

These Three Things

The Bible tells us in 1Corinthians 13:13 that three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. Why do you think the greatest of these three is love? Well let's examine 1John 4:6-8(NIV) to find out why. It says "*7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*" This is the ultimate eye-opener isn't it? If you do not love, then you do not know God, because Heavenly Father is love. That's beautiful! So simple. From this we have no other choice but to surmise that we had better learn to love if we want to please God, and if we don't know how, we would do well to seek His Word to find out.

As we explore the lessons of loving in God's way from the scriptures, we will find out very quickly that love is a decision. We try to make it so complicated, but it's really as simple as making the conscious choice in our minds and hearts to just love. You may have thought that loving a person, particularly someone you are attracted to, means that you have to go through those ooey gooey feelings of having your heart race while butterflies flutter away in your belly. That stuff is fun and has its place, but true love comes from making a commitment to care for, support, and honor another human being. It takes real spiritual maturity, and that is what God is looking for us to display.

Love doesn't hang on the hinges of emotional pining and upheaval. These are symptoms we experience when we are first learning love's power, but as mature Christians we cannot become lost in emotionalism. The only way to truly love someone is to make the choice to love our God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If someone tells you they love you, and they don't have the love of Christ in their hearts, then you have to be suspect. Not because you believe the person lacks genuine feelings, but as a born again believer, you must know that it's impossible to understand love without knowing the one who is the author and finisher of it. Your response shouldn't be to tell them that they have no clue, or to call them a liar. Your response is to demonstrate for them what true love is by your walk, talk, and example.

You see, you don't give up on people when they don't know our Lord and Savior. You don't place them in the expendable pile because they are not saved. Everyone who comes across

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the ***Holy Bible, New Living Translation***, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2010 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

"These Three Things" written by Kim Ayala, edited by Reverend Fran Times-Mack, for Sundie Morning Sistas ©2011. All rights reserved. All done to the glory of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord! SMS is dedicated to inspiring and encouraging Christian Women through the Word of God.

your path comes across it for a reason. They present you with an opportunity to leave a lasting impression of God's love upon them. Many a female has lost the chance to partner because she wasn't mature enough in the spirit to display an exquisite portrait of the Father's love. Instead, she was selfish, thinking only of what the man didn't have and how unimpressive his physical attributes may have been. How can the Father get the glory out of such behavior as this?

1Corinthians 13:7(NLT) says "*Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*" Doesn't that just cut right through all the nonsense. This is love! Love never gives up. The Father had every right to give up on us, but He didn't. He loved us and keeps on loving us through our darkest times.

Yes, the Father's love is what gets us through some of the most difficult times in our lives. It gets us out of bed in the morning and makes us want to share our lives with others. Love is the very thing that shapes and molds us into the person the Father wants us to be. So when a person doesn't have the Father's love on the inside—for that matter, wherever there is an absence of the love of God—there will be the presence of pain, darkness, loneliness, and hopelessness. These are not happy emotions, but ones that weigh us down and cause us to feel less than worthy. As Christians, our job is to help fill in the void. We are to minister to folks who don't know the love of God in their hearts, and help them get beyond the pain of not having it.

Love lifts us up. If you are a single person endeavoring to marry or meet the person you'll spend the rest of your life with, understand that you will never be pushed behind the eight ball for loving rightly. Every single time you display the love of God you are bringing yourself closer and closer to a walk down the aisle. But understand that it takes more than love, it takes faith as well. No matter how long the wait, faith will have its perfect work in you when God's love is at work in your life.

You might have your moments when you question if God will keep His promises. You might wonder if He'll let you fall, but Psalm 116:8 tells us that the Lord will keep our feet from falling, so we have to trust and believe through faith that He will do what He has promised.

You have to know in the belly of your knowing that God has given you all that you need to live out a purposeful and victorious life. He left absolutely nothing undone for His kids. So you don't have to walk around disappointed in life or worried that you won't get married. You can be hopeful every second of every day, despite what the circumstances are, because you know that things will work out to your benefit according to the promise of the Father.

Through Jesus Christ, the Father has given us love, faith, and hope. These three things will last forever, and we can have unrelenting confidence as we use them to build the foundation of our lives. We can choose to demonstrate God's love freely and know beyond a shadow of doubt that love never fails, faith never dies, and hope is eternal. ●

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the ***Holy Bible, New Living Translation***, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2010 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

"***These Three Things***" written by Kim Ayala, edited by Reverend Fran Times-Mack, for Sundie Morning Sistas ©2011. All rights reserved. All done to the glory of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord! SMS is dedicated to inspiring and encouraging Christian Women through the Word of God.