

What is Love—Love Never Fails

Study Questions

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Warm-up

1) What are some of the oldest things you have owned, and how did you come to own them?

Have you had any of these old things lost, or stolen, or broken, etc.?

A little deeper

2) [1 Corinthians 13:8-10] The gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge will lose their power and become obsolete in heaven, but love will endure. **Why are prophecy, tongues, and knowledge unnecessary in heaven?**

How do you expect love will be shown in heaven?

3) [1 Corinthians 13:11-12] These two verses provide different imagery for the same idea, contrasting our earthly lives with our heavenly existence. But by God's grace, we can begin to experience His kingdom here on earth. **What are some ways that you see heaven breaking through into our everyday lives? Do you know anyone who seems to approach life with a more heavenly perspective? How is that perspective different?**

4) [1 Corinthians 13:13] There are two ways to read *now* in this last verse. It could mean the time between Jesus' resurrection and His return, or it could mean *therefore*. If we read it as *therefore*, it means there is still a place for faith and hope in heaven. It suggests that while we will be perfected in Christ, we will not be "complete" or fully mature. We will still have faith in God, and a hope for things that will continue to unfold, but it will be in the context of a fully realized salvation and new life. **Why does love become so much more important than faith and hope once we reach heaven?**

What might heaven be like for someone focused much more on themselves and their own plans than what God sets before them?

Bringing it home

6) Have you ever felt like love failed you in some way? What happened?

Was the failure due to God's love, or due to something human?

7) God's love inspires some to change their lives immediately, while others need years or decades, and still others remain closed off from God their entire lives. Have you ever tried to "love" someone so much that they would change for the better? If so, did you put any unrealistic expectations on the effort (such as a timeframe)?

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