



**“GOD’S AMAZING LOVE EXALTED”**

**Part 3**

**I Corinthians 13:8-10**

**INTRODUCTION & REVIEW**

GOD’S LOVE IS EXPLAINED - 13:4-7

GOD’S LOVE IS EXALTED - 13:8-10

BECAUSE IT ENDURES – 8 - *“love never ends”*

BECAUSE IT EXISTS WHEN GIFTS ARE NO MORE – 8-10

1. The Inability Of Gifts To Last Forever – 8b

- PROPHECIES/KNOWLEDGE - they shall be phased out
- TONGUES- *“cease”* – come to an abrupt stop

2. The Incompleteness Of These Gifts – 9 *“in part”*

**3. The Impact Of That Which Is Perfect – 10**

Greek: *to teleion* – neuter word used 75 times in NT

The usage of the word *“perfect”*

- Completing a task - John 4:34; 17:4; Acts 20:24
- Biological growth - I Cor. 14:20
- Maturity – Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28

***Remember...***

Your responsibility, by God’s enabling, is to constantly apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Tim. 4:7-9; James 1:22-27).

As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions:

How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?

How can I accomplish this change?

What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

The **understanding** of the word “perfect”

- Refers to the Bible - James 1:22-25
- Refers to spiritual maturity - 1 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:13
- Refers to Jesus Christ – 12
- Refers to the 2nd Coming of Christ as an event
- Refers to love itself - 1 John 4:18

#### **THE PERFECT IS THE ETERNAL STATE**

Rev. 21:23; 1 Cor. 13:12

- Allows for neuter form of “perfect”
- Allows for continuation of knowledge and prophecy
- Fits context of Paul’s emphasis of love’s permanence
- Fits “*face to face*” reference in v. 12
- Fits “*then I shall know fully*” reference in v. 12

The eternal state begins for Old Testament believers at the first resurrection, when they will be raised to be with Him forever (Dan. 12:2).

For Christians the eternal state begins either at death, when they go to be with the Lord, or at the rapture, when the Lord takes His own to be with Himself.

For Tribulation and Kingdom saints it will occur at death or glorification.