

## Love Believes All Things

I Corinthians 13:7

Jesus said, "No prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown" (Luke 4:24). A similar account in Matthew adds "...and in his own house" (Matt. 13:57). It seems place it is most difficult to display agape love is your own home. The solution is be captivated by God's love for my soul. The tetralogy love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things describes God's love for me. "Believes" (*pisteo*) is the common Greek word that is translated "faith" or "trust" in the Bible. To "believe all things" means you have "faith in someone" or simply: Love believes in people.

### I. God looks beyond where you have been to where you are headed.

Have you ever noticed that the Bible puts emphasis on the believer's future, not the past? "This one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind, I press on..." (Phil. 3:13). Paul could put the past behind him because he had received God's love that keeps our focus on tomorrow. God is not just the God of the second chance, He's the God of infinite chances. That's grace. Peter once cursed Christ but later he preached at Pentecost and 5,000 people were saved. How about David? He was guilty of adultery and murder, yet God never forsook the king. Or how about women like Sarah and Rahab? God believes in His people no matter the past. When we love others we are to look beyond where they've been to where they are headed.

### II. God looks beyond what you do to what you declare.

This statement might cause some concern because it's different than what you've believed. "I've been taught that talk is cheap, and you must show me who you are by what you do!" Doing is "proving it." It places others on a performance scale. To believe involves hearing. Peter: Lord, how often will my brother sin against me and I forgive him? (Matthew 18:21). Peter answered his own question: "Seven times"? Jesus responded, "Seventy times seven!" In a parallel passage Jesus tells how you forgive your loved one when they sin against you. If your loved one sins against you seven times in a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, I repent,' forgive him (Lk. 17:4). The disciples respond, Lord, increase our faith. It doesn't do us any real harm to be hoodwinked and defrauded (Matt. 5:38-48). It's better to believe in someone and have your heart broken than to have no heart at all. British poet Alfred Tennyson wrote, "'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

### III. God looks beyond your personal negligence to your present need.

Most churches teach you that God is looking for someone who is faithful to Him. Whereas the Bible leads us to believe in Him who is faithful to us, though we are unfaithful to Him. "If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny Himself" (II Timothy 2:13). Look, I cannot have a relationship with that person because of the hurt he has caused me! When you begin to be overwhelmed with the love that God has for you, you love others! The faithfulness of God in His love for you is His personhood—He cannot deny Himself. Do you know who you are? You are loved, forgiven, redeemed, accepted and blessed! Now, in light of who you are, the more you love someone who is unfaithful, the more you

are learning not to deny yourself. You live in the overflow of who you are—you believe!