

“IT’S #1!”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13

In contrast to the observations of man stands the assertions of God, who makes one rather concrete announcement here about the supremacy of love!

LOVE IS THE GREATEST

① It C _____ (13:8a)

never → occurs infrequently; when it does, it’s quite _____ (Mt. 7:23; 9:33; 21:42; John 7:46)

Unlike man, who falls from grace (Gal. 5:4), falls into error (2 Pt. 3:17), or falls into apathy (Rev. 2:5), stands biblical love.

② It C _____ (13:8b)

It isn’t _____; it’s eternal. It’s not for a period of time but for an infinite one.

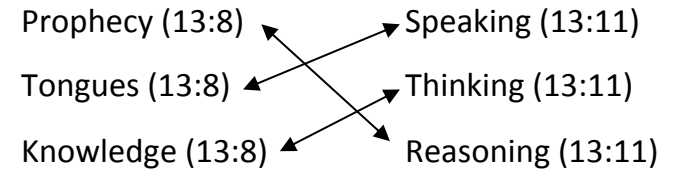
Instead of support passages first for the discrediting of the charismatic movement, we should first consider this verse and these verses in light of their _____.

③ It C _____ (13:9-10)

It is not in part but in full because it is sourced in God and abounds in the child of God (Rom. 5:5).

There’s a reason why it’s #1 on the fruit of the Spirit list! We _____ it and we are to exercise it as we walk in the Spirit!

④ It C _____ (13:11)



⑤ It C _____ (13:12a)

It goes to the _____ of the other one. It is not impersonal but interpersonal.

⑥ It C _____ (13:12b)

The love of God isn’t _____ but carries commitment, deep commitment. It doesn’t just go a few extra steps; it goes the extra mile. Love breaks the hardened ground and connects on a deeper level in heart to heart communing.

⑦ It C _____ (13:13)

In heaven, faith will be _____ and hope will be _____. But love will continue as sure as our eternal God continues.

CONCLUSION

What an incredible resource that the very God of very God has equipped every believer with throughout the centuries. And what an incredible impact could be had – both within the church and outside the church – if God’s people would exercise this overabounding resource of love!

Place a check mark next to every symptom that is true of your life. Ask God to reveal what you really love.

- Prioritizing my time and finances to provide comfort, convenience, and luxury with which to indulge myself.
- Easily irritated when others interrupt or infringe upon my schedule, time, or plans.
- Monopolizing conversations by talking about myself, my problems, and my interests.
- Becoming resentful or defensive when my reputation is attacked.
- Inflexible to changes or alterations in my plans.
- Unable to be transparently honest with others, to seek forgiveness, to identify or admit my failures.
- Demanding that others adjust their lives and schedules around me.
- Insisting that things always be done my way.
- Communicating with a dogmatic, opinionated spirit.
- Insensitive to the physical or spiritual needs of those around me.
- Reluctant to sacrifice my time to minister to the needs of others.
- Seeking “the best,” “the first,” “the most” for myself.
- Expecting others to understand and accept me as I am, while being impatient with the failures of others.
- Insisting on my right to be happy and fulfilled.