

Slide 1



Latter Rain – The Greatest of these is...
1 Corinthians 13:13
341 To God Be the Glory
350 Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

Note: Communion Sermon

Slide 2



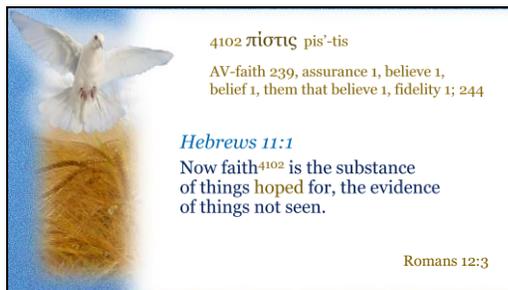
Now abides... 3306 μένω meno... to remain... these three
Faith... Hope... Love

Let's take... a look at... some references for... these three words

In 1 Corinthians 12:9... faith is listed as... one of the gifts... of the Spirit

Perhaps... the best know text... on faith is:

Slide 3



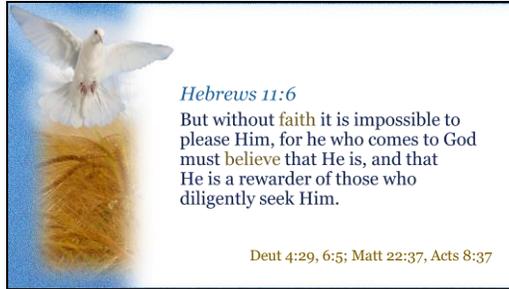
Faith... Gr πίστις pis'-tis... is the noun... of the Gr verbs... 3982 πείθω pi'-tho (to persuade)... and 4100 πιστεύω pist-yoo'-o (to believe)

Faith as a noun means...
STRONGS- a conviction of the truth... a conviction or belief... respecting man's relationship to God... generally with the included idea of trust

Faith is the very... substance of things... hoped for... and thus the evidence... of things not seen

Paul says in verse 6:

Slide 4



Believe is the verb... it is faith... in action

Faith is the quintessential... element without which... God is not pleased We must believe... not only that God exists... but also trust...

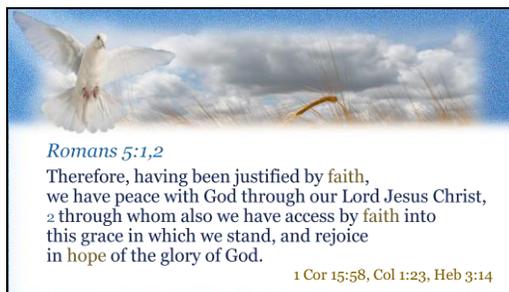
That He... rewards those who... diligently seek Him

It is by... the grace of God... through Christ... that we are saved... by such faith

As God promised... Deut 4:29 "you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

As Paul states:

Slide 5



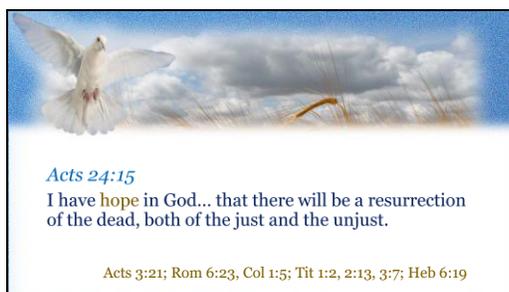
Through faith... we find peace with God... into the grace... Paul says

In which we stand... confident... grounded... steadfast... and immovable... until the end

Rejoicing... in the hope... of glory of God

What is that glory?

Slide 6

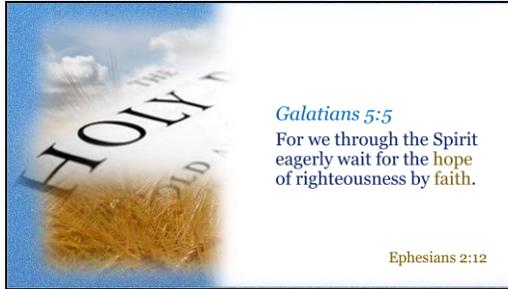


Paul testifying... before Felix said... it was the hope... of the eternal promise

Ratified... by the blood of Christ... the final restoration... of all things

And yet there is more:

Slide 7



As Paul reminds us... at one point we were...

“without Christ... strangers from the covenants of promise... having no hope... and without God... in the world.” Eph 2:12

But now we hope... for the not only heaven... Eden restored...

