

LOVE NEVER FAILS!

Paul devoted an entire chapter during his study of Spiritual Gifts to the importance of God's agape love with the function of Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor.13:1-13) (Chapters 12-14) He introduced the importance of God's agape love with the function of spiritual gifts in (1 Cor.13:1-3) ([our last lesson](#)).

In this lesson, Paul explained the different kinds of effects God's agape love has in the function of spiritual gifts.

This lesson will study six aspects of why God's agape love NEVER fails to have an effect along with the exercise of your spiritual gifted ministry.

A personal note, it is important to take Peter's advice when studying Paul's doctrines (2 Pet.3:16), **put on your thinking cap on!**

1. It is important to understand how Paul explained 1 Cor.13:4-8a in the Greek grammar.

For example, (1 Cor.13:4-7) is one Greek sentence. Paul used verse 8a - "Love never fails" as a bridge idea into verses 8-10.(2 Greek sentences).

2. It is also important to understand how Paul used 16 main verbs (present indicatives, 3ps) to establish a series in this one Greek sentence.

Watch carefully:

- Paul listed 2 of 7 positives of God's agape love - (**patient/** makrothumeo **and kind/** chresteuomai)
- then breaks to list 8 negatives (not/ ouk)
- then returns to list 6 more
- and finally used the 16th as bridge idea - "Love never **fails.**"

3. When Paul returned after series of the negatives, he added a third virtue of God's agape love, "rejoices (sunchairo) with the truth" to the other two virtues of God's agape love (patient and kind).

What do these three virtues of God's agape love has in common?

They are fruit of The Indwelling Holy Spirit listed in (**Gal.5:22-23**)

- joy (chara/ root of rejoice)
- patience or long-suffering
- kindness

This explains the importance of walking by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit in the exercise of spiritual gifted ministries (Gal.5:16-17).

4. Note that "rejoices in the truth" was preceded by the last negative, which was a bridge into the third virtue.

(1 Cor.13:6) "Does not rejoice in unrighteousness, **but** (de) [adversative conjunction of **contrast**] rejoices with the truth;"

Note that (1 Cor.13:6) ends with a semi-colon, not a period. The semi-colon was used to pause in order to include all three virtues of God's agape love functioning under the Indwelling of Holy Spirit to show the effects of spiritually gifted ministries functioning in (1 Cor.13:7). (bears, believes, hopes, and endures **all things**). Just a note for further study - "Love never fails;" also ends in semi-colon.

5. The point of Paul's concluding doctrinal point with " God's love never (oudepote) [intensive negative temporal adverb] fails (pipto/ pa.ind.3ps) [The 16th verb of the series]

Doctrinal principle: God's agape love Never Fails when spiritual gifts function under the indwelling of The Holy Spirit. Spiritually gifted ministries have enormous effect upon others by God's agape love.

It is interesting that Paul never used the imperative mood (a command) in (1 Cor.13) with the subject of God's love.

God's love NEVER fails is a wonderful grace promise to each spiritually gifted believer. It is based on **the positives** of the character of God and **not on the negative** character of man.

6. God's agape love is a Covenant love based on the redemptive relationship between a believer and God through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This doctrinal principle was true under the Old Covenant as well as under the New Covenant.

- **Jesus** taught this in (Matt.22:36-40) when He quoted (Deut.6:5) and (Lev19:18).
- **Paul** taught this in (Rom.5:5-8; Gal.2:20; and Eph.2:4-9).
- **John** taught this in (1 John 4:8-10, 16-21).

(2 Tim.3:16-17) "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word."