



1 Corinthians 13:1-3

(1) If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. (2) If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (3) And if I give away all my goods, and if I deliver up my body that I may be burned, but do not have love, I have gained nothing.

A Faithful Version

1 Corinthians 8:1 says, "Knowledge puffs up, but [love](#) edifies [builds up]." "Puffs up," when opposed to "edifies," implies tearing down, destruction. Paul is saying that [pride](#) has the power to corrupt the bearer of knowledge. This statement is part of the prologue to the great chapter on love, written because the Corinthians had allowed their emphasis to drift into the wrong areas. Even as a gift from [God](#), knowledge has the potential to corrupt its recipient, if it is unaccompanied by love.

Paul thus begins chapter 13 by contrasting love with other gifts of God. He does this to emphasize love's importance, completeness, permanence, and supremacy over all other qualities we consider important to life and/or God's purpose.

Prophecies end because they are fulfilled. The gift of tongues is less necessary today as then because of the widespread use of English in commerce, politics and academia. Its value depends on specific needs. Knowledge is increasing so rapidly that old knowledge, especially in technical areas, becomes obsolete as new developments arise. Yet the need for love is never exhausted; it never becomes obsolete. God wants us to use it on every occasion.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Fruit of the Spirit: Love](#)

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