



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 1:5-7
- I Samuel 18-20, 24
- Hosea 1-14

OBJECT LESSON: LOVE

- The Basics: Love...
- Never Fails
- Keeps No Record of Wrongs

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“...to those who have obtained the same precious **faith** as we have obtained, and obtained it in the same way, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:” 2 Peter 1:1

“For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort to add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly affection; and **add to brotherly affection, love.**” 2 Peter 1:5-7

“He who lacks these things is nearsighted; he is approaching total blindness. It’s as if he has forgotten he’s been completely cleansed from his old sins.” 2 Peter 1:9

“Just as, **“The dog returns to his own vomit,”** and “the pig that has washed returns to wallowing in the mud.”” 2 Peter 2:22

“Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. **The greatest of these is love.**” 1 Corinthians 13:13 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: Object Lesson: Love

Faith is the foundation of the Christian life and it is a gift from God that came to you by way of His grace. And you must practice your faith if you wish to gain continual access to that grace. To do so, add these things to your faith in this precise sequence. First add virtue. That means to seek the Lord's voice for what is right in every matter and don't even attempt to seek new information or take any action before you are confident you're in alignment with God's will.

Once you are certain about God's directions, to truly demonstrate wisdom, begin by gathering any missing information before you act. It is only after you have the necessary knowledge to proceed judiciously that you should take any decisive action. It requires excellent self-control to both take wise action and to refrain from acting when God tells you to be still. It is also critical to recognize that challenges and temptations surely await; they will test you, misdirect you, and humble you. Nevertheless, one must stay the course to fulfill God's desires, and that takes perseverance. By the way, unless you humbly come to the conclusion that you made an error that must be corrected before you continue, persist until you succeed; a display of permanent self-control is part of the process. However, if you do discover you've made an error, it is prudent to retrace your steps to find your mistake. Begin by

reconsidering if you've misinterpreted God's original instructions and proceed from there.

This entire process is meant to be pursued in every area of life. Doing so is the very essence of godliness. No doubt, your imperfections will be exposed as you progress, but godliness is not characterized by perfection. Godliness, instead, is the authentic grace-empowered pursuit of perfection, not the achievement of perfection. It's hallmark is a never-ending desire to pursue God's will in all things, and to make the appropriate corrections along the way.

And that is how a disciple of Christ becomes an effective minister of reconciliation—one who readily imparts God's grace. His relentless pursuit of godliness has crafted him into a man whose surrendered life is poured out in sacrifice for the priorities of others. He is a beacon of brotherly affection who exudes kindness, a true disciple of Christ recognized by the love he shares. He imitates the character of Christ, and that is the constant meditation of his heart—to look more and more like Christ by how he loves.

God is love; so, to become love is to become like Christ. Thus, to imitate God's love is the only true measure of a perfect man—the full stature of Christ. And that is the goal of discipleship. Therefore, practice diligently if you wish to experience the fullness of God's precious and exceedingly great promises, the greatest of which is the promise to partake in God's Divine Nature.

THE BASICS

1. Everything Begins with Faith

A. Faith Like Mine

(1) Faith: The Foundation of Everything (See: [Faith Like Mine](#))

(a) Two Faiths: From Faith to Faith

1. “I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ; it is **the power of God for salvation** for everyone who believes, (Jew first also Greek). **In it is revealed God’s righteousness from faith to faith.** As it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”” Romans 1:16-17

a) Righteousness: revealed through the gift of faith.

1) “...to those who have obtained the same precious **faith...**, in the same way, **by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:**” 2 Peter 1:1

b) Righteousness: revealed by the practice of faith!

1) “For this very reason you are required to do your part. **Make every effort to add to your faith...**” 2 Peter 1:5

(b) The gift of faith must become your practice of faith!

1. “Being therefore **justified by faith, we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ; through

whom **we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand..." Romans 5:1-2

a) **Justified by Faith:**

- 1) The gift of faith came by way of God's grace.
- 2) It softened your heart to the Gospel of Salvation.
- 3) The Cross became real (believe-repent-confess).
- 4) All sins instantly forgiven; made right with God.
- 5) No longer in debt to God; now in harmony.

b) **Access by Faith:**

- 1) The practice of faith (you exercise the free gift).
- 2) How you gain continual access to God's grace.
- 3) It empowers you to live as a disciple.
- 4) Leave behind sin of your old life (new creation).
- 5) This distinguishes a disciples from a converts.

B. **Add P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E. Persistent Repetition Accelerates Character Transformation Impacting Christian Ethos.**

(1) The 7 Steps to Practice Faith ([Just Add P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E](#))

(a) Add to your faith: this order is as important as the steps!

