

2 Timothy 1:7 - Love

(1 Cor 12:31) But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Strongly Desire Gifts, but **Love** is Superior (contrasted in ch 13)

One New Commandment (Jn 13:34-35) - Identifies His Followers (Imitation)

Fruit of Spirit (Gal 5:22) Superior to Gifts of Spirit

both are Manifestation of Spirit of Power

1 Cor 13:1-3

Gifts are Worthless without the Motivation of Love

1 Cor 13:4-7 God's Definition of Love

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

This is how God Loves - we must Believe & Experience His Love

Revelation of His Love Activates Power (Eph 3:17-19 Fulness, Gal 5:6)

maybe Faith issues are really Love issues (Love > Faith vs 13)

His Love must be Learned (Pursued 1 Cor 14:1)

Decisions (Honor Phil 2:3) vs Feelings (will follow, not lead)

Validate Feelings (world) vs Validate Truth - Rule Emotions (Spiritual Warfare)

1 Cor 13:8-9

Gifts can Fail, will Cease - Love is always its own Success because it is the Goal

God is Love (1 Jn 4:8, 16), His Kingdom is Love Driven (Col 1:13), Love is Eternal

1 Cor 13:10-12

We are Learning to Love until He Comes and we are Perfected in Love (Imitation)

(1 Jn 3:1-3) - His Amazing Love, made Like Him, Imitation of His Love in Hope

Imitation of His Love is the Measure of Spiritual Maturity (Eph 4:15) - not Gifts