

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. —1 Corinthians 13:1-3

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### Without love...

- All I say is ineffective.
- All I know is incomplete.
- All I believe is insufficient.
- All I give is insignificant.
- All I accomplish is inadequate.

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<sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

<sup>1</sup>Pursue love...

1 Corinthians 13:13, 14:1a

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"God is love."

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<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

—John 13:34-35

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...because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. —Romans 5:5b

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Transforming Love is Not a Feeling

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<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

—1 Corinthians 13:4-6

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"Love: a temporary insanity, curable by marriage."

—Ambrose Bierce

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"Love is blind, but marriage restores its sight."

—George C. Lichtenberg

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"Love at first sight is easy to understand; it's when two people have been looking at each other for a lifetime that it becomes a miracle." —Amy Bloom

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<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

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<sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation [appeasing, covering] for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. —**1 John 4:7-11**

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Transforming Love is Not Fleeting

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<sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. —**1 Corinthians 13:7-8a**

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Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. —Ephesians 4:32

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...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. —Romans 5:8

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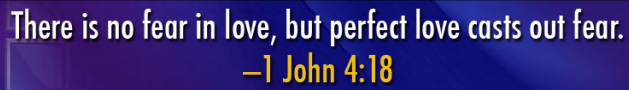
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Transforming Love Brings Freedom

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<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child,  
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.  
When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.  
<sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then  
face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall  
know fully, even as I have been fully known.  
—1 Corinthians 13:11-12

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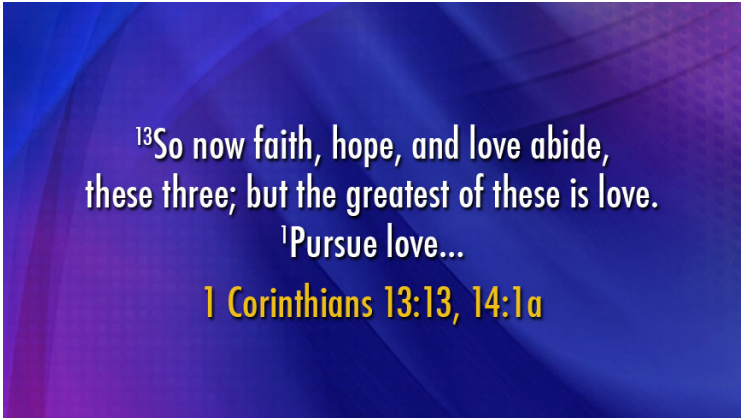
There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.  
—1 John 4:18

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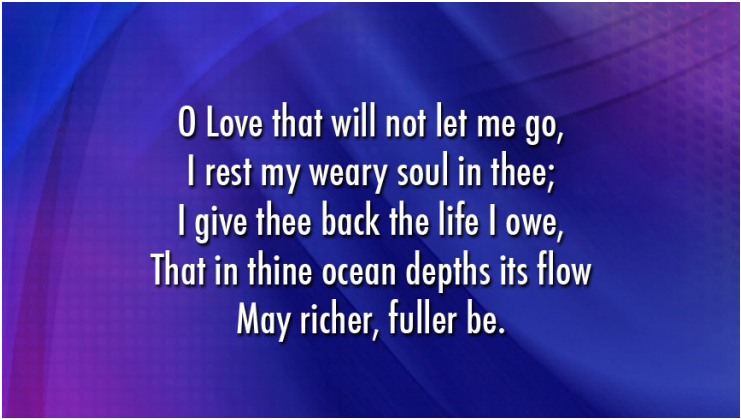
Transforming Love is the Key to a Fulfilling Life!

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<sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide,  
these three; but the greatest of these is love.  
<sup>1</sup>Pursue love...  
1 Corinthians 13:13, 14:1a

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O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

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