1. **"For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort to** add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly

affection; and **add to brotherly affection, love.**" 2

Peter 1:5-7

a) **Faith (Ground 0):**

- 1) The foundation of the Christian life
- 2) A Gift from God that came by His grace
- 3) Practice faith to gain continual access to grace
- 4) Add these things to faith in this sequence:

b) **Virtue (Step 1):**

- 1) Moral excellence (1st) or coordinates will be off
- 2) Morality according to world is ever-changing
- 3) Virtue: whatever is morally excellent to God
- 4) To practice your faith consider:
 - a. What is right to God in this situation?
 - b. What does Yahweh think about this?
 - c. What is God's heart on this matter?

c) **Knowledge (Step 2):**

- 1) Additional information needed to act wisely
- 2) To do what is right: fill the knowledge gap
 - a. What am I missing?
 - b. What do I need to know before I act?

d) **Self-control (Step 3):** to act wisely (not by your first impulses and desires).

- 1) Wisdom: godly application of knowledge, instruction and understanding.
- 2) Once you know what God wants you to do and you have filled in the knowledge gap, you must have the self-control to do it.
- 3) Two arms of Self-Control:
 - a. **One:** take action.
 - b. **Two:** to constantly guard that your actions stay in alignment with virtue and knowledge.
- 4) Two components of Self-Control:
 - a. **Do:** once you know what to do and how to do it, you must do it.
 - b. **Do not do:** you must know what not to do and then don't do those things.
- 5) A life of self-control:
 - a. Tell yourself no when yes is so tempting.
 - b. Tell yourself yes when no is more convenient.
- e) **Perseverance (Step 4):** Doing what is right, no matter how hard, how long, or what the cost!
 - 1) **Suffering:** challenges and difficulties are part of the process. (Y'shua suffered, why not you?)
 - 2) No matter how long or what the challenges...
 - a. Persist in what God called you to do.

- b. Abstain from what God called you to abstain.
- 3) Perseverance is PERMANENT SELF-CONTROL.
 - a. You know what is right according to God!
 - b. You know how to do it and you do it!
 - c. You discipline yourself from straying off course, but it is still not working as planned!
 - d. The fruit is elusive; the breakthrough absent; suffering persists; and hope starts to fade...
 - e. Don't ever surrender! Don't give up!
 - f. Perseverance: permanent, relentless, never-ending self control
- f) **Godliness (Step 5):** holistic integrity!
 - 1) Characterized by the desire to be in alignment with God's in all areas, and then their pursuit...
 - a. All components of your spirit, soul and body are longing to be in complete agreement with what they were designed for by your Creator.
 - b. It does not mean you have perfected your quest, but that you perfected your pursuit!
 - c. The authentic grace-empowered pursuit of perfection, not the achievement of perfection.
- g) **Brotherly Affection (Step 6):**

- 1) Be kind to and prefer others and their needs over yourself and your own needs!
 - a. Christian Alert: It's never been about you!
 - b. Christ did everything for us, not for Himself.
 - c. That is the model of how we should live.
 - d. No greater love is there than to lay down our lives for others.

h) **Love (Step 7):**

- 1) God is love.
- 2) No fear in love; perfect love casts out fear.
- 3) Love is the bond of perfection.
- 4) We can experience God in us.
- 5) We can have the mind of God (think like God).
- 6) We can love like God. *"We love Him because He first loved us."*
- 7) Love is the Divine Nature; goal of discipleship.
- 8) To love like God is to become like Christ!

C. The 1 Thing

(1) Life-Altering Critical Negligence ([The 1 Thing](#))

(a) One thing can shipwreck everything!

1. **"He who lacks these things** is nearsighted; he is approaching total blindness. It's as if he's forgotten

he's been completely cleansed from his old sins." 2

Peter 1:9

- a) Lacks what? Practice adding to your Faith: Virtue...
- b) Cause of Blindness: living *in the past* prevents you from seeing *in the future*!
 - 1) Forgetting you've ALREADY been cleansed...
 - a. You will not pursue... adding to your faith...
(You will instead pursue your past sins!)
 - b. Fullness of God's promises becomes elusive.
 - c. Participation in Divine Nature—impossible!
- c) Why is forgetting so devastating?
 - 1) He who holds onto his past is bound to repeat it
 - a. ***"The dog returns to his own vomit,"*** and *"the pig that has washed returns to wallowing in the mud."* 2 Peter 2:22
- d) How then should you live?
 - 1) ***"For we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles,*** and having walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries."
1 Peter 4:3
 - 2) *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every*

*weight, and **sin which clings so closely**, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**,*" Hebrews 12:1 ESV

- a. You've invested too much into your former pagan life. Don't invest one more resource!
- b. Don't even go near your past sins!
- c. Leave the past in the past and pursue becoming more like Christ every day!

(b) That is why YOU are being REMINDED!

1. "Therefore **I will not be negligent to remind you of these things**, though **you know them** and are **established in the present truth**. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that the putting off of my tent comes swiftly**, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. Yes, **I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things** even after my departure." 2 Peter 1:12-15 WEBUS

- a) What Peter has to say is so important that he uses his last words before his execution to remind his students, and us, of the these truths...
- b) Not new information; already fully established...

