

That's the Power of Love

(By Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."
 - 1. "Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. Love still stands when all else has fallen."
- B. Love is the force that moved God Himself. What did love move Him to do?
 - 1. To save us - Eph. 2:4-6
 - 2. To hold nothing back from us - 1John 4:10
 - 3. To create us and the world in the first place - Eph. 1:3-4
 - 4. Do you realize that love moved God to create us and this universe, to save us from the sins that separated us from Him, and to hold nothing back from us that we need?
 - 5. Without love, none of that would have happened. Love the motivating force behind God's power.
- C. What powers can love give us?

I. THE POWER OF LOVE - 1Corinthians 13:4-7

- A. Love suffers long - Patient - Eph. 4:1-2; Col. 1:11
- B. And is kind
 - 1. Chresteuomai - "to show oneself useful, to act benevolently; to be kind. A verb denoting action" - Acts 9:39
- C. Love does not envy - "jealous over another; strong feelings against"
 - 1. Jealousy is a work of the flesh limited by the power of the flesh and is confined to this world - Gal. 5:19-26
 - 2. Love is not limited by the flesh or this world
- D. Love does not parade itself - boast or strut
 - 1. Human glory has no power - Dan. 4:30-32
 - 2. Recognizing God's glory empowers - 2Sam. 9:7-8
- E. Is not puffed up
 - 1. Abraham had every earthly reason to be proud - Gen. 18:27
 - 2. One who loves recognizes his limits in the limits of others - 1Peter 4:8
- F. Does not behave rudely - 1Thes. 2:7-12
 - 1. Behaves toward others as if he had a familial relationship with them and responsibility for them
- G. Does not seek its own - John 12:23-27
 - 1. The needs of others outweigh my own needs? Wrong. I have made the needs of others my highest needs
- H. Is not easily provoked
 - 1. Ouparoxuno - "not easily exasperated; does not sharpen easily"
 - 2. Luke 21:19; Prov. 15:18
- I. Thinks no evil - Not suspicious - Phil. 2:3-5; 1Cor. 8:2
- J. Does not rejoice in iniquity - Job 31:28-30; Prov. 24:17
- K. But rejoices in the truth - Psalm 119:129-132; John 14:6

L. Bears all things

1. Stego - covers with silence; sustains against attacks - Isa. 53:7

M. Believes all things - Exercises faith and confidence in others - Gal. 5:6

1. Barnabas believed in John Mark enough to stand up to the apostle Paul after he rejected him, and took him along to preach; the result was that John Mark not only helped Barnabas, he helped Paul

2. Acts 15:36-39; 2Tim. 4:11

N. Hopes all things - hopes for the best outcomes for others - 1Peter 5:10

O. Endures all things - 1Cor. 9:12; 2Tim. 2:10; James 5:11

Conclusion:

A. Paul affirms that true Christian love is powerful enough to rule in every situation, giving us the precise meaning of all things.

B. Love moved God to make you, save you, and sustain you.

C. Love is strong enough to make you like Him in this world - 1John 4:16-17