

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

Love Is the Measure — 1 Corinthians 13

Big Idea: Love is not the replacement of the gifts — it is the measure of them.

Paul writes to a Spirit-filled church and teaches that how we walk in spiritual power matters as much as whether we walk in it at all.

Power and maturity do not always grow at the same pace.

1. Love Measures Spiritual Maturity (1 Cor. 13:1–3)

Without love, even authentic spiritual expression becomes noise instead of nourishment.

God measures maturity not by how much power flows through us, but by how much love flows from us.

Gifts show what God can do through a person. Love shows how much of Christ has been formed in a person.

Right actions without love may cost something, but they do not build the body.

2. Love Governs the Gifts

Love does not compete with gifts — it governs them.

Love asks: Is this helping others? Strengthening the body? Honoring Christ? The right moment?

Gifts reveal power. Love reveals maturity.

3. Love Shapes Expression (1 Cor. 13:4–7)

Love is patient, kind, not self-seeking, not dishonoring.

Love governs tone, not just truth.

The Holy Spirit never builds one believer by tearing down another.

Not every prompting is meant to be expressed publicly; some are prayed through privately.

4. Love Outlasts the Gifts (1 Cor. 13:8–13)

Gifts are temporary and purposeful. Love is eternal.

We know in part and prophesy in part — revelation is real but incomplete.

Testing is not unbelief; it is obedience (1 Thess. 5:19–21).

Maturity does not reduce hunger — it increases wisdom.

Final Truth: Faith trusts God. Hope looks forward. Love shapes how we treat one another now.

Love is not the alternative to the gifts. It is the measure by which the gifts are exercised.