



# Love

## A More Excellent Way



# Lecture 01

# Introduction

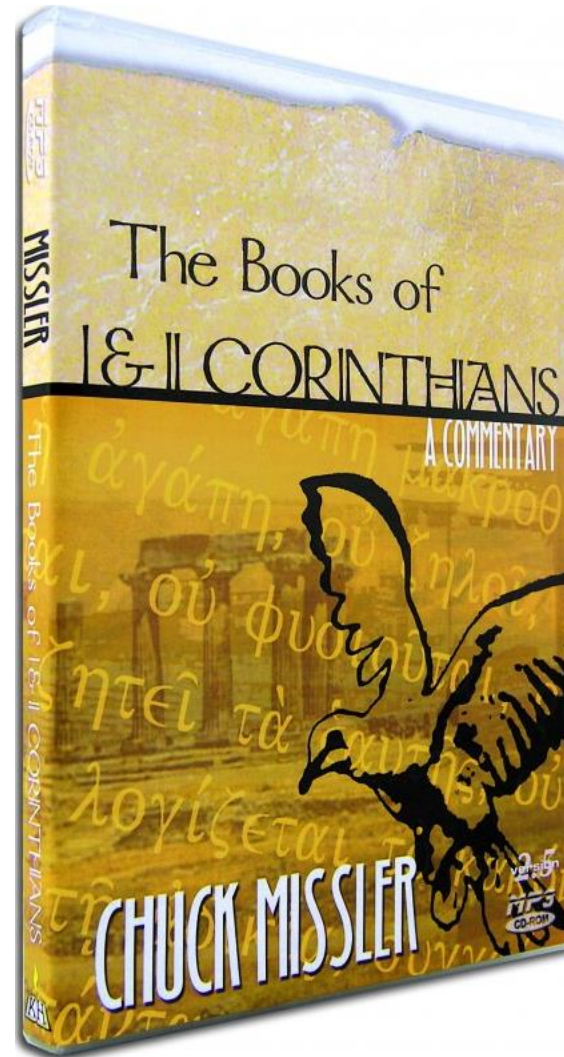
# 1 Corinthians 12-14

Philip Giorgio

# Know the Truth: Lecture Series

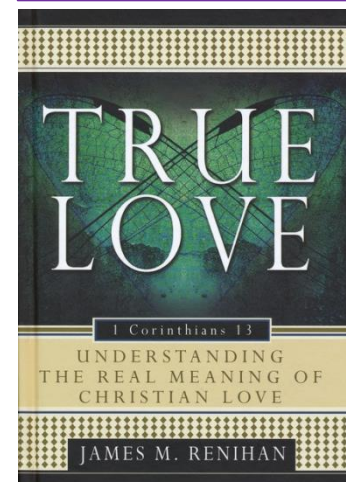
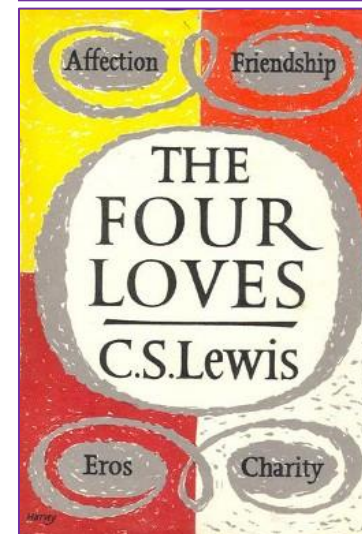
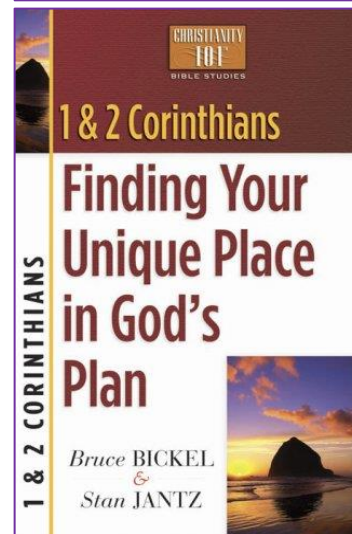
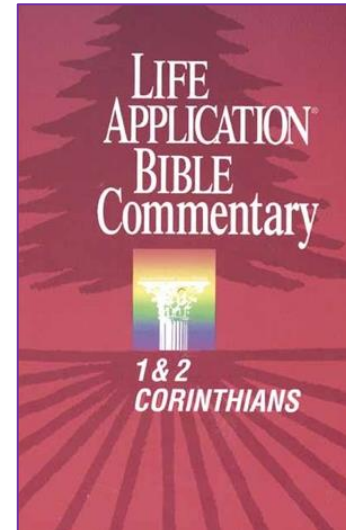
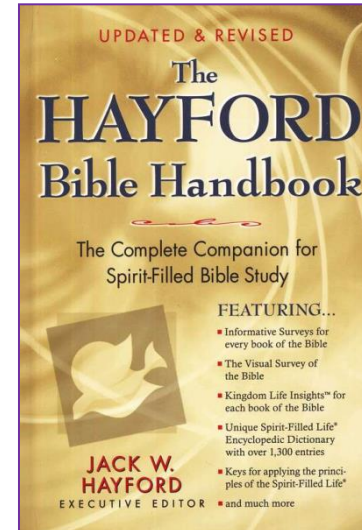
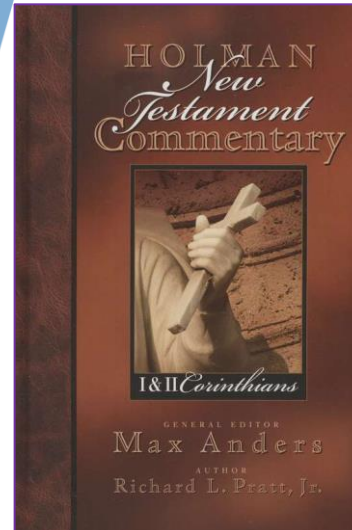


