

**[1 Corinthians]
Lesson 11**

**God's Love Is the More
Excellent Way
(1 Corinthians 13)**



1. The Way of Love Is Better Than Spiritual Gifts



1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3

(1 Cor 12:31) ...and yet (more) shew (show) I unto you a more excellent (very good) way.

God's Love is the more excellent way—
loving as God loves.



When we give control of our lives to the Holy Spirit,
God's love controls our thoughts and actions.

[Eph. 5:1-2, 18 ; Rom. 6:12-13]

2. Without God's Love, Everything We Do Has No Profit



**Sound
Pollution**

(1 Cor 13:1) *Though (if) I speak with the **tongues** (languages) of men and of angels, and have **not** charity (love), I am become as sounding brass [bad noise], or a tinkling cymbal [bad noise].*



Gift of tongues has no profit **without love**. Even if it could be beautiful like angels speaking still has no profit **without love**.

(1 Cor 13:2-3) And though (if) I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries (secret), and all knowledge; and though (if) I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have **not charity** (love), I am nothing. (3) And though (if) I bestow (give) all my goods (money, food...) to feed the poor, and though (if) I give my body to be burned [die as a martyr (witness)], and have **not charity**, it profiteth (helps) me nothing.

*Many wonderful things have no profit **without love**.

*God will judge if we love Him and others—God sees our hearts.

3. The Holy Spirit Shows God's Love Through Christians Controlled by Him



(1 Cor 13:4-7) *Charity (love) suffereth long (patient), and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself (seeks praise), is not puffed up (proud), (5) Doth not behave itself unseemly (not respect), seeketh not her own (selfish), is not easily provoked (angry quickly), thinketh no evil; (6) Rejoiceth (happy) not in iniquity (sin), but rejoiceth in the truth; (7) Beareth (patient) all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth (continue—patient) all things.*

God's love is very different compared to world's love.



World says they love people, but when hurt the world's love very quickly becomes hate.



God's love continues even to enemies (those hurting us).

Joseph forgave his brothers who hurt him.

[Rom. 5:6-8; Eph. 4:31-32] God sent His Son to die for His enemies! Jesus forgave those who hurt and killed Him. We are commanded by God to do the same.

(1 Cor 13:4) *Charity* (love) suffereth long (patient),

World's love quickly becomes bitter and hates.

God's love is patient through all hurts.



(1 Cor. 13:4) *Charity ...and is kind;*

World's love quickly becomes rough and angry.

God's love patiently helps and cares.



(1 Cor 13:4) ...charity **envieth not...**

World's love becomes angry when good things happen to others that it wants for itself.

God's love is truly happy when good things happen to others.



(1 Cor 13:4) ...charity vaunteth not itself (seeks praise)...

World's love is given to those who will praise it; It gives love to receive praise.

God's love continues loving without praise—loving for other's profit and God's pleasure.



(1 Cor 13:4) *Charity... is not puffed up (proud),*

World's love acts as if itself more important than others—proud.

God's love acts as if others are more important than itself—humble.



(1 Cor 13:5) *Charity... Doth not behave itself
unseemly (not respect),*

World's love is not careful to give respect for those who cannot praise or help us...

God's love is careful to give respect to all people.



(1 Cor 13:5) *Charity... seeketh not her own (selfish)*

World's love is selfish—focused on own good

God's love is selfless—focused on the good of others



(1 Cor 13:5) *Charity... is not easily provoked (angry quickly),*

World's love quickly becomes angry.

God's love is slow to anger.

[*Charity suffereth long*]



(1 Cor 13:5) *Charity... thinketh no evil;*

World's love focuses on evil done against us or plans to do evil against others.

God's love forgives evil done against us and plans to do no evil against others.



(1 Cor 13:6) *Charity... Rejoiceth (happy) not in iniquity (sin),*

World's love can enjoy sin and is happy when others sin.

God's love is always sad when people sin.



(1 Cor 13:6) *Charity... rejoiceth in the truth;*

World's love sadly resists the truth.

God's love happily welcomes the truth.



(1 Cor 13:7) *Charity... Beareth (patient) all things*

World's love cannot bear long with trouble from people.

God's love is able to bear all trouble from people.



(1 Cor 13:7) *Charity... believeth all things,*

World's love quickly believes bad gossip against people and does not want to trust people.

God's love is slow to believe bad gossip against people and is wanting to trust people.



