

The background of the image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there is a lush green field. A line of trees, including several tall evergreens and some smaller deciduous trees, runs across the middle ground. In the background, a large, craggy mountain rises, with a small waterfall visible on its left side. The sky is not clearly visible, appearing as a pale blue-grey.

Faith, Hope & Love

Love

1 Corinthians 13 v 1-7

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13 v 8-13

⁸ Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will stop. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will come to an end. ⁹ The reason is that our knowledge and our ability to prophesy are not perfect. ¹⁰ But when perfection comes, the things that are not perfect will end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. ¹² It is the same with us. Now we see a dim reflection, as if we were looking into a mirror, but then we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part, but then I will know fully, as God has known me.

¹³ So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.

Recap -What is Faith?

- Faith – ‘The next step’, putting belief into **action**, does not rest alone on reason, proof or experience
- Because of WHO **God** is
- By God’s love it is a **freedom** of our will to **choose** – but we have to take that step, God will do the rest!

Recap -What is Hope?

- What do we put our hope in?
- What gives us our security?
- Hope gives us our direction:
Is God really God?
- Making God #1:
Soaking, Into the Bible, Pray 1st

Start at the end !

- It is **all** about **Love**
- The **freedom** to choose to:

Love or reject God

So, what is Love?

- A good feeling?
- Or the very essence of God?

Let's start with getting some perspective about God...

Hubble Deep Field











God is God

we are but human



God does not
make mistakes

...we do!

1 John 4v13-19

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

What do you treasure most?

If God said:

“I want to take this away from you”

How much do we treasure things of God?...

- Time close with God
- Time encouraging each other



Love Anthem Video

by ^{the}skitguys



Because of:
who God is

What motivates you?

- Not empowered by our head
but by a passion
- Sacrifice of Love – lay down our lives
- Do it for God
- Love as an act of will

Hebrews 12v4-8 (Proverbs 3v11)

- ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,
 - “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”
- ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

Putting into Action

How can we put God as our **1st** love?

- **Praise** – Take time to see who God is
- **Unload** – Bring all your burdens to God
- **Commit** – Bring all your thoughts and plans to God and pray for His way through
- **Listen** – Create space to hear now and in the days ahead
- **Leave** – Leave it with God and expect him to answer – be ready
- **Action** – What **is** God asking you to do right **now**?

Psalm 62

- ¹ Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.
² Truly he is my rock and my
salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be
shaken.
- ³ How long will you assault me?
Would all of you throw me
down—
this leaning wall, this tottering
fence?
⁴ Surely they intend to topple me
from my lofty place;
they take delight in lies.
With their mouths they bless,
but in their hearts they curse.
- ⁵ Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
⁶ Truly he is my rock and my
salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be
shaken.
⁷ My salvation and my honour
depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
- ⁸ Trust in him at all times, you
people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.
- ⁹ Surely the lowborn are but a
breath,
the highborn are but a lie.
If weighed on a balance, they are
nothing;
together they are only a breath.
¹⁰ Do not trust in extortion
or put vain hope in stolen goods;
though your riches increase,
do not set your heart on them.
- ¹¹ One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:
“Power belongs to you, God,
¹² and with you, Lord, is unfailing
love”;
and, “You reward everyone
according to what they have
done.”



Faith, Hope & Love

...because...

HE is **love** !