

LOVE LIKE GOD

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Chapter Fourteen — *Love Hopes All Things* (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Big Idea

Love refuses to give up on people and anchors its hope in God's power to transform lives.

Paul now continues his sweeping description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:7: love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Here he reminds us that love is marked by hope—not shallow optimism, but confident expectation rooted in who God is.

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is trust in God's ability to redeem, restore, and renew. Love that hopes all things refuses to write the final chapter of someone's story before God does. It leaves room for repentance, growth, and second chances.

Our natural instinct is often self-protection. After being hurt, we may become cynical, labeling people with "never" and "always." But love moves in the opposite direction. It avoids final judgments and instead leans toward possibility.

Hope does not deny reality, and it does not ignore the need for wisdom or boundaries. Rather, it chooses to believe that God can work even in the most difficult situations. It looks past failures and sees potential. It celebrates small steps forward and trusts God with what has not yet changed.

When we hope this way, we reflect the heart of God—who has never stopped pursuing His people, even after repeated rebellion. Love that hopes all things keeps the door open for grace.

Practical Takeaways

- Love bases hope on God's power, not human performance.
- Love avoids "never" and "always" language.
- Love leaves room for redemption.
- Love celebrates progress, not just perfection.
- Love balances hopeful expectation with wise boundaries.

Ways to practice love that hopes all things:

- Pray expectantly for God's work in others' lives.
- Speak life and encouragement instead of discouragement.
- Refuse to label people as hopeless cases.
- Rejoice in small steps of growth.
- Remember that God is not finished with anyone yet.

Hope keeps relationships open and hearts soft.

Discussion Questions

(From Chapter Fourteen)

1. Who in your life needs you to express hope for their future?
2. What difference does it make to base your hope on God's power rather than human ability?
3. How can you avoid the cynical "never" and "always" language that shuts down hope?
4. What's one step you can take this week to show someone you haven't given up on them?
5. Is there someone you've quietly written off that God may be inviting you to hope for again?
6. How would your relationships change if you consistently chose hope over resignation?