

其中最大的是愛 THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

使徒保羅在哥林多前書第十三章第十三節說，「如今常存的有信，有望，有愛這三樣，其中最大的是愛。」既然信望愛都是我們現在所有的，而且都是那樣的重要，為何其中愛是最大的呢？希伯來書第十一章一開始即給信心下了最好的定義，「信就是所望之事的實底，是未見之事的確據。」信心能把所盼望之事顯為實際，若不應用信心，我們就看不見屬靈的事物。我們得救是本乎恩也因著信（弗 2: 8），我們如今在肉身中活著，也是因著神兒子的信心而活著（加 2: 20）。但是，到有一天神的旨意完成時，所有的盼望都實現了，信心變成了眼見。那時，我們卻仍要和眾聖徒一同頌讚和享受神的大愛，因為「愛是永不止息」（林前 13:8），並且「神就是愛」（約壹 4:8）。

愛是神的本性，聖經不是說神要愛、神喜歡愛、神能愛、或是神曾經愛，乃是說「神就是愛」。神不需要作任何事情祂仍然是愛，這愛是永不止息、永不改變的愛。另一面，愛是會有表示的。神是如何彰顯祂的大愛呢？羅馬書第五章第七和第八節說，「為義人死，是少有的；為仁人死、或者有敢做的。惟有基督在我們還作罪人的時候為我們死，神的愛就在此向我們顯明了。」神的公義和神的慈愛惟有在十架能夠相會，父神必須為我們捨棄祂獨生的愛子，神的兒子必須在十架親身擔當我們的罪。這位愛的神親自來成為我們的救恩，使永遠的愛可以臨到我們身上。

如今我們因著信，不但罪得著了赦

Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13:13, "But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." Since we have all three things now, which seem to be equally important, why is "love" the greatest among the three? In Hebrews 11, it defines the word "faith" to be "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Faith can cause things we hope for to become real. Without applying faith, we can not see spiritual things which are usually invisible to fleshly eyes. By grace we have been saved through faith.(Eph.2:8) We now live by faith in the Son of God (Gal 2:20). However, one day when God's purpose is accomplished, and all things we hope for become true, what is left to do is to enjoy and praise His great love. It is all because "love never fails"(I Cor.13:8) and 'God is love'.(I John 4:8)

Love is God's nature. Bible does not indicate that God wants to love, desires to love, can love or had loved, but "God IS love." Even if God does not do anything at all, He is still love. His love never fails and never changes. On the other hand, love shows itself naturally. How does God show His love? Romans 5:7&8 says: "For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die, But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." God's love and righteousness meet only at the cross. Father God must give up His only son for us. God' Son has to die on the cross to bear our sins. The God of love had come personally to become our salvation so that His everlasting love can come upon us.

By faith not only our sins have been forgiven,

免，更從神得著一個生命，就是愛的生命。「親愛的弟兄們！我們應當彼此相愛。因為愛是從神來的。凡有愛心的，都是由神而生，並且認識神。沒有愛心的，就不認識神，因為神就是愛。」

（約壹 4:7-8）我們為甚麼要彼此相愛，因為愛是從神來的。從神生的就得著生命，這一個生命就是神自己。神就是愛，所以從神生的，就有這樣的愛生在他裏面。神生我們的時候，就把愛也生在我們裏面。在我們裏面都有同一個愛的生命，所以我們不但可以、也應當彼此相愛。

彼得在彼得前書第四章說到萬物的結局近了，所以，我們要謹慎自守，警醒禱告。他接著說，「最要緊的是彼此切實相愛，因為愛能遮掩許多的罪。」到一切都將結束時，最要緊的是要讓神愛的生命從我們身上彰顯出來。只有愛能完全律法（羅 13:10），惟有愛能造就人（林前 8:1）。這愛關乎著主的再來，也關乎著神旨意的完成。誠如保羅所說，「如今常存的有信，有望，有愛這三樣，其中最大的是愛。」

but we have also received a new life from God, a life of love. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."(I John 4:7&8) Why do we have to love one another? Because love is from God and those who are born of God will have the life of God. Since God is love, everyone who is born of God has this love in him. When God gives us His life, He put His love in us too. Therefore, we children of God all have the same life of love and can love one another.

Apostle Peter talked about in I Peter Chapter 4 that the end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer." He continued by saying: "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins." When all things come to an end, the most important thing is to let God's life of love be seen through us. Only love can fulfill the law.(Romans13:10) Only love can edify. This love concerns the second coming of the lord, also the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose. Just as Paul said: "But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."