

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13:8

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-761 DECEMBER 18, 2011

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **WITH JUST ONE WORD**

*DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Love, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth, Witness, God**

*Merry Christmas & Joy to the World*

**The Corinthian Christians of Paul's Day Were a Mess of a Church.  
Filled with scandals, Divided by cliques, Notably Carnal**

**It was Not the Church You Would Have Wanted to Attend**

UNLESS,

**Living for Jesus Meant Giving Him an Hour or Two a Week in  
the Midst of Your Busy Life.**

**But This One Thing They Did and Did BIG.  
They were very interested in the supernatural stuff of God**

BUT THEY HAD BECOME A LOVELESS CHURCH

**In That Spirit, Paul Exhorts the Christians at Corinth Greece.**

**1 Corinthians 12:31**

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. :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. 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.

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

:4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; :5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; :6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; :7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

### 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

: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. :11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. :12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. :13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## The Lord Himself Has Laid The Foundation of His People's Hope.

If you must reduce the ministry of Jesus and the message of the Gospel to single words – it can be done easily and with great abundance. Because love is His nature and love is the foundation for all He does, The Lord says words like – “Come”. He says “Peace”. He says “Mercy”.

## Come

Everyday Jesus says “Come” He is always asking us to come. Parents ask of their child far more often to come than they demand. Love says come and it extends its hand...

### Matthew 11:28

**Come** to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden,

### Isaiah 55:1

“**Come**, all you who are thirsty, **Come** to the waters; and you who have no money, **Come**, buy and eat! **Come**, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

### Revelation 4:1

“**Come** up here,

# WITH JUST ONE WORD

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

## 1.) Love Never Fails

v.8

**Love never fails.**

The very truth of it confirms the nature of God Himself.

The Attribute of God is His Characteristic –  
Love.

Love Speaks to Us about God's Inability to  
Fail or to Wither

**Who** Are You This Morning – **Where** Are You This Morning  
**Why** would this be important to you?

**Because it confirms everything for you**

You can know if this is true by fact-gathering which leads to conclusions

You can look at the evidence and existence of that expressed love

And in the way that love effects my life? – It shows me a greater reality

### 1a.) Because love originates in God

**1 John 4:7-8**

Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is of God**; and everyone who loves is **born of God** and **knows God**. :8 He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**.

The Origins of Love

By that I mean, the divine origin of love is something that can be observed and testified of.

The evidence of God's love surpasses chance or accident.

## Humans Are Programmed for Discovery

As human beings we pride ourselves on discovery. We want to believe that we are adventurous and daring and so we launch expeditionary ventures to the north pole or to the edge of space. We do this to learn more and hopefully get some questions answered as to our existence and meaning.

And when I look back, as far back as I can go – God always seems to be waiting.

Dr. Robert Jastrow

*PhD in theoretical physics, / Chairman of NASA's Lunar Exploration Committee / Chief of the Theoretical Geophysics Division at NASA / Professor of Geophysics at Columbia University. / Director of NASA's Goddard Space Center*

"For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

*Wrote Robert Jastrow in "God and the Astronomers."*

### Psalm 19:1

The **heavens** declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

### Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

**Never** grk: οὐδεὶς ποτε **oudepote**, oo-dep'-ot-eh; from 3761 and 4218; not even at any time, i.e. never at all: — neither at any time, never, nothing at any time.

**Fails** grk: ἐκπίπτω **ekpipto**, ek-pip'-to; from 1537 and 4098; to drop away; specially, be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to lose, become inefficient: — be cast, fail, fall (away, off), take no effect.

## LOVE NEVER FAILS

**1b.) Because love emanates from God**

Because He Himself is love. It is His nature - just as your eye color or finger prints are your identifiable attributes. Love is His.

**1 John 4:9-10, 19**

In this the **love of God was manifested toward us**, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might **live through Him**. :10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins... :19 We love Him **because He first loved us**.

**Matthew 22:37-40**

Jesus said to him, “ *You shall **love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.***’ :38 This is *the* first and great commandment. :39 And *the* second is like it: “*You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.***’ :40 On these two commandments **hang** all the Law and the Prophets.”

## LOVE NEVER FAILS

### 1c.) Because love abides with God

**Jude 21**

**keep** yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

*(keep - to guard (from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon it)*

Our Dog Got Separated From Me  
and a Car Came Between Us.

“STAY” was my command – was it of love or meanness?

**Psalms 63:8**

My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand **upholds** me.

In this divine “upholding” and human “staying” there is no contradiction.

*“The impulse to pursue God originates with God,  
but the outworking of that impulse is our following hard after Him; and all the  
time we are pursuing Him we are already in His hand:*

*“Thy right hand **upholdeth** me.*

# WITH JUST ONE WORD

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

## 2.) God's Love Never Fails

v.8

The Existence of Love Reveals God's Great Desire for Us  
That We Would Know and Experience  
the Love of God in Our Everyday Lives.

**1 Corinthians 13:8**

Love **never** fails.

## 2a.) Because love is not of this world

The Attribute of God's Love is that it is an **uncaused love**.  
- There are no prerequisites or qualifiers to it. It is Love.

It Looks For and Delights in the Broken Hearted / the fearful / the wounded / the sick /  
the weak / the disabled / in a word = the Lost!!!

**Luke 19:10**

for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

**Mark 2:16-17**

And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How *is it* that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" :17 When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

The Love of This World Requires and Demands Performance.  
You've gotta have the looks / the money / the vibe / the cool

# LOVE NEVER FAILS

## 2b.) Because love is not able to be measured

1 Corinthians 13:8  
Love **never** fails.

Things measurable are things that can run out or be added to.

### **There is a Story about William Randolph Hearst**

The billionaire who would have to often be updated on how rich he was because he wasn't always sure if he could afford this or that.

### **But The Poor Never Have to Be Reminded**

Because they must count every penny to see if they can make it.

### **I Think We, Like Hearst, Need an Update.**

*Jesus will not let His people forget His love. If all the love they have enjoyed should be forgotten, He will visit them with **fresh love**.*

### **2 Corinthians 8:9**

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

### **Isaiah 55:8-9**

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. :9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## 2c.) Because love is not effected by circumstances

1 Corinthians 13:8  
Love **never** fails.

### **Exodus 15:13 NIV**

“In your **unfailing love** you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

**Psalm 33:18 NIV**

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his **unfailing love**,

**Psalm 119:76 NIV**

May your **unfailing love** be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.

**WITH JUST ONE WORD**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

**3.) God's Love Never Fails**

**v.8**

Love never **fails**.

***Does not, is unable to, cannot wither or fade.***

**3a.) Because love is forever**

“It is a strange and beautiful eccentricity of the free God that He has allowed His heart to be emotionally identified with us. Self-sufficient as He is, He wants our love and will not give up until He gets it. Free as He is, He has let His heart be bound to us forever.” - Tozer

**1 Corinthians 13:8,13**

**: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**. **:13** And now abide **faith, hope, love**, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**In Heaven – Love will be everywhere and forever**

**Jeremiah 31:3**

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

**Zephaniah 3:17**

The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, **He will quiet** (*engrave rest, peacefulness, contentment*) **you** with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

# LOVE NEVER FAILS

**3b.) Because love is unchanging**

**3c.) Because love is needed**

## **1 John 4:18**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

## **Will You Agree with God That**

**Rom. 3:23** you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,

**Rom. 6:23a** That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death,

**Rom. 6:23b** but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Rom. 5:8** Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.

**Rom. 10:13** But He now says to you that *“if you would call on the name of the LORD you shall be saved.”*

**Rom. 10:9-10** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

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*End of Study*

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