

1 Cor 13:4-7

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.

We have finally come to the end of our 3 weeks of devotionals on Love and it even fell on the day we celebrate Love, Valentines Day. I pray you have learned and grown in these studies on Love from the bible.

One thing I want to point out before we go to the final thing that Love is. Have you noticed one word that we usually associate with Love is not included here in the list of 15 things Love is and isn't? What word is that? **Feeling** Notice that it does not say that Love is a feeling. Feelings can be deceitful and can rob you of real Love. So don't ever follow Love based upon a feeling, because usually it's not Love, but lust for a physical thing or person that you want.

So, to end these 3 weeks of devotionals on Love, our fifteenth and final thing we will look at concerning Love, is something that Love also does.

Love endures all things.

The NLT puts it this way: *endures through every circumstance.*

Endures means: *to preserve: under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in Christ*

For the last three week's we have been looking at what love is and isn't, and this last one I think says it all: *Love endures through every circumstance.*

Maybe you have had problems in your marriage or in a close friendship with someone. Over the last three weeks, maybe you could see yourself or the other person in these devotionals. You may have thought, "Oh, I wish he or she would read this, I know it would change them." Yet we are so quick to see what others need. So quick that we don't stop and see if the Lord is really trying to speak to us.

Have you been ready to give up on your marriage or your friendship? *Love endures all things*

Is all your hope gone? *Love hopes all things*

Are you anticipating a break up and thinking that things will be better without him or her? *Love does not rejoice in iniquity*

Has your heart grown so hardened that you refuse to forgive and press on in your marriage? *Love bears all things*

Maybe it's not your spouse or friend that the Lord wants to work on; maybe it's you?

† **Ezek 11:19** *Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh*

Pray and ask the Lord to soften your hardened heart and to change you. It's very possible that the only way your spouse or friend will change, is if you change first. If you refuse to, then you do not have the Love of the Lord in you, and you need to repent of this and ask the Lord to change your heart.

† **1 John 3:18** *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*

I would encourage all of us to go back through these past 15 devotionals and pray over each one, and ask the Lord to give us this type of love for our spouses, friends and even strangers.

This Valentines Day, why not ask the Lord for the ultimate gift of the Holy Spirit.

† **1 Cor 13:13** *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* (underlined for emphasis)