



**“The Greatest of These is Love”
Part Two**

1Corinthians 12:31, 13:13

1Corinthians 12:31, 13:13

- “But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way... 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- Love is the greatest duty of man
- Love is the greatest manifestation of grace
- Love is the greatest evidence of faith
- Love is the greatest means of glorifying God
- Love is the greatest source of well being

Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- We approach perfection by God's measurement according to the depth of our love for others
 - John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"

Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- Acts 4:32-35 - “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”

Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- Paul and John described love as the bond of perfection
 - Col. 3:14 - “But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”
 - 1John 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.”

Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- Paul prayed for love to increase
 - 1Thes. 4:9-10 - “But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more”
 - 1Thes. 3:12 - “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you”
 - Heb. 13:1 - “Let brotherly love continue.”

Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

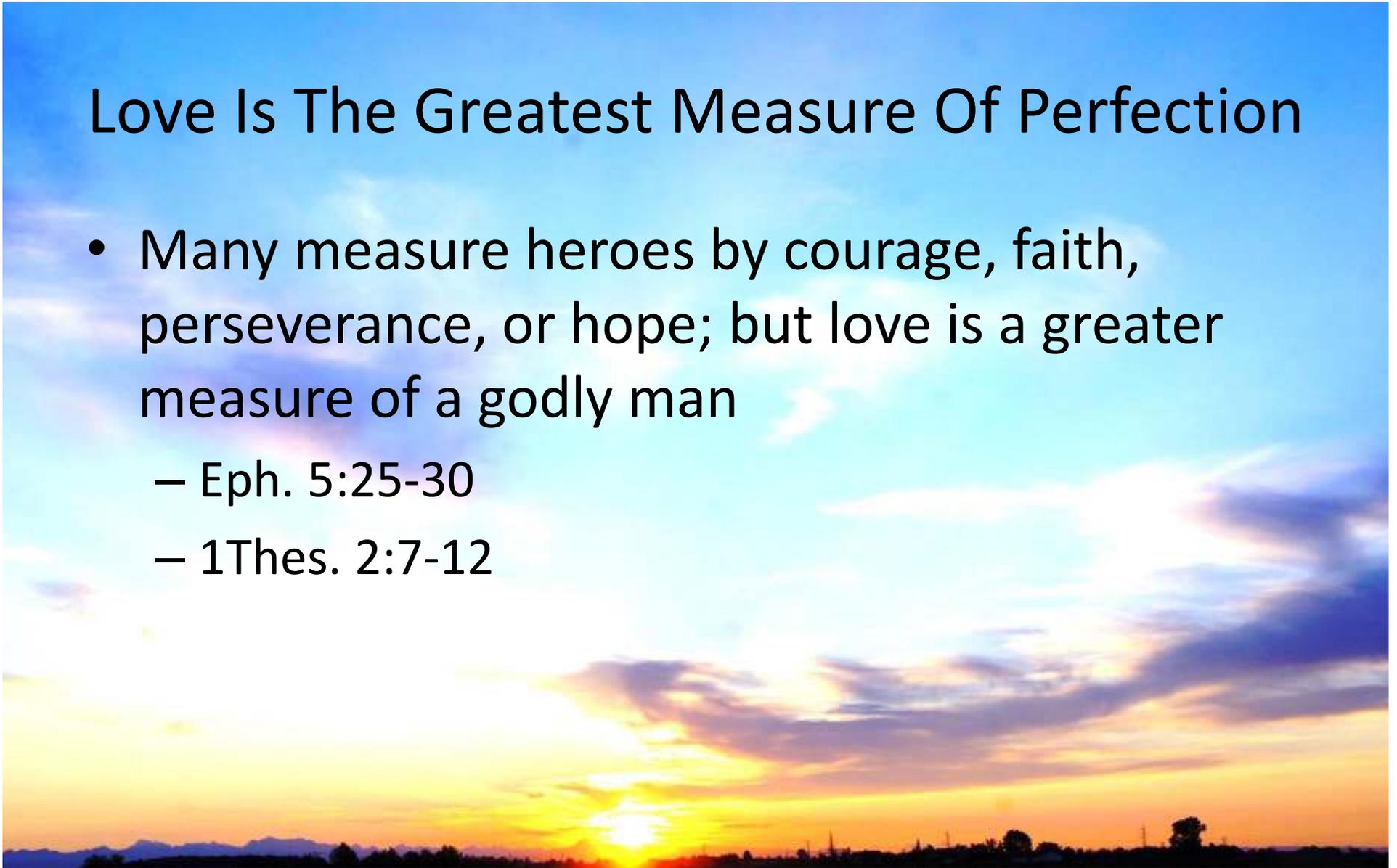
- Paul prayed for love to increase
 - Eph. 1:15-16 - “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers”
 - Phil. 1:9-11 - “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- Paul prayed for love to increase
 - Col. 1:3-4 - “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints”
 - Col. 2:2 - “That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ”
 - 2Thes. 1:3 - “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other”

