



**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**, *Love waits patiently; love shows kindness. Love does not burn with envy; does not brag; is not inflated with its own importance. Love does not behave rudely; is not preoccupied with self-interest; does not become provoked to pique; does not keep a reckoning of wrongs. Love does not take pleasure in wrongdoing but joyfully celebrates truth. Love never tires of support, never loses faith, never exhausts hope, never gives up.*

**BIG IDEA:** *Love never stops loving, as long as there is life!*

## GENUINE LOVE IS \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

**1 Corinthians 13:7b**, *Love...always trusts, always hopes... (niv)*

**1 Corinthians 13:7b**, *Love...believes all things, hopes all things... (esv, nasb)*

**1 Corinthians 13:7b**, *Love...never loses faith, never exhausts hope...*

- ✳ **Faith** | pisteuo: to have faith (in, or with respect to, a person or thing), trust, believe.
- ✳ **Hope** | elpidzo: to expect or confide; hope; to trust.
- ✳ **Love will never stop having faith and never lose hope** in what God can do in the life of the one loved.
- ✳ **Our trust and hope in God empowers us** to risk loving those around us, even when it's hard.
- ✳ **For love there is no hopeless case.**

**Psalms 107:1**, *Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!*

**Romans 8:38-39**, *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## LOVING GOD INVOLVES \_\_\_\_\_

- ✳ **To love God is to never stop** trusting Him and never lose hope in His love and care for me.

**Romans 15:13**, *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**1 Corinthians 13:7**, *Love never tires of support, never loses faith, never exhausts hope, never gives up.*

- ✳ **When life is hard and I don't understand what God is doing**, I can still express my love for Him by trusting Him completely and never losing hope in His good plans for me, even when things seem hopeless.

**Romans 8:24-25**, *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

- ✳ **Hope requires trusting God for something we have not yet seen**, and therefore requires patience. And thus, we come full circle to the first characteristic of love: "love is patient..."

# LOVING PEOPLE REQUIRES

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**Loving people means that as long as there is life, I won't give up on them.** This love is not placed in the other person, but in the Sovereign God who has the power to change each of us and make us more like Jesus.

**Galatians 6:1-2**, *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

- ✳ **When trust is broken in a relationship**, love's first reaction is to heal and restore.
- ✳ **John MacArthur** | Love believes all things. Love is not suspicious or cynical. When love covers over a wrong it also believes in the best outcome for the one who has done the wrong - that the wrong will be confessed and forgiven and the loved one restored to righteousness.
- ✳ **Love also believes "all things" in another way:** if there is doubt about a person's guilt or motivation, love will always opt for the most favorable possibility. If a loved one is accused of something wrong, love will consider him/her innocent until proven guilty.

**Luke 22:31-34**, *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."*

**Luke 23:33-38**, *And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."*

**Mark 15:32**, *"Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.*

**Luke 23:39-43**, *One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

- ✳ **To all those who knew the convicted criminal** (who only had a few hours of life left) he probably seemed like a hopeless case. But this man turns out to be the ultimate example of the principle: **As long as there is life, there is hope!**
- ✳ **Love never gives up faith or hope** in what God can do.

**2 Timothy 2:24-25**, *And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,*

- ✳ **Love refuses to take failure as final.** As long as there is life, love does not lose hope.

## WHO DO I NEED TO RELENTLESSLY LOVE?

- ★ **Who is making it difficult to love them right now?** I can choose to cover them in love.
- ★ **Who am I about to give up on?** I can refuse to give up on loving them.
- ★ **Who have I already given up on?** I can choose to start loving them again.