

Love never expires
1 Corinthians 13:8-13. p. 932

I. LOVE WILL NEVER EXPIRE, BUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS DO (1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-12).

- A. We must focus on loving: The Corinthian church would always need love, but their spiritual gifts would end someday (13:8).
1. *Love never fails* – It continues because it's always needed!
 2. *Prophecies & knowledge* “pass away” (Greek *katargeo*)
 - Prophecy and knowledge = communicating new truth or existing scripture. [throughout church age?]
 3. *Tongues* “cease.” (Greek *pausa*)
 - Tongues were a “sign” = miraculously speaking in an unlearned language (Acts 2:1-11). [just apostolic age?]
- B. We have incomplete knowledge: We only have partial spiritual knowledge this side of heaven (13:9-12).
1. *The perfect* – Prophecy and knowledge give us partial info now, but we will know things fully in heaven (13:9-10).
 2. Like children lack knowledge and (ancient) mirrors were hazy, we know essentials now, but all things then (13:11-12).

II. LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT GODLY TRAIT BECAUSE IT LASTS FOREVER (1 CORINTHIANS 13:13).

- A. Faith – Now we walk by faith, but by sight in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- B. Hope – Now we are confident of God's promises, but they are all fulfilled when we are in heaven (Romans 8:24-25).
- C. Love – Love will continue forever (*God is love* – 1 John 4:16).
 - So love each other sacrificially now!