

The Power of Love's Victory (Finishing What You Started)

The Power of Love

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- I. New Series: First Love, True Love, Best Love
 - A. Revelation 2: 4(AV) ⁴ *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*
 - B. Subject: The Value of Love (Paying The Cost; Heart; Mind, Will)
 - C. Subject: The Virtue of Love (Living Your Birthright; Brotherly, Self, and Godly Virtue)
- II. Text
 - A. 1 Corinthians 13:8–13 (AV)⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. ¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.
 - B. Philippians 1:6 (AV)⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:
 - C. Bible Study Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Philippians 1:6
- III. Subject: The Value, Virtue and Victory of Love:
 - A. 1 Corinthians 13 is called the Love Chapter of the Bible. You will not find a definition of love in this chapter. Sometimes definitions are destructive. This chapter does not give us a definition of love, but a *display* of love, a demonstration of love.
 - B. So far we've looked at Love's Value and Love's Virtue; Let's not look at Love's Victory
 - 1. The Value of Love is its Preeminence; It's Supreme, and will Cost You!
 - 2. The Virtue of Love is its Prerogative; It's your birthright, you Must not Sell It!
 - 3. But The Victory of Love is it's Permanence; that is its Durability, Stability, Longevity, Perpetuity, Immovability. It has the Power to Finish!
 - C. **Let's View A Video about the Power to Finish our Course!**
 - D. Have you every met a person who is always starting something, but never finishes?
 - 1. They start a relationship, a few months later they've moved on to someone else; Start a job or career, now they are doing something else; Join a church, start a ministry, and you look around and they are gone.
 - 2. Why? Because they didn't let the love they had to start the relationship, career, church, or ministry finish its work!
 - E. When one begins or starts and thing, they start with an Imperfect Love:
 - 1. We start with the Love of gifts; but Prophecies and Tongues shall fail!
 - 2. We start with the Love of people; but people are immature and childish, and fail!
 - 3. We start with the Love of situations; but because we see through a glass darkly, can't figure it out; and it fails!
 - F. Paul gives us the key to Finishing Victoriously, and it is the Permanence of Perfect Love.
 - 1. Verse 10 says when the Perfect comes, the imperfect shall be done away with.
 - 2. Verse 11 says it will cause us to became a man and put away childish things.
 - 3. Verse 12 says what we didn't know, couldn't figure out, but now we will know.
 - 4. And the reason we can experience total victory is at the beginning and ending of our lesson text. "Love Never Fails" and "Love is the Greatest!"
 - 5. Philippians 1:6 (AV)⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:
 - G. Subject: The Power of Love's Victory (Finishing What You Started)

1. Love Always Grows Up, Always Goes Up, and Always Finishes Up

IV. Love Grows Up (It Perfects)

A. The first reason people don't experience Victory is because they don't Grow Up!

B. 1 Corint 13:⁹For we know in part, ...¹¹When I was a child...¹²For now we see through a glass darkly

C. When we first fall in love, it always comes with imperfections:

1. There are the imperfections of not having all the knowledge. "Oh, I didn't know that!" So we fall out of love because we didn't know it would be like this!
2. There are the imperfections of childish behavior that never matures. You've grown physically, but they are still acting immature, underdeveloped, childish.
3. Finally there are the imperfections of not knowing the future or how things will work out. It's a puzzle and we can't figure out how things are going to work out!
4. These imperfections are a part of the human experience. And we get frustrated when people don't grow up.
5. The person that keeps going from relationship to relationship, because they are living of the immature emotional love based on feelings.
6. The person that can never grow because they are stunted in childish immaturity, refusing to grow from their misstates.
7. The person that constantly gives up and quits because they are weary and can't wait to see how things will eventually work out.

D. Love is Victorious because It Grows Up!

1. God's Love Perfects Us:

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:¹⁰But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.
- b. God has a plan for our lives, and he will perfect and finish what he started!
- c. Psalm 138:8 (AV)⁸The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

2. God's Love Matures Us:

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:¹¹When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- b. Too many people are stuck on milk and not the meat of God's word!
- c. 1 Corinthians 3:6 (AV)⁶I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.
- d. We can't mature another person, only God can give the increase!

3. God's Love Shows Us:

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:¹²For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.
- b. 1 Corinthians 2:9 (AV)⁹But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
- c. We don't have to see it, as long as we can see God. And I see God working it out for me!

E. "We will Finish what we started because Love Always Grows Up!"

V. Love Goes Up (It's The GOAT)

A. The second reason people don't experience victory is because they don't Go Up!

B. 1 Corinthians 13:¹³And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

C. When we talk about a love that Goes Up, we're talking about the top, the best, greatest!

But when we start out in life, we are at the bottom, constantly experiencing failure.

- D. Sports aficionados know the term GOAT; it is an acronym for Greatest Of All Times.
1. Some say Muhammad Ali was the GOAT of Boxing, Floyd Mayweather argues.
 2. Some say Michael Jordan was the GOAT of Basketball, LaBron James argues.
 3. Some say the Dallas Cowboys are the GOAT of Football, there's no argument.
 4. The truth of the matter is that the reason why people argue over the GOAT is because everyone has their own opinion.
 5. You may be entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts
 6. To experience Victory, we need the GOAT, Greatest Of All Times, to take us up!
 7. Some people feel that the GOAT is what you have! But that's opinion not fact!
 - a. Mark 8:36 (AV)³⁶ **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**
 8. Some people feel that the GOAT is who you have! But that's opinion not fact!
 - a. We feel that if we don't get this person, that job, this promotion, we will die.
 - b. Psalm 146:³ Put not your trust in princes *nor* in the son of man in whom *there is* no help.
 9. Some people feel that the GOAT is the power that you have!
 - a. Zechariah 4:6 (AV)⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.
- E. Love is Victorious because it's the GOAT (Greatest Of All Times)
1. Money answers all things, but money will fail because it can't give you peace
 2. People may make feel good, but people will fail because only God never fails
 3. Power may get you prestige and recognition, but real Promotion comes from God
 4. But if you want to always go up, you need the GOAT!
 5. 1 Cor 13:¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.
 6. Faith can move Mountains, Hope is the substance of Faith, but Love is the GOAT!
 7. It's Greater than all the money, Greater than any person, Greater than one's Power!
 8. 1 John 4:4 (AV)⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
- F. "We will Finish what we started because Love Always Goes Up"

VI. Love Finishes Up (It Never Fails)

- A. God started something in us we will be Victorious:
1. Because Love Always Grows Up; It Perfects the Imperfect!
 2. Because Love Always Goes Up; It's the GOAT
 3. Finally because Love Always Finishes Up!
- B. 1 Corinthians 13:⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.
1. You may have the gift of prophesy, but eventually it will fail you
 2. You may have the gift of tongues; talk is cheap and it will fail you
 3. You may have a word of knowledge, but eventually even knowledge will fail you
- C. Love will Finish what it Started because Love Never Fails
1. You may go through Heartache, Heartbreak, and Pain; but Love Never Fails
 2. You may go through disappointment and depression; but Love Never Fails
 3. People may hurt you, leave you, and betray you, but Love Never Fails

D. "You can't Fail because Love isn't Finished Yet!"

1. Philippians 1:6 (AV)⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:
2. Jeremiah 29:11 (AV)¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
3. 2 Corinthians 2:14 (AV)¹⁴ Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.
4. You can't move it, you can't shake it; You can't beat it, you can't take it
5. It's unchanging; So much power; So much patience;
6. Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but God's Love Never Fail!