LOVE NEVER FAILS

2. Adding Love to Brotherly Affection

A. What does it mean to add love to your brotherly affection?

(1) One can demonstrate God's love for others sometimes, even almost always; and then there is *the perfect permanent demonstration of God's love that never fails* for even one infinitesimal moment—that is the Divine Nature!

(a) Add to your faith, love: the ultimate goal of discipleship

1. **"For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort to** add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly affection; and **add to brotherly affection, love."** 2

Peter 1:5-7

2. The order is as important as the steps: **Add to brotherly affection, love...**

a) **Brotherly Affection (Step 6):**

- 1) Be kind to and prefer others and their needs over yourself and your own needs!
 - a. Christian Alert: It's never been about you!
 - b. Christ did everything for us, not for Himself.
 - c. That is the model of how we should live.

- d. No greater love is there than to lay down our lives for others.

b) **Love (Step 7):**

- 1) God is love.
- 2) No fear in love; perfect love casts out fear.
- 3) Love is the bond of perfection.
- 4) We can experience God in us.
- 5) We can have the mind of God (think like God).
- 6) We can love like God. *"We love Him because He first loved us."*
- 7) Love is the Divine Nature; goal of discipleship.
- 8) To love like God is to become like Christ!
- 9) **From our Introduction:** *God is love; so, to become love is to become like Christ. Thus, to imitate God's love is the only true measure of a perfect man—the full stature of Christ. And that is the goal of discipleship. Therefore, practice diligently if you wish to experience the fullness of God's precious and exceedingly great promises, the greatest of which is the promise to partake in God's Divine Nature. Ask...*
 - a. If God is love, can anyone who does not know God truly love?

- b. If God loves us unconditionally, can you love someone conditionally?
 - c. If loving God means you will obey God, can you be loving God while disobeying God?
- (2) To imitate God's love is the only true measure of the full stature of Christ...
 - (a) God is love...
 - 1. "You don't love because you don't know God, because **God is love.**" 1 John 4:8
 - a) To love is to be intimate with God!
 - (b) Love is His divine nature...
 - 1. "by which he has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises; that **through these you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust." 2 Peter 1:4 WEBUS
 - a) To love is to experience God's essence!
 - (c) There is no greater love...
 - 1. "**Greater love** has no one than this, that someone **lay down his life** for his friends." John 15:13 WEBUS
 - a) To love is to be willing to die for another!
 - (d) Love is...

1. “**Love is patient** and is **kind**. Love **doesn’t envy**. Love **doesn’t brag, is not proud, doesn’t behave itself inappropriately, doesn’t seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn’t rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails...** {13}But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. The greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13
WEBUS

- a) Love is... the standard by which every thought and action is measured. It is manifested altogether and simultaneously as patience, kindness, admiration, trust, modesty, humility, and meekness. It is gracious, polite, altruistic, peaceful, soothing, virtuous, joyful, righteous, and truthful. It displays fierce loyalty; believes, hopes, and endures all things; and always succeeds and thrives, no matter what. It will never fail you!
- (e) The **16 attributes of LOVE** explained (1 Cor. 13:4-8):
 1. Love is **patient** and thus it is always willing to suffer as long as it takes to overcome any resistance it faces.

2. Love is **kind** and therefore it consistently prefers and considers others first and prioritizes their needs, even when undeserving.
3. Love **rejoices when the truth prevails**, hence it exposes the hypocrisy of every lie, each inconsistency, and all deception.
4. Love is **potent** and because it is so powerful it can **easily bear the burden** of protecting and providing for others.
5. Love is an action fueled by **faith**, so it continuously emanates an ambience of **trust**.
6. Love exudes **hope**, thereby it takes a positive, favorable, affirming, and constructive position in every circumstance and situation.
7. Love **can endure anything** that opposes it and thus it is able to **persevere** through every test, tribulation, and challenge.
8. Love **does not envy** position or possessions, so it never jealously covets accomplishments nor belongings.
9. Love **is not boastful** and as such it will never wrongfully lay claim to honor that is rightfully due to Yahweh.

10. Love **never comes across as prideful** and thus it is predictably humble and willing to give credit to Yahweh for every good thing.
11. Love **does not behave inappropriately**, so it will never be found in the presence of shame, disgrace, humiliation, or dishonor.
12. Love **does not first seek to satisfy itself** or insist on its own way, therefore it is absent in the company of selfish desires.
13. Love **is not easily provoked** or angered, but instead releases peace into the environment, and thus it eliminates all contention and strife in the atmosphere.
14. Love **keeps no record of wrongs**, nor does it retain an account of evil things done to it, therefore it maintains no checklist of past offenses.
15. Love **does not rejoice in unrighteousness**, so it never takes delight in what is evil.
16. Love always succeeds and thrives, no matter what, and as such it **never fails!**

B. Object Lesson: No Greater Love and Love Never Fails

- (1) The Backstory: with the display of various attributes of the love of God at work, or not! (I Samuel 17:55-19:24)

- (a) David crashes onto the national scene after he slaughters Goliath in I Samuel 17.
1. Saul seeks out David's identity and family line as he fearlessly runs out to confront Goliath, the Philistine.
 - a) *"There is **no fear** in love; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because fear has punishment. **He who fears is not made perfect in love.**"* 1 John 4:18 WEBUS
 2. David returns with Goliath's head in his hand and identifies himself to Saul as David, "son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."
 - a) Beforehand... *"David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. **Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.**""* 1 Samuel 17:32 WEBUS
 - 1) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
 - b) *"For **who is this uncircumcised Philistine**, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*
1 Samuel 17:26 WEBUS
 - 2) Love exudes **hope**: it takes a favorable position in every circumstance.
 - c) *"David said, "**Yahweh, who delivered me** out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear,*

will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.”

