

**“LOVE NEVER FAILS”**  
**1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The apostle Paul was once a man filled with hatred as he hunted down Christians. When he met Jesus, that changed everything! Now he sees that love is the greatest thing. We may have all been at that place before our conversion to the Lord. Now the Holy Spirit has worked in us and caused us to love a local body. With that, the life of the church has a higher priority in our lives. The definition of love has been beautifully expressed in the early part of this chapter, **v. 4-7**.

## **LOVE NEVER FAILS**

The gifts will eventually not be needed, but love will last forever! Prophecies are the use of the Scriptures to build and encourage the body of Christ in a necessary aspect of body life and ministry. Futuristic prophecies are waiting to be fulfilled, but eventually they won't be necessary. Tongues are useful, but for a specified time frame to serve the purpose.

Knowledge, or the word of knowledge, was beneficial to the early church, and even now. Gaining knowledge from the Scriptures is edifying to us. What is the church without the use of the Bible? The Word of God is alive, **Heb. 4:12**. It's new and fresh every day. **“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”**, **Matthew 24:35** NKJV.” It's powerful because of the Author behind it. Power goes with it to understand it and apply it. It's sharp and can make a person feel exposed. The gifts will eventually not be needed, but love will last into eternity!

**Verse 9** indicates that in this life we are limited in what we know. What we do know about God is by the Holy Spirit. Think of other things that we have only limited knowledge about, such as the ocean. Over 90% of the ocean floor is still unexplored. Our study of space and the universe has only scratched the surface.

## **CESSATION OR CONTINUATION?**

In **verses 10-12**, much of Christianity has been in debate. There are 2 camps, “Cessation” and “Continuation”. The question is whether the gifts ceased in Paul's day or actually continue until today. The reasons people argue the gifts have **ceased** are: 1) in **v. 10**, “that which” is not “who which”, 2) gifts were thought to be given until canon of scripture was complete, 3) we don't see miracles today, 4) the Charismatic church can get crazy, and 5) **v. 11** says to put away childish things, assuming that the gifts were for the adolescent stage of the church. The **Continuationists** position, however, is: 1) miracles still happen! This is well documented in a book by Craig Keener, 2) while craziness does happen at some churches, use of the Scriptures lead to less craziness, and 3) **verse 10** can be understood by what is stated in **verse 12**. **Verse 10** refers to the completeness of everything coming together. “That which is perfect has come” is not Jesus, necessarily, but the coming Kingdom. We'll have much more clarity and understanding then. The gifts will seem crude and we won't need them! **“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:2** NKJV.

## **CONSIDER**

Disagreeing on the gifts is not a reason for a fight since this is not a primary, essential doctrine. The church needs to be more than only a “study center”, or only a “worship center”. It has to be a combination of these aspects where we have faith and expectation. Most of all, unconditional love is the warmth that we need in the church, not the coldness of our pride, as we gather and work together! Love is the greatest way. It never fails!

## **PRAY .....**

- \* That the men of the fellowship would be strengthened as they gather together on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- \* That members of the church would experience and grow in the love written of in chapter 13.
- \* That we would allow God to show us the pride in us. Let us repent of it!