



1 Corinthians:

12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have [the gift of] prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed [the poor,]



1 Corinthians:

and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind [and] is not jealous; love does not brag [and] is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong [suffered,] 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all



1 Corinthians:

things.

8 Love never fails; but if [there are gifts of] prophecy, they will be done away; if [there are] tongues, they will cease; if [there is] knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

WHAT do we grow?

- Who put these carrots here?
- What we plant, we reap!
- Spirit Fruit? **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; (Gal. 5:22,23)

His call

- “**GOD IS LOVE**” 1Jn 4:8,16
- “For God so loved...” Jn 3:16
- “as I have loved you” Jn13:34; 15:12
- Not sentimental, romantic, or sensual
- *agape* - HIS nature/being
- Cannot know love without knowing Him

Context

- 11 chapters of dealing with un-crucified
 - jealousies, pride, sin, immaturity, lawsuits, marriage issues, stumblings
- ch. 12 calls us to *pneumatikos* power
- in the midst of these, the more excellent!

Excellent way

- Spirit gift-ings are powerful...
 - but it must be from the new creation
 - w/o love? worthless noise martyrdom
- The impossible list...
 - “love is patient...” fail!
 - not a checklist, a higher call! HIM!!!

Jesus

- We will never know love outside of Jesus
 - His Life, Words, Death, Resurrection
 - Seated with Him in ‘the heavenlies’
 - Alive, living, walking, sanctified, hoping
- We can't love apart from HIM/Holy Spirit



Spirit

Ro 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Ga 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Fruit

- Love is an outgrowth of relationship
 - instead of striving for passing grades
 - “bears... believes... hopes... endures... never fails”
 - Walking in the Spirit fulfills these
 - Indicators of intimacy...