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## I Corinthians 13:1-8

### Love Never Fails

1. “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
2. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
3. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.
4. Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,
5. does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,
6. does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
7. bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8. 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.”

When God uses the term love in this passage, He is not referring to a feeling, but rather a deliberate course of action--a way of living, the attitude which puts the interests of God and the needs of other people before self. As John puts it in I John 3:18, "Let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

Currently my elderly dad has come to live with my family in our home. He is in the last stages of his life and needs 24 hour/ a day care. Since Dad moved in with us three weeks ago my understanding of God's love has deepened considerably! Learning how to shower my dad, dress him, helping him out of bed and into the wheel chair, assisting him using the commode, staying awake at his bedside during the difficult nights--all have helped me grow as a person, and in the true nature of love. I often think as I'm helping Dad, how when I was a baby he helped take care of me--bathing me and wiping my bottom. How truly dependent we are on one another in this life--by God's glorious design.

I consider caring for my dad to be an honor and a privilege, as well as God's instruction in true love. Many people do not have the opportunity to care for their parents in their last days, others do not want to. All I can say from my vantage point now, is that they are missing a great opportunity and blessing. Yes, the hardships are real, but the personal satisfaction is indescribable.

At this time I would especially like to thank all the

health care workers who have assisted us. And especially the people at Hospice. You have instructed, encouraged, and empowered my family to care for Dad in a manner that our heavenly Father must be so very pleased with. You have really shown the love of God in real-life, tangible ways. Thank you so much.

And of course, I am so thankful for my loving wife Bonnie. All the sacrifices she continues to make to have Dad in our home and make him comfortable. Your love of life and our Creator certainly has touched my dad and made his last days most precious.

You know, Jesus never promised that this life would be easy. No, but He did promise peace in tribulation--because He has overcome the world. And satisfaction for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. But most of all, the grandest promise God has given comes in this morning's passage--Quote: "Love never fails."