

THE GREATEST OF THESE

1 Corinthians 12–13



Paul wrote to the people settling in Corinth: “Many of you have been given wonderful gifts by the Holy Spirit. Maybe you can speak in foreign languages, or prophesy, or teach, or heal. None of these is better than the others, so don’t get bigheaded! Is the eye more important than the ear or the foot than the hand? No! Each has its part to play. Each is part of the whole body.

“If I could speak every single language in the world and even talk with angels but didn’t love others, I would be no more than a noisy gong. If I had the gift of prophecy or knowledge or such great faith that I could move mountains, it would mean nothing if I didn’t have love. I could give all I owned to the poor and suffer great hardship, but it would be meaningless if I didn’t feel love for the people I was doing it for.

“Love is patient and kind. It isn’t jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. It doesn’t insist on having its own way or become irritable or seek revenge or feel happy when someone else fails. Love protects, trusts, and hopes. It is steady and true, and it never, ever gives up. Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”

