

## September 3rd – The Supremacy of Love

*“And now abide faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13)*

Faith is one of the most important elements of our Christian faith. It's by faith that God allows us to experience His grace – “for by grace you have been saved through faith” (Eph. 2:8). By faith, great men and women of God have “subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword” and a multitude of other amazing things (Heb. 11:33-34). As the old hymn says, “Faith is the victory that overcomes the world” (cf. 1 John 5:4).

The Word of God also commends the importance of hope. The Bible says that God allows us to go through tribulations so that we can develop perseverance, character, and finally hope (Rom. 5:3-4). Hope is a faithful expectation that God is going to do exactly what He said He would, including coming back to take all those who have placed their trust in Him. As believers, we keep hope on our horizon as we walk through all the trials of life.

As great as faith and hope are, love stands higher than both of them. Paul goes to great lengths to explain that it doesn't matter how talented or gifted someone is. It's doesn't even matter how much a person is able to accomplish. If someone labors apart from love, then their work is done in vain. Love is not envious, haughty, proud, rude, self-seeking, easily provoked, evil-minded, or happy about sin. Love IS patient, kind, glad about truth, and it bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Let's let the love of God reign in every area of our lives.