

## Love Always

### Scripture

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 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.” (1Co 13:1-7 NKJV)

### Devotion

I have known men who would use the Scriptures like a dagger to rip at men’s hearts; not to convert but to inflict revenge. In an effort to destroy anyone who would disagree with them, mockery and slander rolled from their lips like flood-waters breaching a dam. Speaking the truth in many cases, but in such a harsh and sarcastic manner they risked judgment upon their own souls.

Friends, let us not behave in such a wicked way. Always love no matter how difficult the task before you. Think about our Savior who hung naked with evil men cursing and spitting upon Him. After enduring insult upon insult He said, “. . . ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do’. . . .” (Lu 23:34 NKJV) He could have called on ten-thousand angels, but He chose to suffer for those who did not deserve His grace. Yes, He demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners He died for us (Rom. 5:8).

Are there people in your life that stir deep feelings of resentment and anger in your heart? God desires that you love your enemies and bless those who curse you and pray for those who spitefully use you (Matt. 5:44). This is the real test of your faith. There are many scholars, many church workers, and many who faithfully attend worship; but without love it profits nothing.

We dare not throw off the truth in search of love. Love must not displace truth, but rather merge with truth. As it is written, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” (Eph 4:29-5:2 NKJV)

My dear friends always love!