## Textbook



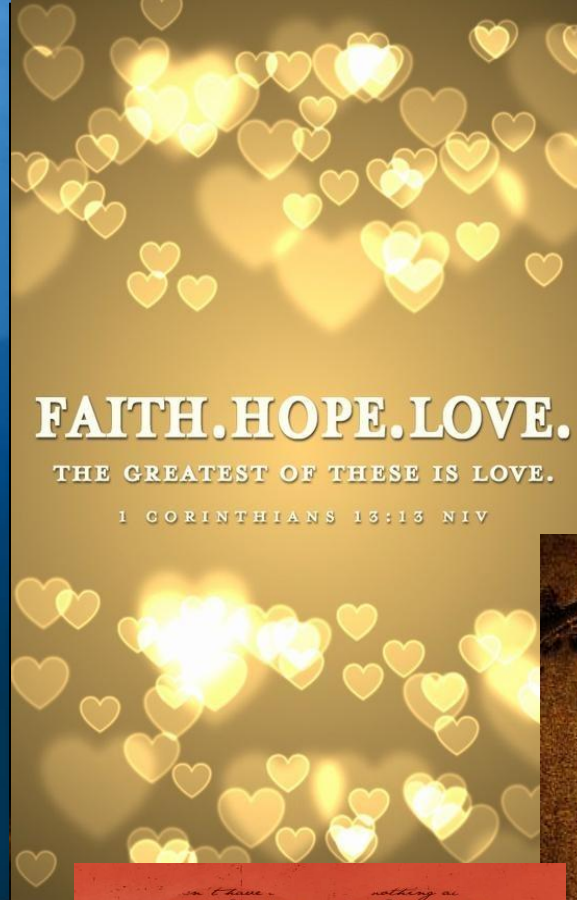


## References





But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love. But



**FAITH.HOPE.LOVE.**  
THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.  
1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NIV

**TYPES of LOVE** 

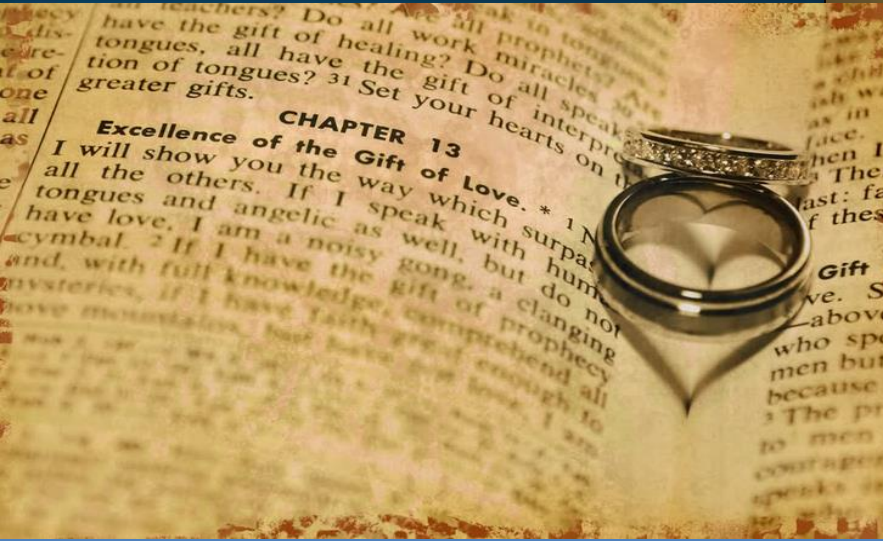
**Storge**  
AFFECTION ~ Love between family members ~

