

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****I CORINTHIANS 13*****I Corinthians 13***

I Corinthians 13 is known as the "LOVE" chapter of the Bible. The Bible indeed speaks about the love of God and the love we are to have for each other and exhibit to the world. However, most people do fail to recognize I Corinthians 13 and the occasion on which it was written. The Apostle Paul was writing to answer questions about "Spiritual gifts" in the body of believers at Corinth. In the Greek text of the New Testament, I Corinthians chapters 12, 13, and 14 are all one unit.

In chapter 12, Paul explains Spiritual gifts in general and explains who is gifted, how the gifts are given, and the purpose of the gifts in general. Chapter 14 is an explanation of the "speaking gift," or those gifts that have a primary verbal component. Paul explains how those gifts are to be exercised and controlled in an open forum or worship gathering. The Corinthians were having a time with self-promotion, so much so that when the gatherings happened in Corinth, there was confusion in the body because everyone wanted their say or to exercise their gift without thinking of others in the body. This brought chaos and disorder to the struggling church.

I Corinthians 13 is Paul's solution to the real issue within the local church at Corinth:

**Principle one:** Every person who is born into the family of God, a follower of Jesus, is a gifted child. Everyone who is saved by God's grace has a spiritual gifting.

**Principle two:** The more gifted any believer is, the more they must be saturated in the love of God, or the results are pride, confusion, and overall unfruitfulness and barrenness in their life.

**Principle three:** Love is the atmosphere in which the supernatural gifts of God must operate for the church to be blessed.

The Love that is talked about here is agape. There are four words for love in the Greek language. The noun forms are eros, storgos, philos, and agape. In this short commentary, we cannot delve into the richness of meaning of any of the words. However, I will give you a precise definition for you to think upon and meditate upon than just the definition of agape as "Unconditional love."

***"Agape is a love that is based in the character and choice of the one doing the love, rather than in the attitudes or actions of the one being loved."***

***Prayer and Action Steps***

*Agape is the love God has for us and that we are to have for one another. "God demonstrated His agape toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*