

1 Peter 4:8 NKJV – And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.

11. Believes All Things

It is willing to believe good reports of others and unwilling to believe bad reports of others.

When ministering prophetically over someone you must put aside your own opinion and knowledge of them, or it will get in the way of the word that God has for them.

12. Hopes All Things

It looks at the bright side, it does not despair. It hopes for all the accomplishments of all the promises of God.

No matter how far someone may seem to be from their purpose you extend words of life.

13. Endures All Things

It perseveres and bears up under persecution, misunderstandings, and accusations.

CONCLUSION

All gifts, every ministry must be founded on the love of God or it becomes religious, hurtful and destructive. Remember the gifts are temporary but love is eternal.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 NKJV - 8 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. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 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. 12 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. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

It is better to have a heart that makes love than a mind that makes sense (L. Robert Kelk).

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

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INTRODUCTION

What is the essence of humanity? What makes us unique? What makes us different from the rest of creation?

The true essence of humanity is not our free will or our rationality – it is our capacity to be in a relationship with God.

Matthew 22:37-39 NKJV - 37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Every gift, every ministry, every type of outreach, every thing we do for the Lord must be undergirded, have at the center of and be covered by love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NKJV - 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV – Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NKJV - 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1. Suffers Long

Suffers long – is patient, not given to frustration and striving.

We need patience to see our prophetic words come forth.
We need patience to see our prophetic gifting develop and grow.
We need patience to grow in our relationships.

2. Is Kind

Kindness is to be good-natured, gentle, tender, and affectionate.

Many still see God as vindictive and eager to punish yet God is the kindest of all.

A prophetic person healed on the inside with the right view of God will serve and build up the body. Prophecy is about restoring people's dignity and self-respect.

3. Does Not Envy

It is not grieved because someone else possesses a greater portion of earthly, intellectual or spiritual blessings.

As prophetic people do we envy those who receive more accurate words or who are used more than us?

4. Does Not Parade Itself

"It seems odd that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what He has revealed to others" (Charles H. Spurgeon).

It is not inflated with a sense of self-importance.

5. Does Not Behave Rudely

This is speaking about acting discourteously and in a way to shock good manner or morals.

The bottom line of prophecy/ministry is to build and strengthen. The prophetic person acts with courtesy showing respect and reverence to and for people

6. Does Not Seek Its Own

It does not seek its own interests at the expense of others, or the community.

It doesn't seek its own way...it does not have a need to be right. It seeks the welfare of others; it desires relationship more than being right.

Jesus did not die for principles; He died for people.

7. Is Not Provoked

This speaks of a sharpness of spirit. It is not jumping to conclusions but seeking out the facts believing the best, instead of the worst.

We may feel irritable about sin, but feel tender concern for the person.

The prophetic will not be provoked to anger and outbursts of rage against the people it ministers to.

8. Thinks No Evil

Love makes allowance for others; it does not sit in judgment and does not give way to suspicion. It never supposes a good action may have a bad motive.

Never prophesy over someone that you have an opinion on – you will pollute the word, unless you minister from a place of brokenness – which will bring healing.

9. Does Not Rejoice In Iniquity

It takes no pleasure in injuring or hurting someone, and wishes no ill to anyone.

The prophetic is not there to reveal the sins of the heart; it's there to reveal the desires of the heart; the potential; the dreams; the call. Conviction of sin belongs to the Holy Spirit, not us.

It does not rejoice in iniquity but it does rejoice in the truth. We rejoice at the success of the Gospel Truth in people's lives.

10. Bears All Things

It does not make the sins or imperfections of someone the subject of conversation. It covers them as much as possible, and if alone is aware of them retains the knowledge of them within its own heart.