**Philia**  
FRIENDSHIP ~ Love between friends ~

**Eros**  
ROMANCE ~ Love between a married couple ~

**Agape**  
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ~ The Love of God ~

The Love of God will change your life...  
[www.canIchangeMylife.com](http://www.canIchangeMylife.com)



**LOVE DEFINED**

...I have - nothing as  
upon I give you - ing I have to give  
people. And suppose I give my body to a  
burned. If I don't have love, I get nothing  
at all. Love is patient, love is kind. It  
does not boast, it does not pride itself. It does  
not envy. It does not boast of its own  
knowledge. It does not pride itself in being  
right. It does not love itself. It always  
puts love first. Love never  
gives up. Love never  
is not.

Whoever does not love  
does not know God,  
because God is love

1 John 4:8

And now these three remain:  
**Faith, Hope & Love.**  
But the Greatest of these is Love.  
-Corinthians 13:13

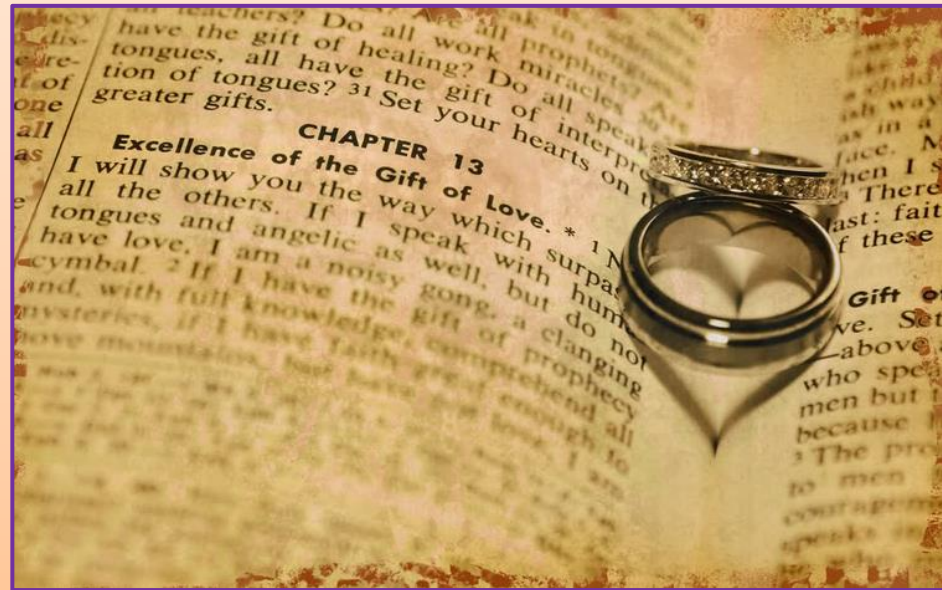


# Lecture Series Outline



## ■ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

- **Lecture 01: Introduction ...** [1 CORINTHIANS 12-14]
- **Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way ...** [1 CORINTHIANS 13]





