

Love Never Fails

1 Cor. 13:8-13

"Faith remains because faith is a human response to a divine provision both in this life and in the life to come. Our faith relationship with God will continue throughout eternity. Hope remains because hope is the expectation that God will provide in the future as he has in the past. Love remains because God is love.

Paul says that love is the greatest of these. God is not faith and God is not hope, but God is love. Learning to love as He loves is the most important task a human being has in this entire universe. Learning to love is learning to become like God.

The lie the devil in the garden of Eden was, "If you disobey God, you will become like God." That lie has produced thousands of years of sin, terror and torment in the world. The truth of the scriptures is, 'If you love like God, you'll become like God.' That is the promise of 1 John 3:2: 'Dear friends now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.' We shall be like him! Our love will be like His. Our character will be like His. That is why love remains. And that is why 'the greatest of these is love.'" Stedman

- I. Agape love is the motivation behind Christ's sacrifice for us. Its presence was absolutely necessary for our salvation and guaranteed entrance into heaven through faith. It will always determine God's approach toward his children because his agape love will never fail us. It takes away our fear of condemnation and punishment and will remain an inseparable part of our relationship with him throughout eternity.

1Cor. 13:8-10

Matt. 25:46

πίπτω ***ρίπτō***, to be cast down from a state of prosperity, to fall from a state of uprightness, to perish, i.e come to an end, disappear, cease. Of virtues, to lose authority, no longer have force. Strong's Concordance

1 John 4:18 *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.*

- II. God's love is a perfect, constant, inseparable part of his character that cannot and does not vacillate toward us. Our love, on the other hand, fails God, the church, our families, friends and neighbors in many ways. But we are without excuse; therefore, we are challenged to make sure that we treat one another with a mature love by putting pettiness, pride, unforgiveness and selfishness behind us. God wants spiritually mature men and women to be salt and light in this world. He doesn't want spiritually immature boys and girls to represent him in a world in desperate need of a Savior.

1 Cor. 13:11

1 Corinthians 14:20 *Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.*

- III. God's will, in light of the second coming of Christ when we shall finally see him face to face with full understanding, is to put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the hope of salvation for a helmet so that we stay mature in him until his love, grace and mercy bring us home to be with him forever and ever.

1 Cor. 13:12-13

1 Thess. I:2

1 Thess. 5:8 *But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.*

"Love is greatest because it will continue, even grow, in the eternal state. When we are in heaven, faith and hope will have fulfilled their purpose. We won't need faith when we see God face to face. We won't need to hope in the coming of Jesus once He comes. But we will always love the Lord and each other, and grow in that love through eternity."

Guzik