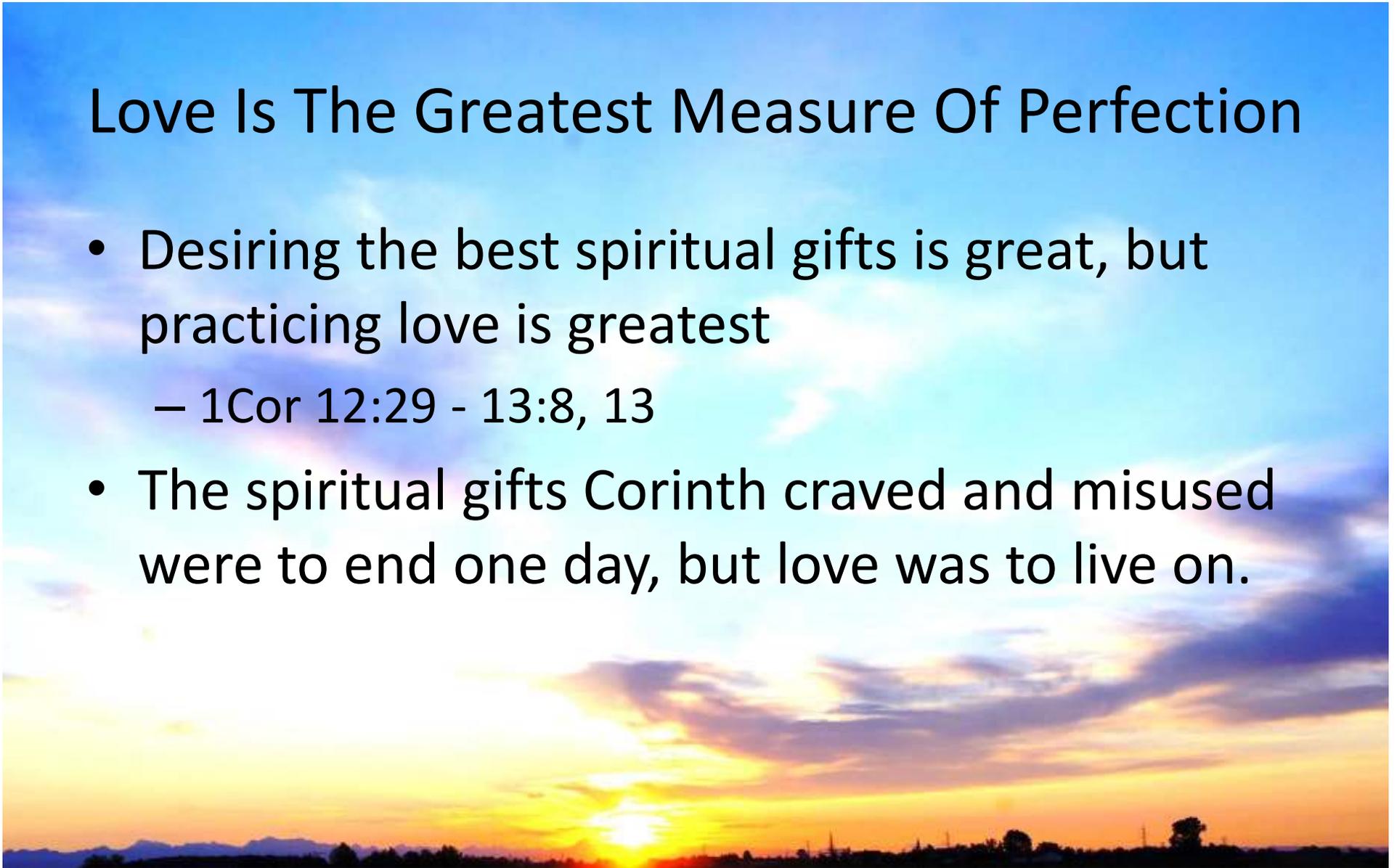
Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- Many measure heroes by courage, faith, perseverance, or hope; but love is a greater measure of a godly man
 - Eph. 5:25-30
 - 1Thes. 2:7-12



Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- Desiring the best spiritual gifts is great, but practicing love is greatest
 - 1Cor 12:29 - 13:8, 13
- The spiritual gifts Corinth craved and misused were to end one day, but love was to live on.



Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- Love must be genuine and unforced
 - Rom. 12:9 - “Let love be without hypocrisy...”
 - 2Cor. 6:6 - “by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love”
 - Prov. 26:24-26 - “He who hates, disguises it with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; 25 When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart; 26 Though his hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.”

Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection

- The greatest in the kingdom of heaven are those who love and serve others
 - Matt. 20:25-28 - “But Jesus called them to Himself and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”