(1 Cor 13:7) *Charity... hopeth all things,*

World's love thinks some people are hopeless and a waste of time to help.

God's love focuses on all people believing God is able save and help everyone.



(1 Cor 13:7) *Charity... endureth (continue—patient) all things.*

World's love is **not** strong enough to endure through all troubles.

God's love is strong enough to endure all troubles.

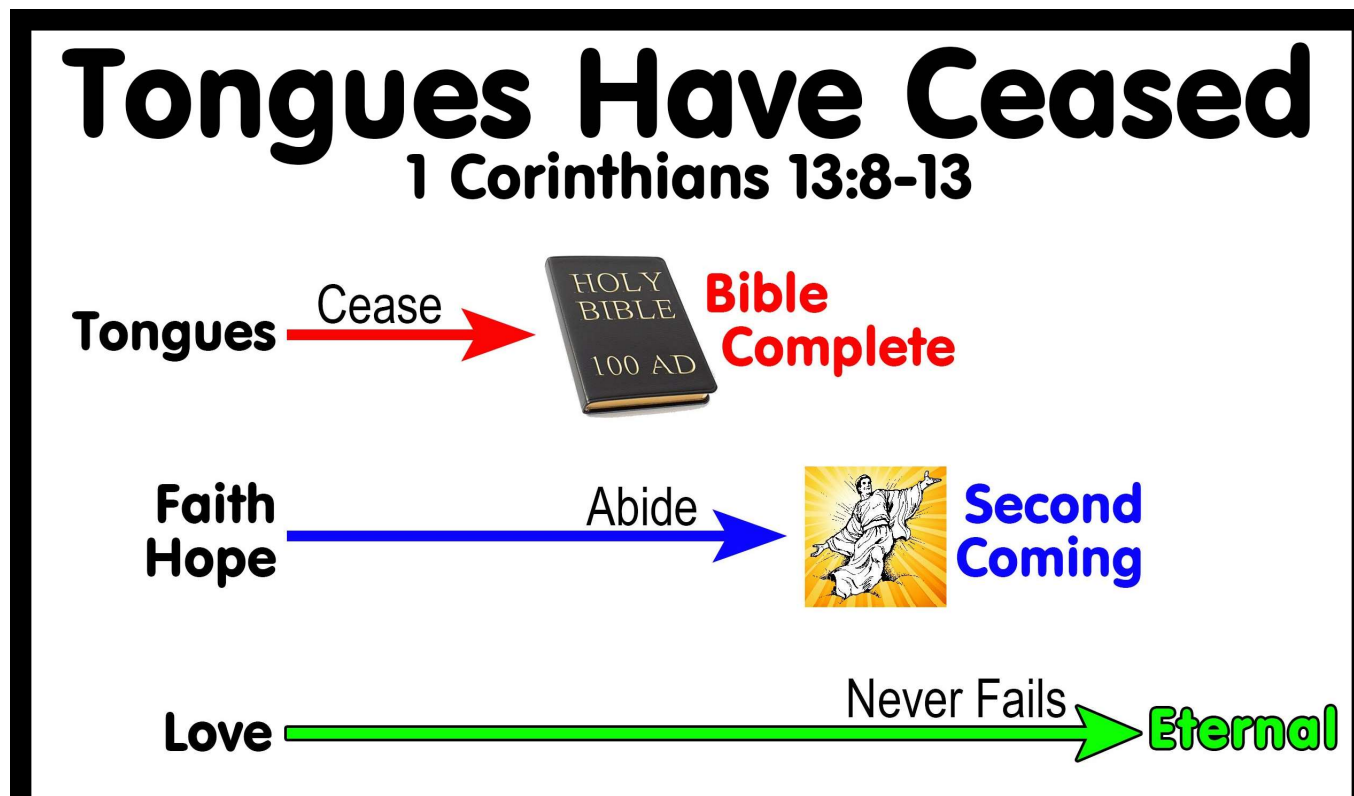


Jesus was God's love in the flesh. He showed us how to love; we must copy Jesus.



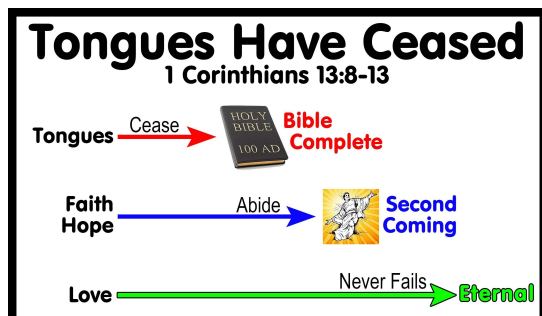
Jesus is in each of us by the Holy Spirit. When we allow the Holy Spirit to control us, the love of God will be active in our lives.

