

5 2 W E E K S  
O F G R O W T H

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*Give it a Year*  
*Week 16*





# WEEK 16

**1 Corinthians 13: 5-7**

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“(Love) does not dishonor others,  
it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered,  
it keeps no record of wrongs.  
Love does not delight in evil  
but rejoices with the truth.  
It always protects,  
always trusts,  
always hopes,  
always perseveres.”

This devotional marks week 4 of talking about “love”. Love is the most important concept to grasp on this Christian walk. It is not only the greatest commandment given to us but it’s also a symbol of how we are identified as Christians. Jesus said in John 13:35 “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love is the greatest calling in our lives. Many people feel lost in this world and uncertain what God has called them to, but it’s simply this...LOVE. Love God. Love Others. That’s a full-time job and a full-time calling. Which is why it’s so important to understand all that this small 4-letter word means and all that it doesn’t mean.

I'll be honest, I often refer back to 1 Corinthians 13 when I start to feel the flesh side of me creep in and when I need a reminder of how the spirit side of me is supposed to love. If you read through this list, it's 100% opposite of how the world tells us to love and how you may have grown up knowing love. I remember when I was a new Christian, I had to unlearn how I had grown to know love in the world and learn how God defines love. I had to learn what true love means, how to give love, how to receive love, and, frankly, how to love myself. So, I literally read 1 Corinthians 13 every single day for a year. Even though at some point in that year, I had it memorized, I still forced myself to read over every single word so the Holy Spirit could do a work deep in me and break down some walls that were thickly built for protection. And if you have been struggling with "love" too, I highly encourage you to do the same.

READ:

1 Corinthians 13

John 13:35

1 John 4:7-12

Mark 12: 28-31

REFLECT:

- How have you been misusing the word “love”?
- What “record of wrongs” have you been holding onto? Release them today.
- Would people know that you are a Christian (disciple of Jesus) by the love you show others? Think through a list of people...strangers, family, friends, coworkers, the person at the grocery store, the person on the street asking for money... would they know you are a Christian simply by your love?
- What symbols are you using to represent that you are a Christian other than love? (T-shirts, hats, necklaces, tattoos) Have you ever found yourself wearing those symbols while not being loving?
- Read through 1 Corinthians 13:5-7 again and I encourage you to think of someone that you love and ask yourself “am I easily angered with them? Am I keeping a record of their wrong doings so I can bring it up at a later date?” and if I am then, ask yourself, “is this loving?”

\*\*\*Remember, these Reflect questions are NOT to condemn you but to show you where you may need to repent and where you need more of God and His strength to grow.

PRAYER:

Father God, Thank You for loving me. And even though You love me unconditionally, I thank You forgiving me a desire to grow and change and to become more like You. Help me to grow more and more like You every day. Show me how to love the way You love. Reveal to me the areas in my life that need healed and to become whole through You. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.