

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels but didn't love others I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal 2 If I had the gift of prophecy and I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge and if I had such faith that I could move mountains but didn't love others I would be nothing 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body I could boast about it but if I didn't love others I would have gained nothing 4 Love is patient and kind Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude It does not demand its own way It is not irritable and it keeps no record of being wronged 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out 7 Love never gives up never loses faith is always hopeful and endures through every circumstance 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless But love will last forever 9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture 10 But when the time of perfection comes these partial things will become useless 11 When I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child But when I grew up I put away childish things 12 Now we see things imperfectly like puzzling reflections in a mirror but then we will see everything with perfect clarity All that I know now is partial and incomplete but then I will know everything completely just as God now knows me completely 13 Three things will last forever faith hope and love and the greatest of these is love

1 Corinthians 13