

# EXCEL IN LOVE

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*But since you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you, see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7, NIV)*

To \_\_\_\_\_ means: to set on fire.

Synonyms include: light, ignite, set alight, get going, start, touch off, spark.

If an emotion or feeling: arouse or inspire wake, waken, awaken, quicken, stimulate, inspire, stir up, call forth, call/bring into being, draw forth, bring out, excite, evoke, spur, trigger, prompt, encourage, activate, and many more.

To \_\_\_\_\_ means to: be exceptionally good at or proficient in an activity or subject.

Synonyms: shine, be very good, be excellent, be brilliant, be outstanding, be skilful, be talented, be proficient, be expert, be pre-eminent, reign supreme, wear the crown, stand out, be the best, be unrivalled, be unparalleled, be unequalled, be without equal, be second to none, be unsurpassed; surpass outdo outshine, outclass, outstrip, beat, beat hollow, top, cap, transcend, be better than, be superior to, go one better than, better, pass, eclipse, overshadow, put in the shade, put to shame.

## Lessons From The Corinthians

1. Listened \_\_\_\_\_ not emotions.
2. They were \_\_\_\_\_
3. Followed the \_\_\_\_\_

## Love - A Commandment

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40, NIV)*

*You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:43-48, NIV)*

## Love is more than an emotion, it's a command

### What this means to us

1. Don't let \_\_\_\_\_ or lack of inspiration come in the way of doing what is right.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ what we start.

## How Do We Excel In love?

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a*

*reflection as in a mirror then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13, NIV)*

- 1) You will not treat them \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 20:13-17)
- 2) You will \_\_\_\_\_ them up not tear them down (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Romans 14:19)
- 3) You will take care of their \_\_\_\_\_ when they lack what you have (**give towards AoK**)  
(Matthew 25:34-40; Isaiah 58:6-7)
- 4) You will \_\_\_\_\_ of their emotional needs (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; Romans 12:12-18)
- 5) You will tend to their \_\_\_\_\_ needs, encourage them to strengthen their relationship with Christ, to read the word and to pray and to keep God and His Church a priority because this is God's will for their life.  
(Colossians 3:16-17; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25)
- 6) Be \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, we all make mistakes, be \_\_\_\_\_, show \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:2-3; Colossians 3:12-13)
- 7) Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ don't think yourself better than others (Romans 12:3)
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_! Do not keep a record of wrongs.  
(Ephesians 4:32)

### Conclusion

- Love is a strong emotion, it brings \_\_\_\_\_ strength and courage
- Love is what is needed on our \_\_\_\_\_ unless we learn to love we will not excel in much because there is no driving force (John 13:34-35)
- Are we practising this \_\_\_\_\_?
- We can teach it yes but are we \_\_\_\_\_ it?
- We need to love \_\_\_\_\_ not just those who are easy to love (Matthew 5:43-48)
- We have to love just as God does \_\_\_\_\_
- Love; it will \_\_\_\_\_ us
- Because of all the things we could do, the \_\_\_\_\_ is love, let us therefore excel in love

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV)*