



BARNES

an the Bay

June 27, 2022

Love's Revelation

SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (NKJV)

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: "Love's Revelation"

The word "love" is often thrown around but frequently misused or misapplied. It is sometimes a suggested reason for an illicit affair or justification for all types of sensual corruption. For some, any actions based on heartfelt love are justifiable.

But the Bible counters such a notion and confusion of love's essence. Of the many Scriptures that speak of love's source and character, 1 Corinthians 13 gives divine insight into love and its conduct. God reveals that love is patient, kind, respectful, reserved, humble, and pure. It behaves itself, blesses others, deescalates tension, purposes good, and rejoices in righteousness and truth. Therefore, love bears, believes, hopes, and endures for the best in all that rise against it. That's why love can never fail. It works differently than any other emotion and results in far-greater outcomes.

Indeed, in our lives, love—in its true nature—must never fail. It should always be a part of our lives, revealing our testimony about the Lord's presence within us. Love, therefore, reveals its true nature for all to see. Its presence is unmistakable, but its absence is evident as well.

The presence of love will be demonstrated according to God's divine principles. Therefore, it is crucial that what we see in others and that others see in us truly exemplifies love as God defines it. 1 Corinthians 13 becomes the measuring scale for what true love is or an emotion representing something else.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"Love is not only something you feel; it is something you do." –David Wilkerson

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: "Reveal Love"

Our lives are pretty much an open book. Regardless of intention, our way of life testifies to what we cherish and how we feel about others. Consequently, take time this week to carefully review the principles of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. Allow these words to form your understanding of true love in yourself and others. Let it affect how you speak and act from this point on.



Study Love This Week from 1 John 3

MONDAY: 1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

TUESDAY: 1 John 4:8, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

WEDNESDAY: 1 John 4:9, "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."

THURSDAY: 1 John 4:10, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

FRIDAY: 1 John 4:11, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

SATURDAY: 1 John 4:12, "No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us."

SUNDAY: 1 John 4:20-21, "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."