

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (NIV)

Childish Ways

That is what I want to be. **What's that?** I want to be mature and complete. I want to put childish ways behind me. I am tired of thinking and speaking and acting in ways that are immature. **This is a very good desire that you have in you. Do you have any idea how this desire has grown in you?** I know exactly how this desire has grown in me. **That, I would like to hear.** This desire has not come from me. If I was left to myself, I'm pretty sure that I would never grow up. I would keep right on thinking and speaking and acting in childish ways. I would not be happy with that. You would not be happy with that. You have so much more for me than that. You want me to grow up. **Yes, I do.** I want to grow up. I want what you want. **Why do you want what I want?** Now, we are getting to the heart of the matter. **That is a good choice of words.** Yes, I thought so. I want what you want because I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. It is my desire to think and speak and act in ways that please you because I love you. It is no burdensome desire to do what is pleasing to you. It is my joy to think and speak and act in ways that please you. **That's very good.**

You know, I can't take credit for loving you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. **Why is that?** I don't love you because I am responding favorably to your commandments. If disciplined obedience was the basis of my love for you, I would not love you very well. **Why do you love me?** I love you because you first loved me. I love you because you have allowed me to come to know you. I love you because you have shown me your kindness and mercy and love. You have allowed me to taste your goodness. You have lavished me with your love. The only appropriate response back to you is to love you. I will tell you something else. **What's that?** I am so thankful and grateful that you have made me able to love you. There is no other kind of life I would like to live. **That's very good.**

I do have a few requests, I would like to mention to you. **I'm listening.** I would like it if you would help me to come to know you more and more as I love, follow and serve you. I would like it if you would continue to fan this flame of love that I have for you. I would like it if you would help me to continue to put away childish ways of living so that I can more fully love you and others. **That's it?** That's it, for right now. **I will hear and answer these prayers of yours.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I want to be mature and complete. I want to put childish ways behind me. I want to know and love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. May your love change and mature all my thoughts and words and deeds as I follow and serve you. Amen

Love*Love Never Fails*

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

NIV

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Will Last Forever*

Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when full understanding comes, these partial things will become useless. When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

NLT

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Never Ends*

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

NRSV

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Never Fails*

Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth]. For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect). But when the complete and perfect (total) comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away (become antiquated, void, and superseded). When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways and have put them aside. For now we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim (blurred) reflection [of reality as in a riddle or enigma], but then [when perfection comes] we shall see in reality and face to face! Now I know in part (imperfectly), but then I shall know and understand fully and clearly, even in the same manner as I have been fully and clearly known and understood [by God].

AMP

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Never Fails*

Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

NASB

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Never Ends*

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

ESV

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Never Fails*

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

NKJV

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Never Dies*

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled. When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

MSG

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Goes On Forever*

All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. Someday prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge—these gifts will disappear. Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor. But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear. It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things. In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.

TLB

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love*Love Never Ends*

Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will stop. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will come to an end. The reason is that our knowledge and our ability to prophesy are not perfect. But when perfection comes, the things that are not perfect will end. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. It is the same with us. Now we see a dim reflection, as if we were looking into a mirror, but then we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part, but then I will know fully, as God has known me.

NCV

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love Never Fails

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Love – 1 Corinthians 13:8-12

In Context: *Read 1 Corinthians 13*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Love never fails. | But where | there are prophecies, | they will cease; | where there | are tongues, | they will be stilled; | where there | is knowledge, | it will | pass away. | For we | know in part | and | we prophesy | in part, | but when | perfection comes, | the imperfect | disappears. | When I | was a child, | I talked | like a child, | I thought | like a child, | I reasoned | like a child. | When I | became a man, | I put | childish ways | behind me. | Now we see | but a | poor reflection | as in | a mirror; | then | we shall see | face to face. | Now I know | in part; | then | I shall | know fully, | even as | I am | fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I want to be mature and complete. I want to put childish ways behind me. I want to know and love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. May your love change and mature all my thoughts and words and deeds as I follow and serve you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you thought and talked and acted like a child?

What has helped or hindered your growing up to be a mature follower of Jesus Christ?

How are you making it your priority to come to know and love God with all your heart?

How has God's love helped change and mature the thoughts of your mind?

How has God's love helped change and mature the words of your mouth?

How has God's love helped change and mature the actions of your life?

Why will you never go wrong by loving God and others with all your heart, mind, soul and strength?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it your priority to know and love God and others with all your heart and mind and soul and strength.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will never go wrong by loving God and others with all your heart and mind and soul and strength.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God has helped you to put childish ways of living behind you.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May your love for God make you able to put away childish ways of living.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will put away childish ways of living as I love, follow and serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I put away childish ways of thinking, talking and acting today?