But we eagerly wait... for the righteousness... the holiness... the goodness of God

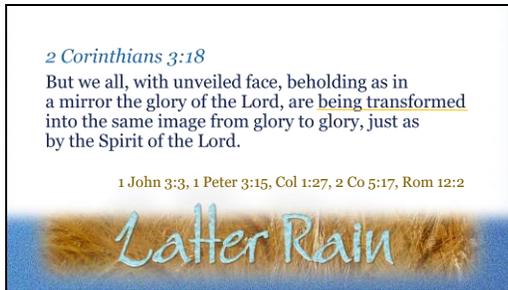
Restored... in us... by faith... by grace... by the Spirit of God

Some people think this.... is a future event... like heaven

But it is to be.... Our experience now... in Christ... through the Spirit’s... indwelling power

We see dimly now perhaps... but yet even now... we are being:

Slide 8



We by grace... through faith... by the Spirit of the Lord

Are being transformed... into the image... the righteousness of Jesus

How?... By beholding... the glory of the Lord

And it is this change... the evidence of the promise... that both builds... and sustains... our faith... and our hope

Christ in you... in me... the HOPE of glory

Further more... such hope

Slide 9



Romans 5:5
Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Titus 3:5, Eph 4:22-24, Col 3:10, Rom 8:4, 13:14, 2 Pet 1:5-9

Hope does not... disappoint... WHY?

Because the Love... of God... has been poured out... in our hearts... by the Holy Spirit

This leads us... back to... our main text:

Slide 10



26 ἀγάπη agape
AV - love 86, charity 27, dear 1, charitably, feast of charity 1; 116

1 Corinthians 13:13
And now abide faith, hope, love²⁶ these three; but the greatest of these is love²⁶

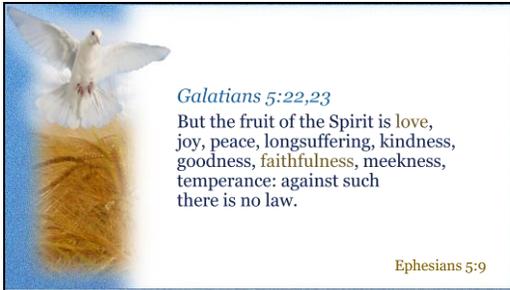
But... the greatest... of these is... Love... agape

Faith is described... as a one of the gifts... of the Spirit

Perhaps the only one... of which... everyone gets... a measure

But Love... is defined as a fruit of the Spirit:

Slide 11



Galatians 5:22,23
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Ephesians 5:9

More to the point... Paul says in

Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

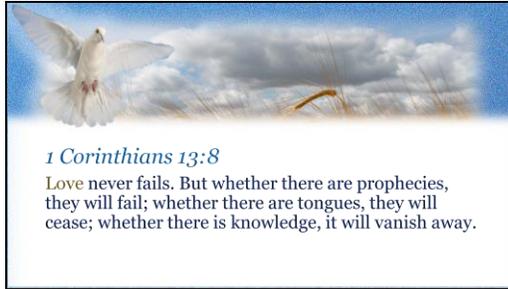
Notice that Love... is the first mention... the one noted as

The greatest of the three... with faith... and hope

What is this love?

Well first off... it is unfailing:

Slide 12



Why will prophecies... and tongues cease?

In verses 9-12... Paul tells us... when that which is... perfect has come... when we see Jesus... face to face Then there will be... no need for prophecy... no need for various tongues...

In fact... no need for... faith or hope either

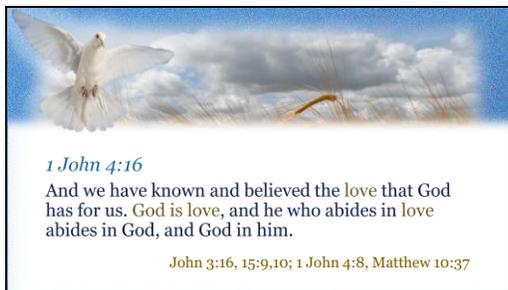
It is God's love... Rom 5:5 told us... it is God's love... poured forth in our hearts

But Love... never fails

The great apostle... of love tells us:

Who's love is this?

