

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.

Our final week in our daily devotional series on love and only one more to go after today. For our fourteenth thing we will look at concerning love, is something that love also does.

Love hopes all things

When you think of the word hope, what do you think of? Maybe, “*I hope he/she will change*” or “*I hope I win the Lotto this week*”.

But our hope is not in other people or materialistic things, but rather in Jesus Christ.

✠ **1 Tim 1:1 (NLT)** *This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and by Christ Jesus our hope.* (underlined for emphasis)

Our hope is also in what we will become in Jesus Christ.

✠ **1 John 3:2** *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.*

So how do we apply this to our marriage or friendships? We look forward to being with Jesus and like Jesus. Yet in love, we should also look forward to our spouse or friend being like Jesus and with Jesus. We don't say, “*I hope he/she will change*”, but rather our hope is that Jesus is working in his or her lives.

One of the best things about hope in Jesus and what He does in ours, and the lives of those that we love, is that it will never be disappointing.

✠ **Romans 5:5** *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* (underlined for emphasis)

Are you disappointed in your spouse or friend? Are you upset because you have tried to change him or her and they haven't seemed to change at all? Have you done everything you could to help them, but nothing happens?

Today... right now, give them to Jesus and let Him do the work that He wants to do. It may not be the same as you want it to be, but if Jesus is doing the work, your hope is that your spouse or friend will be better than anyone you have known before.

Also remember that you are not Jesus or the Holy Spirit, and it's not your job to change anyone, but yourself. When you hope that someone will change, and try to do that change in them to what you think they should be, you are trying to make him or her into your image, not God's.

Hope is trusting in Jesus to change others, and hope is trusting in Jesus to change you as well and He will do it out of love.

† **Psalm 31:24** *Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.*