1 Samuel 17:37

- 1) Love **isn't boastful**: it will never lay claim to honor that is due to Yahweh.

d) *“Today, **Yahweh will deliver you into my hand. I will strike you and take your head from off you. ... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,**”* 1 Samuel 17:46 WEBUS

- 1) Love **isn't prideful**: it is predictably humble and willing to give all credit to Yahweh.

e) *“So **David prevailed over the Philistine** with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and **killed him**; but there was no sword in David's hand. Then David ran, stood over the Philistine, took his sword, drew it out of its sheath, **killed him, and cut off his head** with it. **When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.**”* 1 Samuel 17:50-51 WEBUS

- 1) Love **endures anything**: it is able to **persevere** through every challenge.

(b) Saul begins to resent David because the people grow to love David. (1 Samuel 18:1-16)

1. The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. Jonathan took off his robe and armor and gave it to David, even his sword, bow and belt.
 - a) Love **doesn't envy**: it never jealously covets accomplishments nor belongings.
2. David **wisely** obeyed Saul's orders and he behaved impeccably. He was put in charge of the military and was accepted by everyone.
 - a) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek it's own way and is absent of selfish desires.
3. After each battle, David received ten times the accolades as Saul and it made Saul very angry.
 - a) Love **doesn't envy**: it never jealously covets accomplishments nor belongings.
 - b) Love **isn't easily provoked**: it releases peace and eliminates contention and strife.
4. Saul looked at David with jealousy from that day forward and he was oppressed by a spirit of envy.
 - a) Love **doesn't envy**: it never jealously covets accomplishments nor belongings.

5. David played music to soothe Saul's rage, but Saul attempted to spear him to the wall twice.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love **doesn't behave inappropriately**: it never shames, humiliates, or dishonors.
 - c) Love **doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.
6. Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul. Saul removed him from his presence by making him the captain over thousands, but this kept him in the limelight.
 - a) Love **doesn't behave inappropriately**: it never shames, humiliates, or dishonors.
7. But **David continued to behave wisely** in every way, despite Saul's treatment, and the Lord was with him. He became more beloved by the people. This made **Saul even more afraid of him**.
 - a) Love is **patient**: it will suffer as long as it takes to overcome resistance.
 - b) Love **endures anything**: it is able to **persevere** through every challenge.

(c) The enemy of my enemy is my friend. (I Samuel 18:17-19)

1. Saul offers David his older daughter Merab as a wife and asks him to valiantly fight ‘the Lord’s battles’ for him. But **Saul’s true intention** is that he would be killed in battle, so he need not kill him himself.
 - a) Love **doesn’t rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.
2. David’s modest response: *“Who am I, and what is my life or my father’s family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?”*
 - a) Love **isn’t prideful**: it is predictably humble and willing to give all credit to Yahweh.
3. But Saul gave Merab to another man instead.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love **doesn’t behave inappropriately**: it never shames, humiliates, or dishonors.

(d) Saul promised David his second daughter Michal instead. (I Samuel 18:20-24)

1. Michal loved David so much, and it pleased Saul because he figured David’s focus on Michal would distract him and cause him to get sloppy in battle.

- a) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek its own way and is absent of selfish desires.
 - b) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
2. So for a second time Saul asked David to be his son-in-law. *'Look, the king **has delight in you**, and all his servants love you. Now therefore, become the king's son-in-law.'* Saul asked his servants to communicate with David in private (**because he was not being authentic**).
- a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love **doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.
3. David's reaction was absolutely humble: *"Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?"* The servants reported David's response.
- a) Love **isn't boastful**: it will never lay claim to honor that is due to Yahweh.
- (e) Ulterior motives... (I Samuel 18:25-30)

1. Saul wanted no dowry from David except **one hundred** Philistines foreskins. Saul's actual hope: David would fall in battle.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love **doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.
2. David was thrilled just to become the king's son-in-law. In short order David and his men killed **two hundred** Philistines (twice the requirement!).
 - a) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
3. David brought their foreskins to the king, trusting he would become the king's son-in-law.
 - a) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.
4. Saul gave Michal to David. He knew that Yahweh was with David and saw how much Michal loved him. Saul became increasingly afraid of David's power and influence.
 - a) Love **doesn't envy**: it never jealously covets accomplishments nor belongings.
5. Saul became **David's enemy** continually.