Slide 13



Love is the greatest... love will not cease... because God is Love

Love emanates... from the Father... and the Son

It was His... great heart of Love... for you... for which He gave... His only begotten son

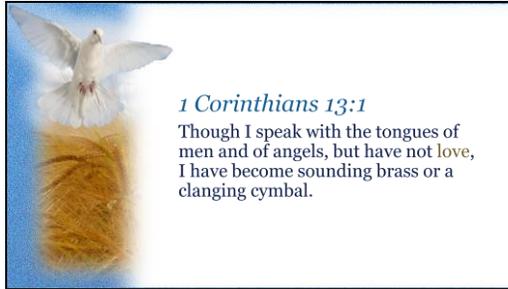
And Jesus bids us... to abide in his Love... just as He abode... in his fathers Love

In fact... John goes as far... as to say... if we do not love... it is because we... do not know God

For God is love... and all the governance... of heaven itself... pulses around this... central principle

This is why Paul... says what he does... in 1 Corinthians 13:

Slide 14

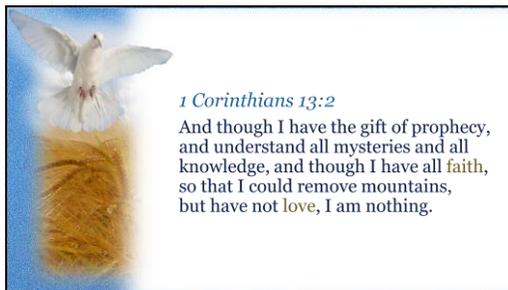


Spiritual gifts... are worthless... without love

Why? ...because it is love...as the true motive

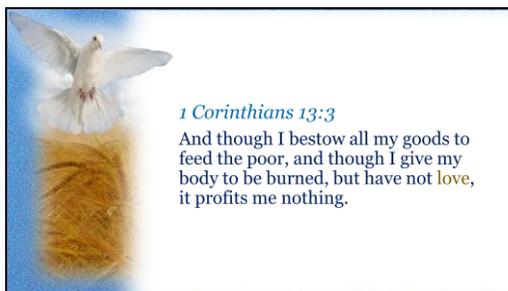
That makes... converts them from... self-centeredness... to others-centeredness

Slide 15



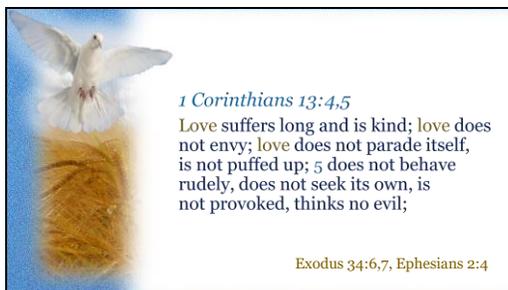
Prophecy... the preeminent gift... and even faith... without love... are both nothing

Slide 16



Even sacrifice... without love's motivation... profits nothing

Slide 17



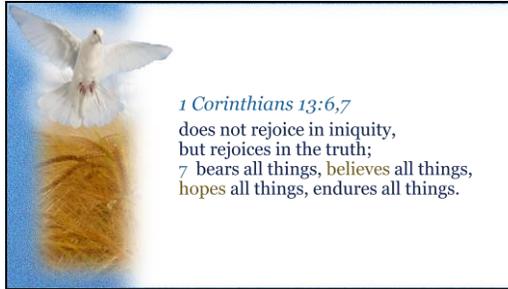
It is the very glory of God... to suffer long... to be merciful... and gracious Abounding... in goodness... and in truth

These are aspects of love... of the character of God... the fruits of the Spirit

Manifest in those... with whom the... Spirit dwells

Love... Paul continues:

Slide 18

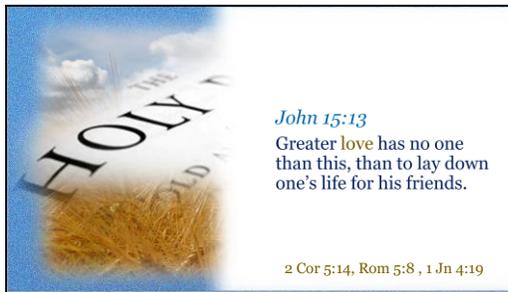


Love is... the greatest of these... because from love... spring forth both The fullness of faith... and hope

8 Love never fails...

Jesus said:

Slide 19



Love is what heaven... what Jesus... is all about

Self-sacrificing love

That is why... we are gathered here today... because of the greatest of these

Because of Jesus... and his great love for us... that begets love... in us and... from us

The transformative power of Calvary... is love

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us...

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:19 We love him... because he first... loved us

Slide 20



350 Blessed Be the Tie that Binds