## Lecture Outline

# Lecture 01 - Outline

## ▪ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

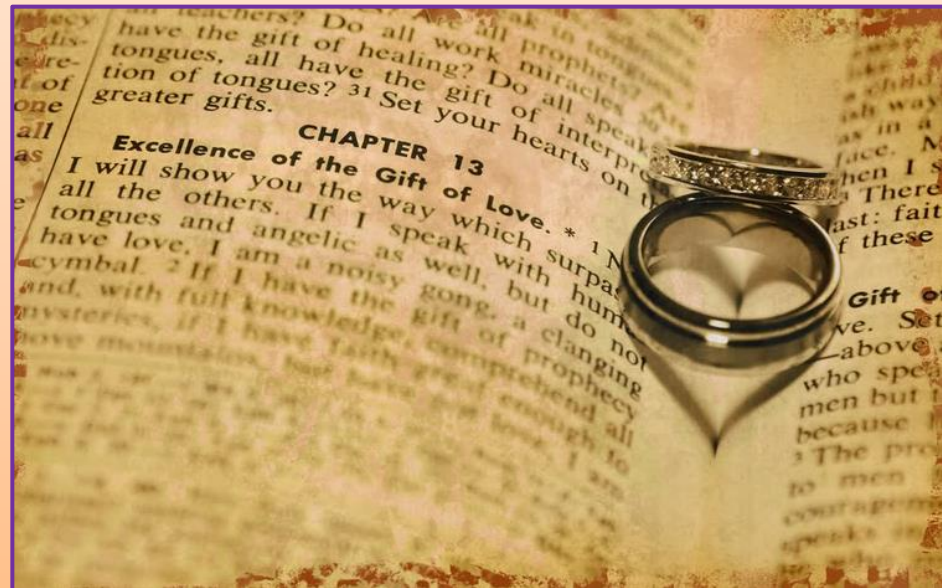
### • Lecture 01: Introduction



» Context ..... *A QUICK BOOK REVIEW.*

» Love ..... *WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?*

» Spiritual Gifts ..... *WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?*





# Context - A QUICK BOOK REVIEW

- Quick Book Review

- Author: PAUL

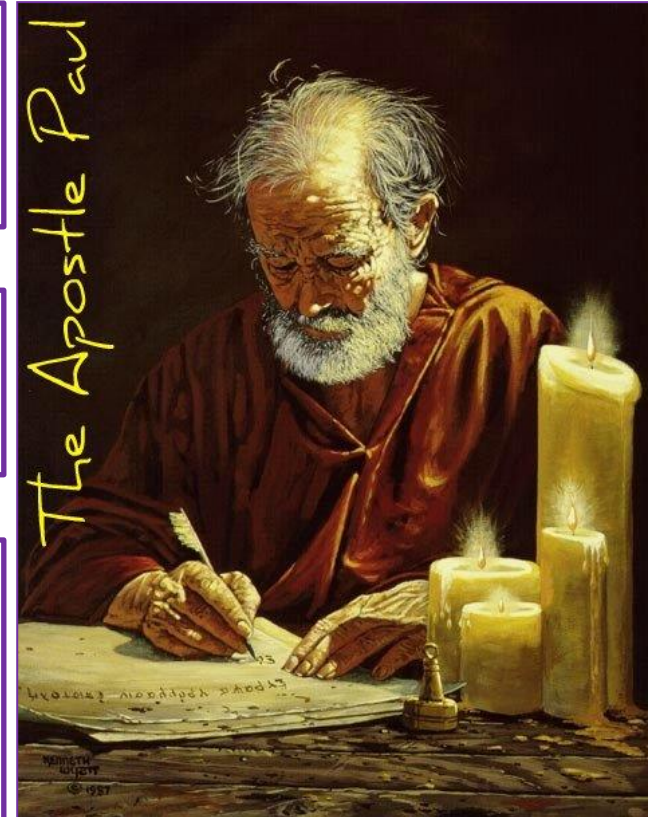
- The authenticity of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians has never seriously been challenged.
    - In style, language, and theology, the letter belongs to Paul

- Date: ~AD 50-51

- Paul established the church at Corinth ~AD 50-51
    - During his 18 month tenure on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary trip (Acts 18:1-17)

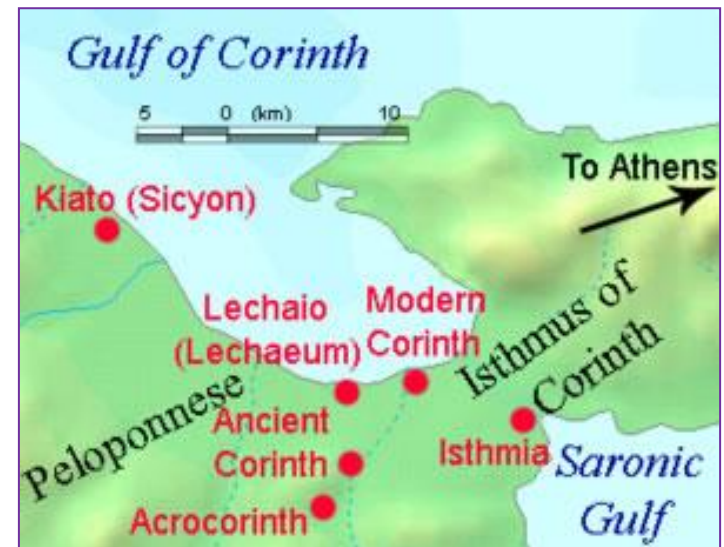
- Purpose:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians is a pastoral letter; written to resolve doctrinal and practical problems with the local church.
    - Paul's authorship gives the letter apostolic application to all *"the churches of God"* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:16)



# Context - A QUICK BOOK REVIEW

- Quick Book Review
  - Location: CITY OF CORINTH
    - One of the most strategic locations in the Roman world was the isthmus of Corinth.
    - This narrow neck of land between the Corinthian Gulf and the Saronic Gulf guaranteed its continued commercial prosperity. The transit across this isthmus avoided the long, risky voyage around the rocky, storm-tossed capes at the south of the Peloponnesus.
    - It was literally the crossroad of the world where the north-south trade routes intersected the east-west traffic.
    - It thus became one of the most dominant cultural centers of its day: materially prosperous, intellectually alert, and morally corrupt.