- a) Love **doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.
- 6. The Philistines continued to fight Israel and David's **wisdom** exceeded every servant of Saul; **his name became highly esteemed**.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love **doesn't envy**: it never jealously covets accomplishments nor belongings.
- (f) Saul Orders David's Assassination (I Samuel 19:1-3)
 - 1. Saul ordered Jonathan and his servants to kill David; but Jonathan delighted greatly in David, so he warned David to be on guard and to hide until morning—until he can confront his father.
 - a) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
- (g) Jonathan advocates for David against his own father. (I Samuel 19:4-8)
 - 1. Don't sin against David because he has not sinned against you, and because he has performed well for you. He risked his life for you against the Philistines and delivered Israel from defeat. You rejoiced about it

then, so why would you shed David's innocent blood now, without cause?

- a) Love exudes **hope**: it takes a favorable position in every circumstance.
 - b) Love **doesn't behave inappropriately**: it never shames, humiliates, or dishonors.
 - c) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek its own way and is absent of selfish desires.
 - d) Love **doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.
2. Saul heeded Jonathan's advice and swore he would not kill David. Jonathan informed David that peace was restored between them and he brought David to see Saul. David resumed his conquests over the Philistines.
- a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
- (h) Saul has a relapse and attempts to murder David himself. (I Samuel 19:9-10)
1. The distressing spirit from the Lord that was over Saul manifested again, as David was playing music for him. Saul tried to pin David to the wall with his spear, but missed. David escaped!

- a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
- (i) Michal saves David's Life. (I Samuel 19:11-17)
 - 1. Saul sent assassins to David's house to kill him in the morning, but David's wife let him down through a window for him to escape.
 - a) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
 - 2. Michal stuffed a dummy, clothed it, used goat's hair for its head and put it in David's bed. When the assassins arrived she told them he was sick in bed. They departed, but Saul sent them back to bring David to him to be killed. That's when they discovered the stuffed dummy.
 - a) Love **endures anything**: it is able to **persevere** through every challenge.
 - 3. Saul was surprised that his daughter Michal deceived him and allowed his enemy to escape. Michal lied to her father and told him that David had threatened to kill her if she did not help him.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.

- b) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek its own way and is absent of selfish desires.
- (j) David seeks the great prophet Samuel for advice: (I Samuel 19:18-24)
 - 1. David told him all that Saul had done to him. Saul is notified of their whereabouts (Naioth in Ramah).
 - a) Love **endures anything**: it is able to **persevere** through every challenge.
 - 2. Saul sent assassins three times to take David and they encounter a group of prophets prophesying with Samuel as their leader. The Spirit of God came upon Saul's men each time and they also prophesied.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - 3. Saul goes himself to find Samuel and David, and the Spirit of God was upon him also. He stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel, like his men. He lay down naked all day and night. Because he prophesied, many thought Saul too was a prophet.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
- (2) The Story: with the display of various attributes of the love of God at work, or not! (I Samuel 20:1-42)

(a) Jonathan's loyalty to David (a love that never fails!): Saul becomes aware of Jonathan's love for David. (I Samuel 20:1-3)

1. David fled to Jonathan to ask him what he believes is the reason for his father's murderous attitude toward him. Jonathan reassures David that he will not die because his father never does anything without keeping him in the loop. Why would he this time?

a) Love is **patient**: it will suffer as long as it takes to overcome resistance.

b) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.

2. David tells Jonathan that he does not believe Saul will keep him in the loop because he knows how much they love each other. Saul will undoubtedly hide his plans and thus, *"there is but a step between me and death."*

a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.

(b) Jonathan is asked to engage in an operation to determine Saul's true intent. (I Samuel 20:4-8)

1. Jonathan is willing to do whatever it takes to protect David.

- a) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
 - 2. The next day was New Moon and the king would traditionally have dinner with his officials for the first three days of the month. David asks Jonathan to observe the king's demeanor when he does not show up to eat, and to tell the king, if he notices he is missing, that he, Jonathan, gave him permission to take care of some family business back in Bethlehem. If the king makes nothing of it, then all is well. But if he is very angry, then we know he has evil intentions.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.
 - 3. David reminds Jonathan of their covenant and tells him that there is really no reason to let the king kill him; if there is a legitimate cause, Jonathan is welcome to kill him himself.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - (c) Jonathan vows to keep his covenant with David.
- (I Samuel 20:9-16)

1. Jonathan affirms his plan to protect David and invites Yahweh to punish him if he intends to deceive David.
 - a) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
 - b) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - c) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.
 - d) Love exudes **hope**: it takes a favorable position in every circumstance.
2. Jonathan says, trust me, if my father intends to harm you, I will tell you! But, David needs some way for Jonathan to relay the king's reaction, so Jonathan comes up with a plan.
 - a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception
 - b) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.
3. Jonathan makes an oath to certainly report any good news, and he assures David by inviting a curse on his own life. *"May the Lord do to me whatever bad you think the king intends for you and much more."*

- a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.
 - c) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek its own way and is absent of selfish desires.
4. He promises to report any bad news as well and to send him to safety, with Yahweh's blessing. *"May the Lord be with you as He has been with my father."*
- a) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - b) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.
5. And Jonathan asks that David show him the kindness of the Lord while he still lives, to not have him killed, nor to forget his decedents forever (as the Lord seems to cut off every one of David's enemies).
- a) Love is **kind**: it prefers others first, even when undeserving.
 - b) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek its own way and is absent of selfish desires.

