

Love Never Gives Up

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Love is Greater than Eloquent Communication (v. 1)

Love is Greater than Spiritual Gifts (v. 2)

Love is Greater than Personal Sacrifice (v. 3)

Love's Choice (v. 4)

Love's Refusal (v. 5)

Love's Outlook (v. 6)

Love Never Gives Up (v.7)

The New International Version tells us that love "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." The New Living Translation says "love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

Here are four aspects of love, which when taken together, teach us that no matter how desperate our circumstances may be, love never gives up.

1. Love Bears All Things

The first phrase says that love "bears all things." This comes from a Greek word meaning to cover something. It is related to the word for a roof covering that offers protection from the hostile elements. I Peter 4:8 tells us that love covers a multitude of sins. Love protects other people. It doesn't broadcast bad news. It goes the second mile to protect another person's reputation.

2. Love Believes All Things

To "believe all things" means that love believes the best that is possible as long as that can be done. Love gives the benefit of the doubt. It takes people at their highest and best-not at their lowest and worst.

3. Love Hopes All Things

The third phrase in verse 7 tells us that love "hopes all things." This is simply a step beyond believing. Hope looks to the future!

4. Love Endures All Things

Love "endures all things." The word "endures" is a military term that means to hold a position at all costs, even unto death, whatever it takes. Love endures what can't be endured. Love is not passive in the face of unjust treatment. Love takes action to shake up an intolerable situation. Love looks beyond the present to the hope of what might be in the future.