

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Isaiah 54:8, John 15:12, 1 Corinthians 13:7

- **When going through great challenges and changes, the one thing we can always count on is the unchanging love of God.**
 - God – *“I will show you My love forever. So says the Lord who saves you.”* (Isaiah 54:8 TEV)
- **The Lord commands us to extend His love to everyone.**
 - JESUS – *“I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you.”* (John 15:12 NLT)
- **Love that lasts for a lifetime occurs when we love others the same way the Lord has loved us.**
- **Love that lasts for a lifetime has to overcome the “Deadly D’s” – difficulties, disagreements, differences, discord, disappointments, defeat, dead-ends, depression, delay, doubt, distance, death, debt and demands.**
- Paul – *“Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, and never gives up.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7)
- **Question – “What ‘qualities’ demonstrate that we have ‘lasting love’ for others?”**

LASTING LOVE EXTENDS GRACE

- *“Love never stops being patient.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7a GW)
 - *“Love puts up with anything.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7a Msg)
 - *“Love patiently accepts all things.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7a NCV)
 - *“Love is always ready to make allowances.”* (1 Cor 13:7a)
- **We’re not going to have successful relationships unless we’re willing to extend forgiveness, mercy, patience, acceptance and grace to others.**
- **Grace is essential to relationships because no one is perfect.**
 - *“There is no one who always does what is right, not even one.”* (Romans 3:10 NCV)

- *“If we say we have no sin, we’re only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.”* (1 John 1:8 NLT)
- **The way we build strong relationships is to treat other people the way that God treats us.**
 - *“Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you.”* (Romans 15:7 NLT)
 - **One of the ways we accept people is by listening.**
- *“Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.”* (Ephesians 4:2 NLT)
- **Question – “Who do I need to be patient with or show grace to this week?”**

LASTING LOVE EXPRESSES FAITH

- *“Love . . . never stops believing.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7b GW)
 - *“Love . . . always trusts.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7b NIV)
 - *“Love . . . never loses faith.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7 NLT)
- **Real love is about believing in people.**
- **Three kinds of people in the world include those who are gullible, those who are cynics, and those who are healthy and trusting.**
- *“Trusting people live happier lives.”* (Dr. Julian Rotter, *Psychology Today*)
- **One of the key evidences of trust is our willingness to give other people a second chance.**
- **When we feel like we can’t trust anyone else, we can always trust God.**
- *“God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God.”* (Romans 8:28 NLT)
- **Being able to trust God and others is what brings health and happiness to our lives.**
- *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”* (Galatians 5:6 NIV)
- **Question – “Who do I need to communicate trust to this week?”**

LASTING LOVE EXPECTS THE BEST

- *“Love . . . never stops hoping.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7c GW)
 - *“Love . . . always expects the best.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7c LB)
 - *“Love . . . always looks for the best.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7c)
- *“Whoever loves believes in miracles.”* (Poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning)
- **People tend to live up to our expectations of them, so we need to treat them the way we want them to become, not the way they are.**
- **Neglect is what kills love and relationships.**
- **Question – “Who do I need to express belief in this week?”**

LASTING LOVE ENDURES THE WORST

- *“Love . . . never gives up.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7d GW)
 - *“Love . . . endures through every circumstance.”*
(1 Corinthians 13:7d NLT)
 - *“Love . . . always perseveres.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7d NIV)
 - *“Love . . . never looks back, but keeps going to the end.”*
(1 Corinthians 13:7d Msg)
- **Lasting love is determined and persistent and will not give up on a relationship.**
- **The purpose of relationships is not to make us happy, but to make us holy, and it takes faith and determination in the midst of trials to become holy.**
 - *“We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us.”*
(Romans 5:3-4 NLT)
 - *“Whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. . . . When your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.”* (James 1:2-4 NLT)
- **All marriage and relationship problems come down to pride, ego and selfishness.**

- **Question – “Who do I need to express commitment to this week?”**
- **Learning to love is what life is all about, and so we must focus our lives on loving God and loving others (Matthew 22:37-39).**
- **The greatest news in the world is that God has extended grace, trust, encouragement and faithfulness to us.**
- “Because God loves me He is slow to lose patience with me. Because God loves me He takes the circumstances of my life and He uses them in a constructive way for my growth. Because God loves me He does not treat me as an object to be possessed or manipulated. Because God loves me He has no need to impress me with how great and powerful He is because He’s God. Nor does He belittle me as His child in order to show me how important He is. Because God loves me He is for me and He wants to see me mature and develop in His love. Because God loves me He does not keep score of all my sins and then beat me over the head with them whenever He gets the chance.” (Rick Warren)
- **Human love wears out, so the real secret to lasting love is letting God’s love flow through us.**
- **Question – “What is the Lord primarily communicating to me through this message?”**

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