

The Love of God

"Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life." Ps. 23:6 The Message

Rom. 5:2-5 *"Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment (NLT)...because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."* (NJKV)

1 Cor. 12:31-13:13 *"So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now I want to lay out a far better way for you.*

"If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

"If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

*"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything,
Trusts God always, always looks for the best,
Never looks back, but keeps going to the end.*

"Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

"When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

"We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

"But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love."The Message

John 17:23 NLT *"I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me."*