- c) David fulfills his promise to Jonathan (after his death) in II Samuel 9:1-13, when he blesses Mephibosheth (Jonathan's crippled son).
 - 1) David inquires if there still anyone alive from the house of Saul, that he may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?
 - 2) He is told Mephibosheth is alive, Jonathan's son, who is lame in his feet.
 - 3) Mephibosheth is brought to David, and he falls on his face and prostrates himself.
 - 4) David assures Mephibosheth: *"Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness **for Jonathan your father's sake**. I have given you all that belonged to Saul. You shall eat bread at my table always."*
 - 5) From then on, Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem and ate continually at the king's table.
- d) Love is **kind**: it prefers others first, even when undeserving.
- e) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
- f) Love always **succeeds and thrives**: it **never fails**!
- (d) Love others as you love yourself: Love never fails!
- (I Samuel 20:17-29)

1. *“Jonathan caused David to swear again, **for the love that he had to him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.**”* 1 Samuel 20:17 WEBUS
 - a) *“**You shall not take vengeance**, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the Lord.”* Leviticus 19:18 NKJV
 - b) *“**Owe no one anything except to love one another**, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” **Love does no harm to a neighbor;** therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”* Romans 13:8-10 NKJV
 - c) Love always **succeeds and thrives: it never fails!**
2. Jonathan strategizes a way with David to inform him of his father’s disposition toward David, and regardless of the outcome, their covenant in the Lord will stand forever. David will not show up for the

three days of the New Moon feasts and Jonathan will measure Saul's reaction.

a) Love always **succeeds and thrives**: it **never fails**!

1) *“Concerning the matter which you and I have spoken of, behold, Yahweh is **between you and me forever.**”* 1 Samuel 20:23 WEBUS

(e) Jonathan is cursed by his father for choosing David (over his father, himself, and his future throne, and Saul makes an attempt on his life—but no greater love! (1 Samuel 20:30-33)

1. Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, *“You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that **you have chosen the son of Jesse** to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? For **as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom.** Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die.”* Jonathan answered Saul, “Why should he be killed? What has he done?” Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.”

- a) “**Greater love** has no one than this, that someone **lay down his life** for his friends.” John 15:13

WEBUS

- b) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
- c) Love **endures anything**: it is able to **persevere** through every challenge.
- d) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek it's own way and is absent of selfish desires.
- e) Love always **succeeds and thrives**: it **never fails**!

- 1) What a perfect object lesson for the teachings of Y'shua: ““If anyone comes to me, and doesn't **disregard his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he can't be my disciple.** Whoever doesn't bear his own cross and come after me, **can't be my disciple.**” Luke 14:26-27 WEBUS

- (f) Jonathan was ultimately rejected by Saul for David's sake! (I Samuel 20:34-40)

1. Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him

shamefully. Then he fulfilled his promise and warned David as planned.

- a) Love is **patient**: it will suffer as long as it takes to overcome resistance.
 - b) Love is **kind**: it prefers others first, even when undeserving.
 - c) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
 - d) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
 - e) Love **doesn't behave inappropriately**: it never shames, humiliates, or dishonors.
 - f) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek its own way and is absent of selfish desires.
 - g) Love **isn't easily provoked**: it releases peace and eliminates contention and strife.
- (g) A love that never fails!!!! (I Samuel 20:41-42)
1. David and Jonathan kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so. Jonathan said to David, *"Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the Lord, saying, 'May the Lord be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'"*

a) Love always **succeeds and thrives**: it **never fails**!

(3) Fast Forward: David spares Saul's life! (I Samuel 24:1-22)

(a) Love **keeps no record of wrongs**, nor does it retain an account of evil things done to it, therefore it maintains no checklist of past offenses.

1. Saul was hunting David in the Wilderness when he stopped in a cave to 'attend to his needs.'
2. David and his men were hiding in that cave and his men celebrated that David could now eliminate Saul.
3. Instead, David sneaks up behind Saul and cuts off a corner of Saul's robe.
4. And even that small concession makes David feel convicted! *"The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord."*
5. David restrains his men from assassinating Saul and then he makes Saul aware of his presence.
6. David calls Saul his "lord the king!" and explains how he has never had any intention to harm Saul (it's all a lie).
7. David shows Saul proof that he could have killed him and that he was indeed encouraged to do so.

