

LOVE LIKE GOD

JESSE WAGGONER



Chapter Thirteen — *Love Believes All Things* (1 Corinthians 13:7)

“[Love] believes all things.” — 1 Corinthians 13:7

Big Idea

Love chooses trust over suspicion and leaves room for God’s transforming work.

Paul now continues his powerful rhythm in 1 Corinthians 13:7: love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Here he teaches us that love is marked by a posture of faith toward others. **Love believes all things.**

This does not mean being naïve or ignoring reality. Biblical love does not abandon wisdom or discernment. Instead, it begins with trust. It gives people the benefit of the doubt. It looks for the best rather than assuming the worst.

In a world shaped by disappointment and betrayal, suspicion can feel like protection. But suspicion closes hearts and builds walls. Love opens doors.

To believe all things means we leave space for repentance, growth, and change. It means refusing to permanently define people by their worst moments. It means trusting that God is still at work in their lives—even when past failures make that hard to see.

Jesus modeled this kind of love perfectly. Though Peter denied Him three times, Jesus restored him and entrusted him with leadership. He saw beyond Peter’s failure to Peter’s future. That same believing love invites us to look at others not just for who they are today, but for who God is shaping them to become. Love that believes all things creates environments where healing happens and hope can take root.

Practical Takeaways

- Love gives the benefit of the doubt.
- Love leaves room for growth.
- Love believes God can change people.
- Love guards against cynicism.
- Love balances trust with wise boundaries.

Ways to practice love that believes all things:

- Choose charitable interpretations of others' actions.
- Encourage rather than assume failure.
- Be willing to rebuild trust carefully after it's been broken.
- Pray regularly for God's work in people's lives.
- Refuse to permanently label someone by past mistakes.

Believing all things doesn't guarantee you won't be hurt—but it does guarantee your heart will remain open to God's grace.

Discussion Questions

1. When have you experienced someone believing in you despite your failures? How did it impact you?
2. How can you guard against cynicism in your relationships?
3. Who in your life needs to hear that you believe in their potential this week?
4. How does Jesus' belief in Peter inspire your own approach to trust?
5. Do you tend to assume the best or the worst about people—and what might God be inviting you to change?
6. Is there someone you've quietly written off that God may be calling you to believe in again?