

1 Corinthians 13 1-3 New International Version - UK

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Paul speaks of the importance that our Love for God and for one another must underpin everything – without this love, all the spiritual gifts have no value, only when they are practised with love are, they are of great value to the Kingdom. Pray that we will use our gifts with love.

1 John 4:7-9 New International Version - UK

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

God is love – look again at 1 Corinthians 13 – description of love – this is a description of God Himself. He loves with a perfect love. We can love God and love one another because love comes from God. Pray that God will increase our love for Him and one another.

1 John 4:17-19 New International Version - UK

¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: in this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

Perfect love, God's love, drives out fear. There is no need to be afraid because we know God loves us and He has shown us forgiveness and mercy, give thanks that there is no fear in love.

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In verse 19 John tells us that all love comes ultimately from God; genuine love is never self-generated by his creatures. Give thanks that God loves us and enables us to love with a genuine and perfect love.

Matthew 3:16-17 New International Version - UK

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’

As Jesus is obedient to His Father’s will, the Father expresses His love for His Son. Our obedience will see expressions of God’s love and pleasure in us too. Ask God to help us serve Him in love and obedience.

Matthew 17:4-6 New International Version - UK

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!’

The disciples who witnessed the transfiguration, heard God’s voice proclaiming that Jesus was His soon whom he loved and exhorts them to listen to Him. Do you listen to Jesus? Ask that God will speak to us today and that we will listen and obey His commands.

1 Thessalonians 1:3-5 New International Version – UK

³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters[a] loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

Imagine Paul is writing these words to you – a much loved, chosen brother or sister in Christ, producing faith, labouring in love, inspired by hope. Be encouraged to know you are chosen, loved and saved by our Lord Jesus Christ. Give thanks that Jesus has chosen you, that he inspires you and that He loves you.