# Context - A QUICK BOOK REVIEW

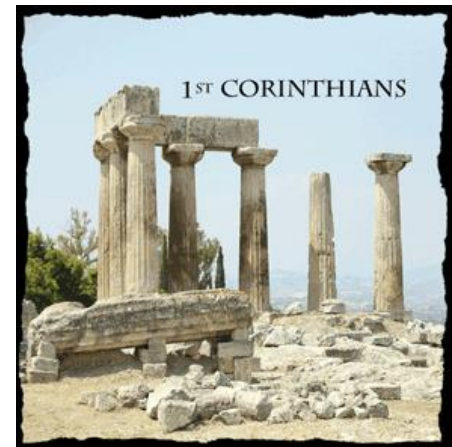
## • Quick Book Review

### • CHURCH AT CORINTH

- The remarkable thing about the Corinthian church is not that this vital congregation had problems - *it did*.
- The remarkable thing was that there were not more problems.

- The city of Corinth was the most corrupt city in the Roman Empire - *that is saying something!*
  - "Corinth" came to imply licentiousness; *korinthiazesthai*,
  - "*Corinthianize*," meant to live in debauchery.
  - It was the Hollywood, Las Vegas, and New York City, of it's day, all rolled into one.

- No epistle in the New Testament gives a clearer insight into the life of the 1<sup>st</sup> century church than 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.
- In it Paul provides straight forward instructions for moral and theological problems.
- Where the same problems exist in the modern church, the remedies are the same.



**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians**  
calls believers to  
be open to the  
gifts of the Spirit  
and to the Spirit of  
the gifts.

**THE BOOK OF 1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS IS RELEVANT FOR TODAY!**



# Lecture 01 - Outline

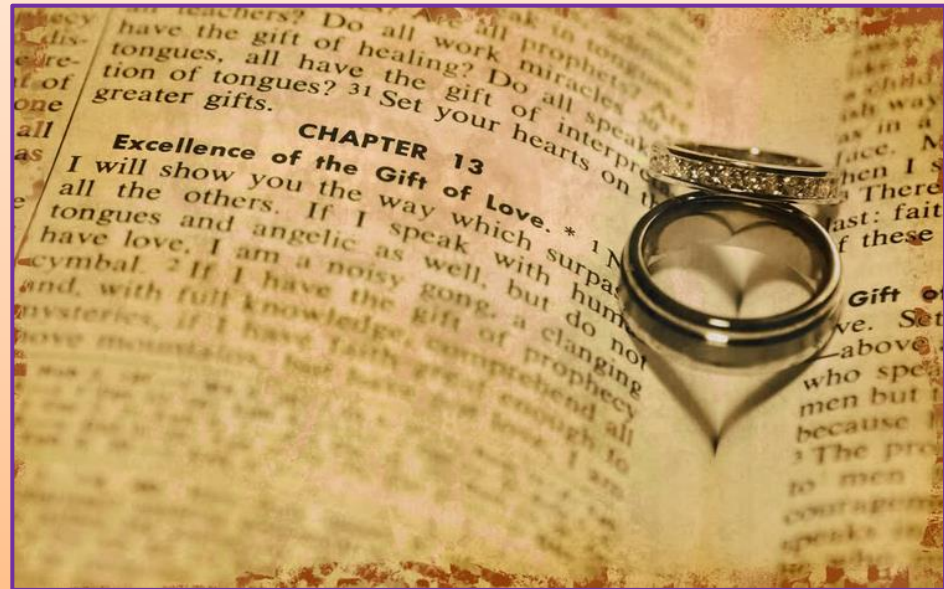
## ■ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

- **Lecture 01: Introduction**

## » Context *A QUICK BOOK REVIEW.*

» Love ..... WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

## » Spiritual Gifts ..... *WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?*



# Love - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

## • Love - The Christian Distinctive

### How will the world know you are His disciple?

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." --- John 13:34-35 ... NKJV

Love is not an  
Option!

Love is a  
Commandment!