4. The Spiritual Gifts of Prophecy, Tongues, and Knowledge Will End



(1 Cor 13:8) **Charity** (love) never faileth (ends): but whether (if) there be prophecies, they shall fail (end); whether there be tongues (languages), they shall **cease** (end); whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away (end).

The exciting spiritual gifts that the Corinthians coveted and focused would end, but God's love will never end.



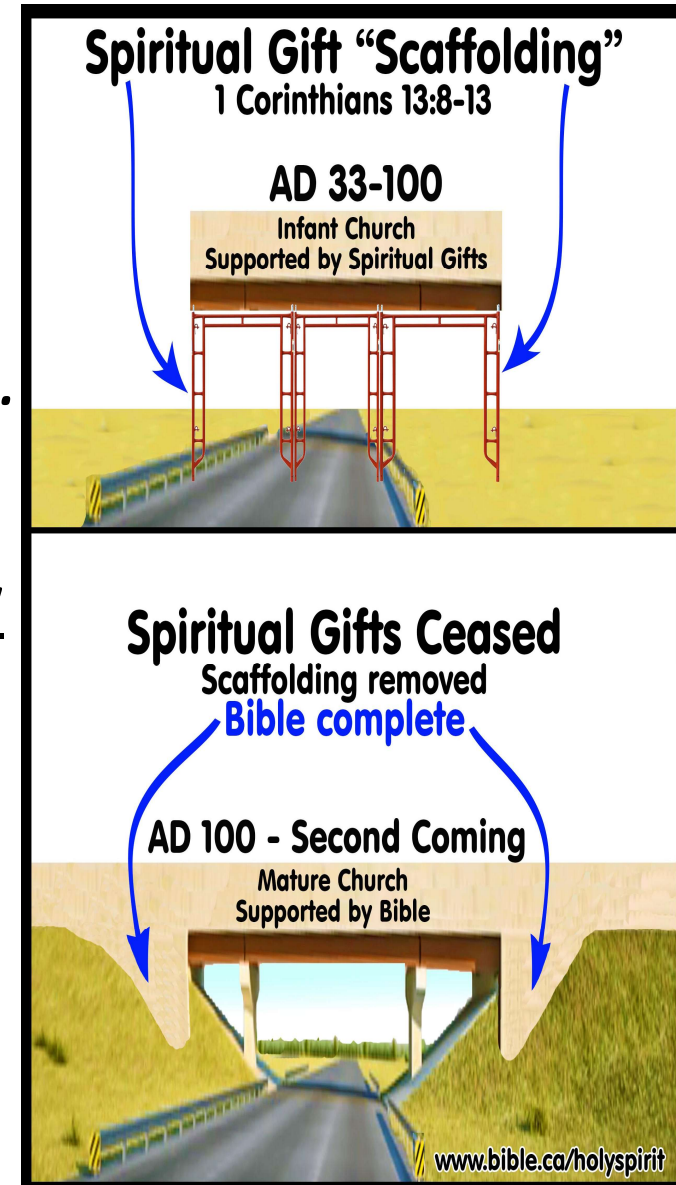
(1 Cor 13:9) *For we know in **part** (some), and we prophesy in **part**.*

30-100AD The early church **partly knew** God's Word—prophesy only gave part of God's Word.



(1 Cor 13:10) *But when that which is **perfect** (complete—Bible) is come, then that which is in **part** (prophecy and sign gifts) shall be done away (end).*

When the Bible was completed—fully knew God's Word—Bible gives full God's Word.





MISSION FOR
THE DEAF
TRAINING CENTRE

(1 Cor 13:11) *When I was a **child** [early church], I spake as a **child**, I understood as a **child**, I thought as a **child** [sign gifts and prophecy]: but when I became a **man** (adult), I put away (ended) childish things [sign gifts and prophecy].*

Child = early church (30-100AD)

Needed the help of “sign gifts”