8. But he instead honored Saul, *"I will not stretch out my hand against my Lord, for he is the Yahweh's anointed. There is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life. Let the Lord judge between you and me; 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' But my hand shall not be against you."*
9. Saul is convicted: *"You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the Lord delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? You shall surely be king; the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Please don't cut off my descendants nor destroy my name."*
- a) Love **keeps no record of wrongs**, nor does it retain an account of evil things done to it, therefore it maintains no checklist of past offenses.
- (b) David swore to give Saul everything he requested... that is God's Love!

1. Love is **patient** and thus it is always willing to suffer as long as it takes to overcome whatever resistance it faces.
2. Love is **kind** and therefore it consistently prefers and considers others first and prioritizes their needs, even when undeserving.
3. Love **rejoices when the truth prevails**, hence it exposes the hypocrisy of every lie, each inconsistency, and all deception.
4. Love is **potent** and because it is so powerful it can **easily bear the burden** of protecting and providing for others.
5. Love is an action fueled by faith, so it continuously emanates an ambience of **trust**.
6. Love exudes **hope**, thereby it takes a positive, favorable, affirming, and constructive position in every circumstance and situation.
7. Love **can endure anything** that opposes it and thus it is able to **persevere** through every test, tribulation, and challenge.
8. Love does **not envy** position or possessions, so it never jealously covets accomplishments nor belongings.

9. Love is **not boastful** and as such it will never wrongfully lay claim to honor that is rightfully due to Yahweh.
10. Love **never comes across as prideful** and thus it is predictably humble and willing to give credit to Yahweh for every good thing.
11. Love **does not behave inappropriately**, so it will never be found in the presence of shame, disgrace, humiliation, or dishonor.
12. Love **does not first seek to satisfy itself** or insist on its own way, therefore it is absent in the company of selfish desires.
13. Love is **not easily provoked** or angered, but instead releases peace into the environment, and thus eliminates all contention and strife in the atmosphere.
14. Love **keeps no record of wrongs**, nor does it retain an account of evil things done to it, therefore it maintains no checklist of past offenses.
15. Love **does not rejoice in unrighteousness**, so it never takes delight in what is evil.
16. Love always succeeds and thrives, no matter what, and as such it **never fails!**

LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS

3. No matter what... I still love you!

A. Object Lesson: Love holds no record of wrongs

(1) The Backstory: the perfect object lesson for how we have committed harlotry against the Lord, and yet, in the end, Yahweh still LOVES us! (Hosea 1-2) Again, with the display of various attributes of the love of God at work, or not!

(a) Take a harlot as a wife... (Hosea 1:1-9)

1. The Lord said to Hosea: *“Take for yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from Yahweh.”*
2. Hosea took Gomer and she conceived and bore him a son. Yahweh told him: ***“Call his name Jezreel, for in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”***
3. Gomer conceived again and bore a daughter. Yahweh told him: ***“Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, for I will no longer have mercy...”***

4. Gomer conceived again and bore a son. Yahweh told him: ***“Call his name Lo-Ami, for you are not My people, And I will not be your God.”***

- a) Love is **patient**: it will suffer as long as it takes to overcome resistance.
- b) Love is **kind**: it prefers others first, even when undeserving.
- c) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.
- d) Love is **potent**: it easily bears the burden of protecting and providing.
- e) Love is fueled by **faith**: it emanates an ambience of **trust**.

(b) The Restoration of Israel (Hosea 1:10-11)

- 1. ***“Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea [like was promised to Abraham in Genesis 22:17], which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There it shall be said to them, ‘You are sons of the living God.’”***

- a) Love exudes **hope**: it takes a favorable position in every circumstance.

b) Love **endures anything**: it is able to **persevere** through every challenge.

(c) God's unfaithful people—punished. (Hosea 2:1-7)

1. Mercy is shown. Bring charges against your mother; for she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotry and adultery, lest I strip her naked and expose her, make her like a wilderness, set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst.
2. I will not have mercy on her children, for they are the children of harlotry. Their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, ***'I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.'***
3. I will wall you in and block your path. You will chase lovers, but not find them.
4. Then you will want to... "return to your first husband; it was better then."
 - a) Love **doesn't behave inappropriately**: it never shames, humiliates, or dishonors.
 - b) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek it's own way and is absent of selfish desires.

c) Love **isn't easily provoked**: it releases peace and eliminates contention and strife.

d) Love **doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.

(d) Yahweh will Punish you! (Hosea 2:8-13)

1. You did not realize that God supplied your resources that you then offered to Baal. So, God will cut off your supply chain!

2. God will expose your lewdness to your lovers and no one will be there to help; you will no longer enjoy your parties and celebrations.

3. When God destroys your resources, in your defense you will claim they were "your wages that you earned from your lovers."

4. You will be punished for the days of worshiping idols, for dressing like a harlot, for chasing lovers; and for forgetting God!

a) Love **doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness**: it never takes delight in evil.

b) Love **rejoices in truth**: it exposes hypocrisy, lies, inconsistency, and deception.

c) Love **doesn't behave inappropriately**: it never shames, humiliates, or dishonors.

d) Love **doesn't seek to satisfy itself**: it doesn't seek its own way and is absent of selfish desires.