- Notice the importance Jesus puts on Love.
- More important than:

- Religion
- Doctrine
- Church affiliation
- Good deeds
- :

#### John 13:34-35 Mounce Reverse-Interlinear New Testament (MOUNCE)

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you : Love one another .  
kainos entolē didōmi hymeis agapaō allēlōn  
Just as I have loved you , you also must love one another  
kathōs agapaō hymeis hymeis kai agapaō allēlōn  
.<sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples , if  
en houtos pas ginōskō hoti eimi emos mathētēs ean  
you have love for one another ."  
echō agapē en allēlōn

#### Mounce Reverse-Interlinear New Testament (MOUNCE)

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# Love - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

- Love - The Four Types

- There are four words for Love in the Greek ...

GREEK WORD	MEANING
Eros	<b>Sensual love between sexes.</b> Named after the god of love in Greek mythology, son of Aphrodite. Appears nowhere in the NT ... (OT: Proverbs, Hosea, Ezekiel)
Phileo	<b>Friendship among friends.</b> Kind feelings toward one another; natural affection.
Storge	<b>Filial love within the family.</b> Relating to or befitting a son or daughter.
<b>Agapao</b> (verb)	<b>This is not divine love</b> (John 3:19; Luke 11:43). It means "to be totally given over to"; or "to agonize over". It is the root from which we get agony.
<b>Agape</b> (noun)	<b>Love lavished on others without a thought whether they are worth it or not.</b> It proceeds from the nature of the lover, not from any attractiveness in the beloved. It is a commitment, not a feeling.

Love is the first fruit of the Spirit listed!

Galatians 5:22

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.



# Love - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

## • Love - The Four Types

- A contrast in *phileo* (Peter) and *agape* (Jesus) ...
  - Peter uses *phileo* throughout
  - Jesus uses *agape* the first two times
  - Jesus uses *phileo* the third time

Peter could not get himself to use agape until receiving the fullness of the Spirit at Pentecost.

John 21:15-17

### John 21:15-17 Mounce Reverse-Interlinear New Testament (MOUNCE)

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, . " hote aristaō Iēsous legō ho Simōn Petros ho Simon, son of John , do you love me more than these others do?" Simōn Iōannēs agapaō egō polys houtos

He said to him , "Yes, Lord , you know that I love you." Jesus said legō autos nai kyrios sy oida hoti phileō sy legō

to him , " Take care of . my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him again, a autos boskō ho egō arnion legō autos palin

second time, " Simon, son of John , do you love me ?" He said to deuterous Simōn Iōannēs agapaō egō legō

him , "Yes, Lord , you know that I love you." Jesus said to him , " autos nai kyrios sy oida hoti phileō sy legō autos

Look after . my sheep ." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, " poimainō ho egō probaton legō autos ho triton

Simon, son of John , do you love me ?" Peter was distressed . that Simōn Iōannēs phileō egō Petros lypeō ho hoti

Jesus had asked him for the third time, " Do you love me ?" . He legō autos ho triton phileō egō kai

said to him , " Lord , you know everything ; you know that I love legō autos kyrios sy oida pas sy ginōskō hoti phileō

you." Jesus said to him , . " Take care of . my sheep . sy Iēsous legō autos ho boskō ho egō probaton

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# Love - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

## • Love - Action Required

- True love involves action ... John 3:16
- God gave His only begotten Son (*Action*)
- So that a provision would be made for us to obtain eternal life - requires an action on our part
- What is our action in order to receive?

Love without action  
is not true love!

John 3:16

John 3:16 Mounce Reverse-Interlinear New Testament (MOUNCE)

16<sup>th</sup> For this is how God loved · the world : he gave his one  
gar houtōs theos agapaō ho ho kosmos didōmi ho  
and only Son · that everyone who believes in him should not  
monogenēs hyios ho hina pas ho pisteuō eis autos mē  
perish but have eternal life .  
apollymi alla echō aiōnios zōē

Only begotten

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# Love - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

For God so loved the world  
that He gave his Only  
begotten Son, that whoever believes  
in Him should not Perish  
but have Everlasting  
Life

(John 3:16) nlt

## GOSPEL

1. Christ died for our sins
2. Christ was buried
3. Christ rose again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

