

# 1 Corinthians 13

1 Cor. 12:31b–13:13 trans. by Glenn F. Chesnut

And I will show you the path leading highest of all: If I jabber in the tongues of human beings and of angels, but have not love, I have become the noise of clashing metal on a battlefield or someone beating a war-song on a cymbal.

If I have prophecy, and know all the religious rituals, and know how to interpret the riddles of scripture, and if I have a faith great enough to move mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.

If I give all I own—bit by bit—to others, and if I hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I am owed nothing.

**Hê agapê makrothumei** — Love is big-hearted and patiently continues to give acceptance and affirmation.

**chrêsteuetai hê agapê** — Love acts with kind and useful help,

**ou zêloi** — is not jealous or competitive.

**hê agapê ou perpereutai** — Love does not arrogantly try to think itself better than everyone else,

**ou physioutai** — does not act the pompous blowhard,

**ouk aschêmonei** — does not violate good manners or show disrespect,

**ou zêtei ta heautês** — is not self-seeking,

**ou paroxynetai** — is not touchy or instantly triggered into rage,

**ou logizetai to kakon** — does not resentfully keep a score of past wrongs,

**ou chairei epi tē adikiā** — is not filled with joy by something wrong,

**synchairei de tē alêtheiā** — but rejoices in the truth.

**panta stegei** — It always shields and protects,  
**panta pisteuei** — always trusts,  
**panta elpizei** — always hopes,  
**panta hypomenei** — always stands firm and stays alive.

Whether prophecies lose their employment, or tongues stop, or knowledge of how to interpret the riddles of the scriptures loses its employment—love never fails.

For we hold any knowledge of how to interpret the riddles of the scriptures partially and we prophesy partially; when the whole and fully adult comes, the partial will lose its employment. When I was a baby, I jabbered like a baby, I thought like a baby, I reasoned like a baby; when I have become an adult, I will no longer employ a baby's ways.

For now we see a hint reflected like a riddle in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I hold my knowledge of how to interpret the riddles of the scriptures partially, then I will have direct conscious awareness, just as God has known me.

For the present, there remain FAITH, HOPE, LOVE—these three—but the greatest of these is love. Seek love!