law. If you love someone you won't hurt them, lie to them, or covet their things. Greater love has no man than to lay his life down for his friends. Love is not a feeling, although it can produce feelings. Love is a person. In order to explain love we would have to explain God. Let us take 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and build these attributes into our daily conduct. The Word tells us to judge ourselves so we won't be judged.
- ✠ I'm embarrassed before God at times for the way we have viewed the redemptive work of the cross. We think we are being humble by some of the things we say and do, but in reality we are just being scripturally ignorant. Oh the depth of His love, mercy and grace is truly past comprehension. Jesus was your substitute for sin. He was the first born among many brethren and He is not ashamed to call you brother. He has removed your sin as far as the east is from the west, and He remembers your iniquity no more. He has raised us up and made us sit together with Him in heavenly places. God looks at you through the cross, and not according to your own righteousness. You are born of that incorruptible seed. You are a new creation in Christ Jesus. The Devil hates it but that is too bad!



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Greek Word Studies

Abideth - # 3306 a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy).

Perfect - # 5048 to complete, (literally) accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character).

Perfect - # 5046 complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, completeness).

Boldness - # 3954 all out-spokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; by implication, assurance. Unreservedness of utterance, or to speak without ambiguity, plainly, or without figures of speech, the absence of fear in speaking boldly; hence, confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, without any connection necessarily with speech.

Judgment - #2920 denotes "the process of investigation, the act of distinguishing and separating", hence "a judging, a passing of judgment upon a person or thing", it has a variety of meanings, such as judicial authority, justice, a tribunal, a trial, a judgment, by metonymy, the standard of judgment, just dealing, sometimes it has the meaning "condemnation."

Casteth - # 906 a primary verb; to throw (in various applications, more or less violent or intense).

English Word Studies

Punishment - The act or an instance of punishing. The condition of being punished. A penalty imposed for wrongdoing. Rough handling; mistreatment.

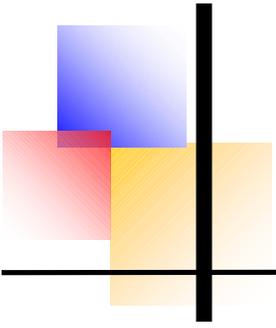
Vainglorious - Characterized by or exhibiting excessive vanity; boastful. Proceeding from vainglory.

Envy - A feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by and in conjunction with desire for the possessions or qualities of another.

Jealous - Fearful or wary of being supplanted; apprehensive of losing affection or position. Resentful or bitter in rivalry; envious. Inclined to suspect rivalry. Having to do with or arising from feelings of envy, apprehension, or bitterness.

Haughty - Scornfully and condescendingly proud.

Boast - To glorify oneself in speech; talk in a self-admiring way. To speak of with excessive pride. Usage Problem. To possess or own (a desirable feature). To contain; have. The act or an instance of bragging. A source of pride.



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Study Questions

1. Did you study all the definitions in the word study on page 3?
2. Using the Greek definition # 3306 explain what it means to abide in love.
3. Referring to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 list all the good qualities of love.
4. Complete the following verse. There is no fear in love: _____.
5. Referring to 1 John 4:18 and using the Greek definitions, expound on the statement Perfect (5046) love casteth (906) out fear.
6. Complete the following verse. God's love has been _____.
7. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and share any insight God has given you.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?