## the GOSPEL

**15** Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

--- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ... NKJV



# Lecture 01 - Outline

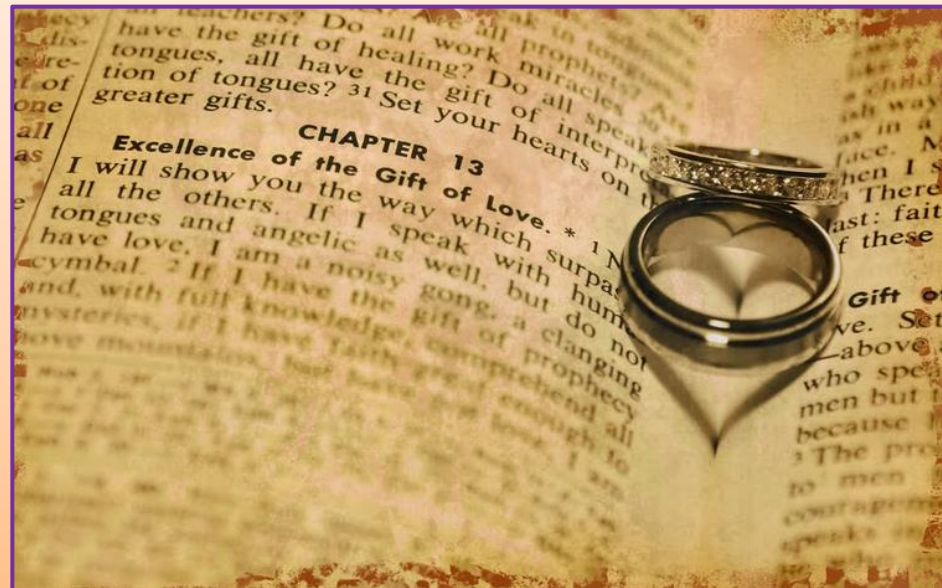
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### • Lecture 01: Introduction

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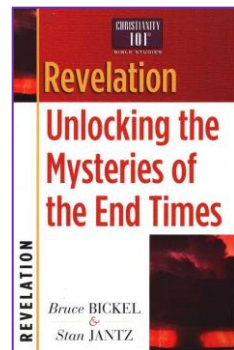
» Love ..... *WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?*

➔ » Spiritual Gifts ..... *WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?*



# Spiritual Gifts - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

- About Spiritual Gifts ... [Chapter 12:1-11]
  - Paul presents, in chapter 12, the **benefits** of all **gifts** rather than focus on tongues only
  - Paul lays out the **basic truths** about **spiritual gifts**
    1. Just as the ways we serve others and the ways God works in our lives are varied, spiritual gifts are varied ..... [12:4]
    2. The Holy Spirit is the source of all spiritual gifts ..... [12:4,11]
    3. Every believer has at least one spiritual gift ..... [12:7]
    4. The purpose of all spiritual gifts is to benefit other believers ..... [12:7]
    5. Spiritual gifts should not be a subject of jealousy or rivalry because the Holy Spirit is solely responsible for deciding who gets which spiritual gifts ..... [12:11]



# Spiritual Gifts - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

- About Spiritual Gifts ... [Chapter 12:1-11]
  - The Corinthians were interested primarily in the gift of tongues,
  - Therefore, Paul gives a list of some of the other spiritual gifts...

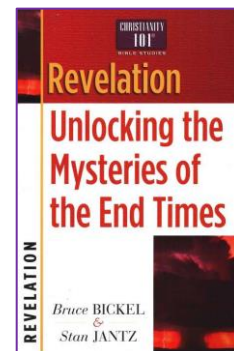
GIFT	VERSE	DESCRIPTION
Wisdom	12:8	A Holy Spirit-inspired revelation of a solution to an immediate problem.
Knowledge	12:8	The supernatural ability to know some fact that would be impossible to know except from divine revelation.
Faith	12:9	The God-given ability to believe God for the supply of a very specific need.
Healing	12:9	A supernatural power to heal someone's illness or physical defect.
Miracles	12:10	A divine power to perform supernatural acts.
Prophecy	12:10	An ability from the Holy Spirit to know and speak a specific message that God want delivered to His people.
Discernment	12:10	An extraordinary ability to discern truth and know whether a decision or comment is aligned with God's will.
Tongues	12:10	The supernatural capability to speak in a language that the person who is speaking it does not know.
Interpretation of Tongues	12:10	The Holy Spirit's power to interpret a message spoken in tongues so that the group can understand what is being said.

## NOTE:

All the gifts can be counterfeited.

Jesus commands us...

"Do not be deceived."





# Spiritual Gifts - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

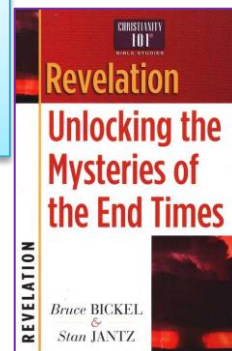
- **Body Parts ... [Chapter 12:12-31]**
  - Our spiritual gifts may differ, but we are all essential parts of Christ's body (the church)
  - The church will be dysfunctional if any of our gifts are missing .....→
  - We ought to appreciate each person's giftedness and work together ... [12:27]
  - Paul mentions a few more spiritual gifts / appointed roles not included in the previous list.

