Bears All, Believes All, Hopes All, Endures All

Buddy Payne · 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 · Series: **The Greatest of These Is Love**

INTRODUCTION

- Our duty as Christians is to love. And if we are continually thinking about our duty, then we're continually thinking about how to manifest love to God and to our fellow man.
- The love we're talking about in 1 Corinthians 13 goes beyond emotion. And what we must learn is to act like love acts, whether we feel like it or not.
- I'm convinced these are exaggerated statements to really emphasize what love will do, how far it will go.

1 Love Bears All Things

1 Peter 4:7–8; Proverbs 10:12; Isaiah 53:4–6

- Out of regard, respect, and honest concern for the real value of persons, love will do everything it can to cover up the sin of that person.
- Love is not going to ignore sin. It's going to rebuke sin. It's going to deal with sin, but it's going to do its best to protect the person who sinned.
- Above all things, have fervent love for one another. For love will cover a multitude of sins.
- Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins. Proverbs 10, verse 12.
- Not only will I try to cover your sin, but I will take it upon myself, and I will offer the sacrifice in your place so that your sin might be covered.

2 Love Believes All Things

1 John 4:1; Matthew 9:1–6

- It means to trust, to place confidence in, to be persuaded of.
- I think what love does is it expects the best out of people. And it's going to keep expecting the best.
- When someone sins, love doesn't say I always knew he was rotten, and this just proves it.
- That doesn't mean love is naive. It just means it's going to expect the best in people.
- Make a mistake on the side of believing in all things.

3 Love Hopes All Things

- If you love like God loves. You will hang on to hope anyway.
- As long as God lives and God's grace is present, there's hope.
- Love is hopelessly optimistic. It refuses to accept failure as final.
- Many a parent has held on when there was nothing else to hold on to.
- Love waits and waits and waits because there are enough promises in God's word to make hope work.

4 Love Endures All Things

1 Corinthians 13:8; Hebrews 12:1–2

- It's a military term that has to do with being positioned in battle against incredible opposition. It means bear up courageously under tremendous suffering and obstacles.
- No wonder God said in 1 Corinthians 13 8, love never fails.
- Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.
- And even when hope grows thin and dim, love still endures.
- Love is never overwhelmed. You cannot stop love. It cares too much to give up.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **May God bless us to acknowledge that God has commanded us to love, and therefore we're capable. Let's acknowledge that we have the power to do it.**

MY NOTES