



## Outer Growth - Love 2

**Beareth all things, believeth all things,  
hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

*1 Corinthians 13:7*

**Life -1** John 2:16

**Overcome** - Romans 12:21

**Vision** - Proverbs 29:18

**Endure** - Matthew 24:13

Love. There are two ways of love: the godly and the ungodly side. A heart, as we know it, is not shaped as illustrated in school, with two half-circles connected with a capital letter "V." However, within it, there is someone or something that will fill it at some point, as we mature, that will be near and dear to us. A heart, almost shaped like a triangle, has three sides: the triangle with three points, and the heart has three areas.

Love within the heart encompasses our feelings, emotions, conscience, and so forth, all in one area. The other part is for the things we love or who we love.

However, the bottom part of the heart, which many overlook, is the most serious part of our lives. Who is running it? Either God is in there or another one.

As illustrated in this topic, a man and a woman are inside a heart, and the bottom part of the "V" is empty. However, it is not. Either God's Spirit or another spirit not of God will have an impact on our lives, whether we believe it, see it, or not. There are two sets of people on Earth: those

who serve God and those who do not, who at times oppose each other. In Romans eight, verse nine, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His."

Love for the godly begins for all believers and godly couples with First Corinthians thirteen, verse seven, "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Love is an activity and a behavior, not just an inner feeling or motivation. The various aspects of love characterize God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Every believer must desire to grow in this kind of love.

Love from the godly side begins with life. Deuteronomy thirty, verses fifteen through sixteen, declares, "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it." The life of a believer and a godly couple must have love for God in the heart, in that third area, to experience what God has in store for His people.

Love has to overcome obstacles, both inner and outer. Believers and couples who serve God and desire to do His will according to His Word will encounter various challenges from the devil, who uses the ungodly to oppose the godly. Things we experience that are not ordinary are from the enemy, who will use his demons to corrupt, disrupt, stir up anything against a believer, and attempt to turn couples against each other to cause them to sin and separate from God. The way of using deception, delay, or distraction to get under the skin of God's people is the way of the devil. However, believers must "Be sober, be vigilant;

because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour," as in First Peter five, verse eight.

In Numbers thirteen, verse thirty, "And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Caleb believed and trusted God, although the majority of the people with him did not. Their opinion and assessment of the land caused them to respond negatively, but Caleb refused to give in. Sometimes, believers who love the Lord and couples will have to stand alone when friends, relatives, and other associates might not agree or see things their way.

Love is similar to a vision. "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry," as in Habakkuk two, verse three. Love is in the heart of the beholder. As a godly couple for each other with God as their centerpiece, so is a believer with the vision to do the will of God with the talent given to them. A Love with a vision will be persistent and consistent.

For godly couples, the challenge is to keep their love blooming from the beginning. Either way, single or not, love is like hiking up a mountain. The passion for God or the love for one another will not be easy. The beginning may seem simple, with the first few kilometers going up the mountain. However, as each person escalates up the hill, it becomes more mentally and physically challenging. The same goes for love, too. There will be some uneven surfaces along the way, changes in weather, and everything else that goes along with it.

Those who say they love will have to endure in many different situations. For the godly, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ," as in Second Timothy two, verse

three. However, some will be as in Mark four, verse seventeen, "And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended." Still, there will be those who shall persevere. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved," as in Matthew twenty-four, verse thirteen.

*Love for the ungodly is different. Most people have experienced it, while some have not, or are yet to encounter it. However, love is the word many people would use to express their feelings about someone or something. "I love you," as the words come from the speaker to the person receiving them through the ears, to their heart. However, what do they love? Does the person love the moment? The setting? Or how the person looks? These are the experiences that can be mistaken for love in the world as people continue to discover in various ways. What is love? Love is life for the ungodly. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world," as in First John two, verse sixteen. Whatever gets their heart, they will go after, not knowing the outcome. The ungodly may think they know and are in control, but are spiritually vulnerable to a force they cannot see.*

*The love for the ungodly to overcome can be overwhelming. For both sides, not many can stay focused on their goal or continue with the one they are with without challenges that test their faithfulness to the one they say they love. The temptation of the flesh and ungodly environments is enticing, particularly social media and all the electronic outlets that are accessible today in a matter of minutes. People nowadays can fall out of love as quickly as they fall into it. Some will stay together for different reasons, for the child's sake or*

*stability, but the love they once had will not be the same.*

*Love must have a vision. The ungodly will plan to have a future for themselves and their family, but many will not include God in it. Beginning of Psalm fourteen, verse one, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Many know about Him, but do not know the Lord personally. Many make plans with love but do not know the outcome of their vision, because they must live it to see how it will turn out, because there is no guarantee for anything.*

*Love for the ungodly must endure. Many start with goals they love to have, but how many reach them? Some fall away quickly because of a negative setback, while others pick up and try again. Many relationships do not blossom or bloom because one does not feel the same way as the other, and some quit the relationship altogether after many years spent in it. The term "grow out of love" as they get older is a reason that many depart from long-term relationships.*

The two ways of love, the godly and ungodly, are different. However, the godly can grow cold if they do not obey and keep the commandments of the Lord. Here today and gone tomorrow, especially the days we live in God. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold," as in Matthew twenty-four, verse twelve.

Love comes from the heart. However, who and what we have in our souls will determine how we live it. God is love. No one will love us like He does. He made us, and He can make us better than whatever we intend to be.