



Scripture Cultivations



Perfect Love



“above all else, let love be the beautiful prize for which you run.”¹

1 Corinthians 13:13

Week 1

- _____  1 Corinthians 13:1
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:2
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:3

Week 2

- _____  1 Corinthians 13:4
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:5
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:6
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:7

Week 3

- _____  1 Corinthians 13:8
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:9
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:10

Week 4

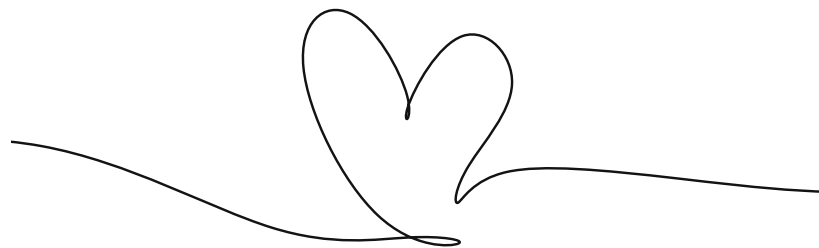
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:11
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:12
- _____  1 Corinthians 13:13

1 CORINTHIANS 13

Ways to dig a little deeper

- Since we've only 13 verses this month, it's a wonderful time to dig in by looking at and writing the verses in multiple translations.
 - I've included the whole passage in The Passion Translation and the Amplified version on the following pages. No pressure to read them, but I love how the translations open up the meanings of the different words.
- Ask Holy Spirit what He wants to reveal to you in those verses.
- Pay attention to the words or the phrases that tug at you.
- Write and maybe even rewrite the verses that Holy Spirit highlights to you.
- Lastly, make it personal. Put your name in place of "love." I've personalized a few verses in The Passion Translation so you can see what I mean.

ROSE is gentle and consistently kind to all. SHE refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. ROSE does not brag about her own achievements nor inflate her own importance. ~verse 4



1 CORINTHIANS 13

(The Passion Translation)

Love, the Motivation of Our Lives

1 If I were to speak with eloquence in earth's many languages, and in the heavenly tongues of angels, yet I didn't express myself with love, my words would be reduced to the hollow sound of nothing more than a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I were to have the gift of prophecy with a profound understanding of God's hidden secrets, and if I possessed unending supernatural knowledge, and if I had the greatest gift of faith that could move mountains, but have never learned to love, then I am nothing.

3 And if I were to be so generous as to give away everything I owned to feed the poor, and to offer my body to be burned as a martyr, without the pure motive of love, I would gain nothing of value.

4 Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. 5 Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. 6 Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. 7 Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.

Perfect Love

8 Love never stops loving. It extends beyond the gift of prophecy, which eventually fades away. It is more enduring than tongues, which will one day fall silent. Love remains long after words of knowledge are forgotten. 9 Our present knowledge and our prophecies are but partial, 10 but when love's perfection arrives, the partial will fade away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke about childish matters, for I saw things like a child and reasoned like a child. But the day came when I matured, and I set aside my childish ways.

12 For now we see but a faint reflection of riddles and mysteries as though reflected in a mirror, but one day we will see face-to-face. My understanding is incomplete now, but one day I will understand everything, just as everything about me has been fully understood. 13 Until then, there are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love—yet love surpasses them all. So above all else, let love be the beautiful prize for which you run. Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong.

1 CORINTHIANS 13

(Amplified)

The Excellence of Love

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love [for others growing out of God's love for me], then I have become only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [just an annoying distraction]. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy [and speak a new message from God to the people], and understand all mysteries, and [possess] all knowledge; and if I have all [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love [reaching out to others], I am nothing. 3 If I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it does me no good at all.

4 Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant. 5 It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong endured. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. 7 Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening].

8 Love never fails [it never fades nor ends]. But as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for the gift of special knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part [for our knowledge is fragmentary and incomplete]. 10 But when that which is complete and perfect comes, that which is incomplete and partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now [in this time of imperfection] we see in a mirror dimly [a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma], but then [when the time of perfection comes we will see reality] face to face. Now I know in part [just in fragments], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known [by God]. 13 And now there remain: faith [abiding trust in God and His promises], hope [confident expectation of eternal salvation], love [unselfish love for others growing out of God's love for me], these three [the choicest graces]; but the greatest of these is love.