**24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,  
**25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

---Hebrews 10:24-25 ... NKJV

GIFT	VERSE	DESCRIPTION
Apostleship	12:27	A God-given ability to establish churches [Paul & other disciples].
Teaching	12:27	A supernatural skill for explaining the truth of God's Word in a way that is correct as well as relevant and practical.
Serving	12:27	A divine awareness of needs within the Christian community, and the power to get the job done.
Administration	12:27	A Holy Spirit-directed use of judgment and people skills for leadership with the church.

MORE THAN  
ATTENDANCE



# Spiritual Gifts - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

- **Love ... [Chapter 13:1-13]**

- Paul ended chapter 12 - *a chapter on spiritual gifts* - with an appeal to earnestly desire the best gifts
- Paul then states he will show us a more excellent way ... the way of **Agape Love** - described in chapter 13.

**31** But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. -- 1 Corinthians 12:31 ... NKJV

- The Holy Spirit through Paul challenges us to ascend to **Agape** - *unconditional Love*.
  - We need to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first
  - To set our heart on things above
  - To invest in our treasure in Heaven.
  - We need to Love as we are loved.



**YOUR VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP AFFECTS  
YOUR HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIPS  
AND VICE VERSA.**

# Spiritual Gifts - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

- Love ... [Chapter 13:1-13]

- We seek to find love in all the wrong places
  - Horizontally rather than Vertically.
- Too often we exercise Conditional Love:
  - We love **IF**... : a conditional, manipulative kind of love.
  - We love **BECAUSE**... of some external attribute or internal quality ...

- You're Beautiful
- You're Talented
- You're Smart
- You're Rich
- You've a High Position

- This kind of shallow love descends into

- Fear
- Insecurity
- Bondage
- Ultimately into Sin.



*"Paul gave us a love letter without equal (**except for the one written in blood on a wooden cross erected in Judea almost 2000 years ago!**) and a lifetime is inadequate to unveil its full meaning."*

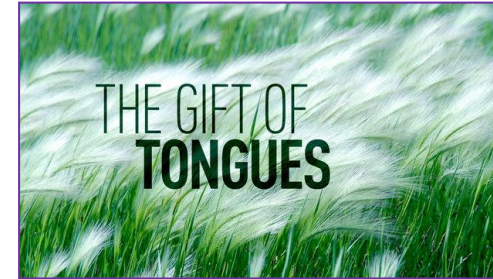
... CHUCK MISSLER



# Spiritual Gifts - A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

## • Tongues ... [Chapter 14:1-13]

- In Chapter 13 Paul urges us to pursue **Agape Love**
  - The fruit of the Spirit (*Love*) is more important than gifts.
- We are to desire for **spiritual gifts**
  - Note God's sovereignty does not cancel man's responsibility to desire, to commit to and pursue love to desire spiritual gifts.
  - We are to especially seek the gift of prophecy.
  - Paul ranks the gifts with prophecy at the top and tongues at the bottom of the list.
- Realize that **Agape Love** is not a "*spiritual gift*" -
  - It is a way of life
  - The Christian distinctive
  - Our Ethos.
- Chapter 14 puts the gift of tongues in perspective and gives instruction on the orderly administration of the gift and why prophecy is to be preferred over tongues.



<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.  
<sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

--- John 12:34-35 ... NKJV

# Love

*“A More Excellent Way”*

*End of  
Lecture*

But now abideth faith, hope,  
love, these three; and the  
greatest of these is love. But  
now abideth faith, hope, love,  
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hope, love, these three; and the  
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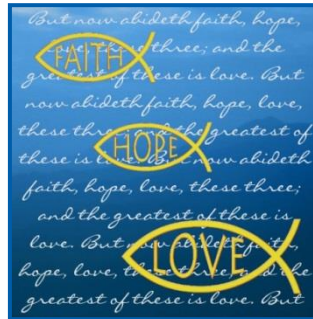
*Instructor: Philip Giorgio*  
***www.GiorgioMinistries.com***



# Lecture 02:

[1 Corinthians 13]

## Next Lecture





# Series Outline - Lectures

## ■ Love: A More Excellent Way ... 1 Corinthians 13

- **Lecture 01: Introduction ...** [1 CORINTHIANS 12-14]
- **Lecture 02: Love: A More Excellent Way ...** [1 CORINTHIANS 13]

