

“Searching For The Thanks”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Here we are now coming upon the time when citizens of the United States celebrate Thanksgiving. Historically this holiday has been a day of gratitude, feasting, and prayer. Memories from my childhood include eating the big turkey dinner, watching Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and spending time visiting and playing games with family and friends.

Something I have noticed in more recent years is that the giving thanks part of this holiday seems to be given little regard. For example, people are hurrying through the ceremonial meal or going out to eat so they can run to the stores to catch the holiday sales. Some people are also focusing on the food and not the reason for the feast, to the point that some call it “Turkey Day.” Understand that there is nothing wrong with these things in themselves, but all of these combined point toward a thanklessness that seems to abound in our country and toward the lack of knowing the importance of a thankful heart.

Let us ponder what the scripture says concerning thankfulness.

²*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*
Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

Notes:

[a]

⁶*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*
Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

¹⁵*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

This year let us truly ponder the purpose behind the holiday on the fourth Thursday of every November and make sure we put thankfulness in our Thanksgiving holiday.

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The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
PO Box 955
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944
Skype: thesojourner3734
Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org



Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“Love God’s Way” (Teaching Sketch)

I Corinthians 13:1-8a

What is Love?

Sometimes we find it necessary to look into the meanings of words to make certain we understand what is being said both to us and by us. The understood or generally used meaning may change over a period of time.

Love has come to have so many different meanings in English that it is difficult to know what the meaning is without knowing the person saying it, the thing about which it is being said, and the context in which it is used. Boy! Love as a word can get as complicated as the expressing of it.

Paul Speaks of Love

The word *charity* (KJV) or *love* (NIV) is one of those words. In the original Greek, used by the Apostle Paul, it means:

<G26>**agape**—from
<G25> (agapao);
love, i.e. affection or



Notes:

[1]

benevolence; specially (plural) a love-feast :- (feast of) charity ([-ably]), dear, love.—*Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary*

Paul speaks of love as more than an emotion. Love is a state and a behavior within all other behaviors.

Paul points out no matter how eloquently he speaks his words are only a loud noise. He goes further to say if he has tremendous gifts of prophesy, can solve mysteries, has all knowledge, even great faith to move mountains, without love he is nothing!

He even goes so far to say if he gave all to the poor, went through torture, he would gain nothing without love.

You see, deeds without the spirit of love are simply works without God or godly participation. Many of us have seen people do good

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Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,^[b] but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but

Notes:

[a]

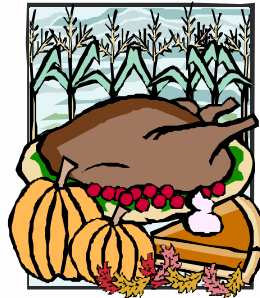
Or languages

[b]

Some early manuscripts body that I may boast

rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

^{8a}Love never fails.



Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Love God's Way" (Teaching Sketch)

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a



things to simply manipulate others or a situation for their own benefit with anything but a pure heart of love.

Notes:

[a]

wrongs—does not think on evil things—
<G 2 5 5 6> k a k o s—apparently a primary word; *worthless* (*intrinsically* such; whereas <G 4 1 9 0> (poneros) properly refers to *effects*), i.e. (subject) *depraved*, or (object) *injurious* :- bad, evil, harm, ill, noise, wicked.—Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

God Is Love

Looking at 1 John 4:8 is where we find the statement "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love." The word for *love* here is the same word used by Paul to the Corinthians.

Attributes Of Love

1. Patience—long-spirited, forbearing, enduring
2. Kind—show oneself useful, act benevolently, to be kind
3. Not envious—does not covet or envy
4. Not boast—not a braggart, self promoter
5. Not proud—inflating oneself, haughty. This is different from being confident.
6. Not rude—unbecoming, not thoughtless toward others
7. Not self-seeking—does not plot for its own good to the detriment of others
8. Not easily angered—not easily provoked or exasperated.
9. Keeps no record of

10. Does not delight in evil—injustice, wrongfulness (of character, or behavior), unjust
11. Rejoices in truth—is only interested in that which is true
12. Always protects—to *roof* over, *endure* patiently in silence
13. Always trusts—always *expects* is *confident*
14. Always perseveres—*remains*, has *fortitude*, endures, tarry behind
15. Never fails—*drops* away, not *driven out* of course, becomes insufficient, has no effect

Love is that it is as God is "I am that I am."

Be love as your existence as God is love and you will do all things through love!