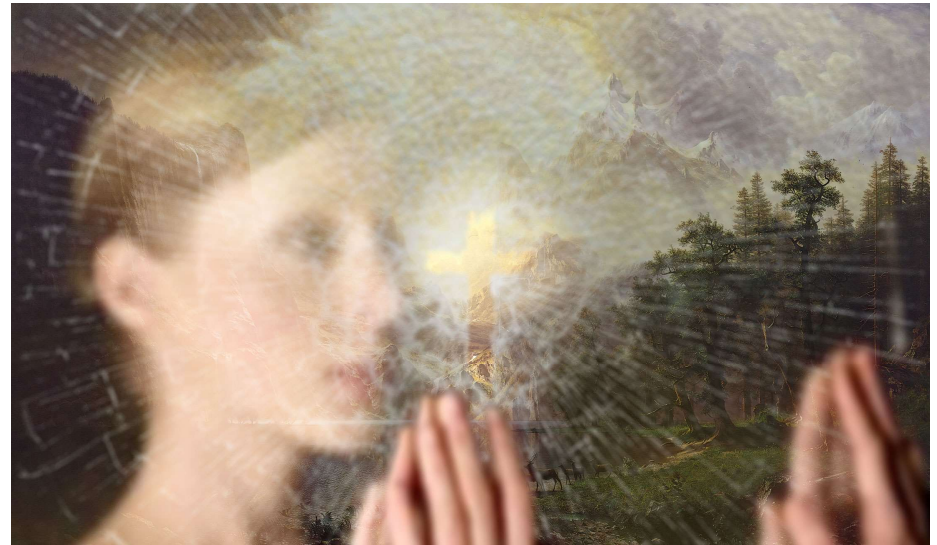
Man = later church has completed Bible



(1 Cor 13:12) For **now** we see through a glass, **darkly** (not clear); but **then** face to face (clear): now I know in **part** (not clear); but then shall I know even as also I am known (clearly).

Now = early church [30-100AD]

Then = later church—Bible complete



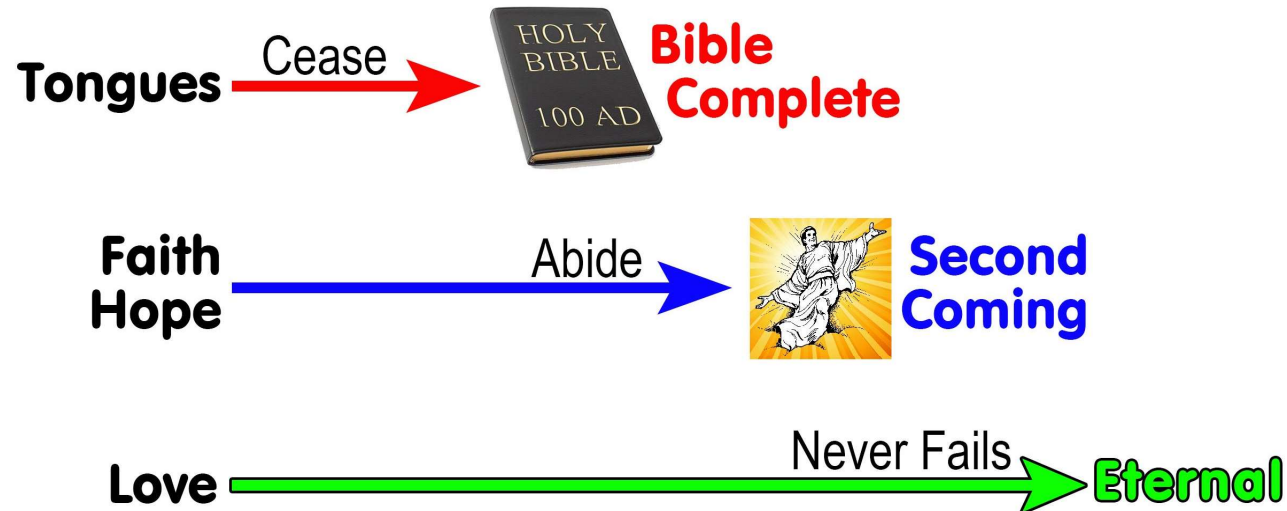
Glass did not show clearly... same prophecy and sign gifts only did not show clearly all of God's Word.

With the Bible we can now know clearly all of God's Word.

4. Faith, Hope, and Charity Would Continue

Tongues Have Ceased

1 Corinthians 13:8-13



(1 Cor 13:13) *And now abideth (continues) faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*



The sign gifts would end, but faith, hope, and love will continue.

Faith and hope are only needed now in this world, but in Heaven and eternity we will see and touch Jesus and all the promises... so no need for faith or hope, but love is forever.