

A Love That Endures

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Taken from Rich Thomson's *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Key Points

- **Love bears as much as possible as long as possible**
- **Love believes the best in people and the ability of God to change people**

Love Bears All Things and Endures All Things by Thomson

- The best interpretation of the phrase would seem to be: “Love doesn’t *give way to the pressure* of all things put upon it by others.”
- To “bear” is to be able to take any amount of pressure and not give way. To endure is to be able to go on and on and not give up. Love does not give in (“bears”), and love does not get to the end of its rope (“endures”). And so the two together give a beautiful expression of the quality of love. Love *bears the weight* of any situation without collapsing, and it bears this weight *as long as it needs to* – on and on, steadfastly – and never ceases.

Love Believes and Hopes All Things by Thomson

- In other words, when love “believes all things” there is not room for suspicion, distrust, or cynicism. Love is not gullible, though, or naïve. It is evident that the eyes of love are not closed, for it has been seen that it “rejoices not in iniquity.” Love is fully aware of wrongs done. Thus, it “believes all things” which are not clearly controverted by established facts. In this phrase, therefore, it is taught that love is not looking critically for wrong doing or wrong motive in others. It prefers to believe the best until there is no recourse but to accept the worst. And even then love prefers to find good in another rather than dwelling on the wrong.
- The hope of love doesn’t give up on others. There is always a way. And isn’t that the message of the Gospel? There is always hope in any situation.
- “It doesn’t seem like he’ll *ever* change!” is the kind of statement which one might hear from an individual who has lost his hope in another and so has ceased to love. When one lacks love his attitude toward others is pessimistic, despairing, hopeless.