(e) God's Mercy (Hosea 2:14-23)

1. But after all that, God will allure you into the wilderness to comfort you. He will resupply your needs and give you hope! Songs of praise from your youth will return to your lips.
2. At that time "You will call God 'Your Husband,' and no longer call Him 'Your Master.'" For He will remove the names of foreign God from your lips; They shall be remembered by their names no more.
3. In that day I will make a new covenant with you. ***"I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the Lord."***
4. It shall come to pass in that day that God will answer your prayers from heaven.
5. You will become God's seed in the earth, and He will have mercy on you who had not obtained mercy; and He will say to those who were not His people, 'You are My people!' And you shall say, 'You are my God!'

- a) Love **keeps no record of wrongs**: it maintains no checklist of past offenses.

(2) The Story: Love keeps no record of wrong! (Hosea 3)

- (a) Hosea Redeems his Wife: God loves you no matter what! (Hosea 3:1-5)

1. Then Yahweh said to Hosea, *“Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, **just like the love of the Lord for the children of Israel**, who turned to other gods and looked to them to meet their needs.”*
2. God will take you back! *“You shall stay with Him for now on; you shall no longer play the harlot, nor shall you have any relationship with idols—**and God will again treat you like His bride.**”*
3. You shall return and seek the Yahweh as your God and the seed of David. In the end, you shall fear Yahweh and appreciate His goodness.

- a) Love **keeps no record of wrongs**: it maintains no checklist of past offenses.

(3) The Story: a deeply **personal** view of Hosea 4-14

- (a) Chapter 4

1. God’s charges against his children (Hosea 4:1-2)

- a) *“There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed.”*
- 2. The Sentencing: (Hosea 4:3-5)
 - a) Everyone (including the animals) will waste away.
 - b) Don't bother looking for someone to rebuke; My problem is with you, My priest (priesthood, nations of priests) and with your prophets.
 - c) All of you will come to ruin.
- 3. The Evidence: for My judgement to turn your glory into shame (Hosea 4:6-8)
 - a) You and your children will be destroyed and forgotten (rejected as My priests) because...
 - 1) Lack of knowledge.
 - 2) Rejection of knowledge.
 - 3) Forgetting the law of God.
 - 4) The more you prosper, the worse you sin.
 - 5) You thrive on sin.
 - 6) Your heart is committed to iniquity.
- 4. The ruling is against the people and the priests (Hosea 4:9-10)
 - a) You will be punished for your ways.

- b) You will be rewarded for your deeds.
- c) You shall eat, but not have enough.
- d) You shall commit harlotry, but not multiply.
- e) All because you have ceased to obey the Lord.

(b) Chapter 5

1. Impending Judgment: (Hosea 5:1-7)

- a) Warning to the priests and all children of God!
- b) Judgment Time: God sees everything.
- c) Your revolt against God brings death.
- d) You commit harlotry and the spirit of harlotry is in your midst
- e) Your actions are not for God; you don't even know Him.
- f) Pride has made you so bold that you simultaneously seek God with offerings, while living in sin.
- g) You will not find Him; He has withdrawn from you.
- h) You have cheated on God with pagan God's and have begotten pagan children (born the fruit of you choices).
- i) The consequences will be swift and decisive.

2. The Trumpet of God's Wrath: (Hosea 5:8-15)

- a) Rebuke is a certainty; God's wrath will pour out like water.
- b) Following human precepts guarantees God's oppression; He will break you.
- c) Like moths ruin garments and rot ruins food, so sicknesses and injuries will plague you.
- d) You will seek remedies outside the Lord's will but you will find nothing to cure your diseases nor heal your wounds.
- e) It will feel like a predator tearing at your flesh with no one around to rescue you.
- f) God's position on sin and rebellion is permanent!
- g) Your responsibility is to acknowledge your sin, repent, and to seek God earnestly.

(c) Chapter 6

1. Prophetic Gold (Hosea 6:1-3)

- a) *"Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. **After two days [2000 years]** He will revive us; **on the third day He will raise us up [the resurrection and the second coming after 2000 years]**, that we may live in His sight [**in eternity**]. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge*

*of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the **rain [the Holy Spirit]**, like the **latter [the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit before His return]** and **former rain [pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost]** to the earth.” Hosea 6:1-3*

1) *“Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God; For **He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.**” Joel 2:23*

b) Read Joel 2:28-32 as referred to in Acts 2:17-21

1) *“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...”*

2. Impenitent Hearts: (Hosea 6:4-5)

a) Your faithfulness is like the morning fog and early dew that evaporate.

b) You will be shaped by God prophecies and convicted by His word.

c) God’s judgment for your choices is as certain as the light that accompanies the morning!

3. The error of believing sacrifices can substitute for obedience... (Hosea 6:6-7)

- a) *“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”*
Hosea 6:6 NKJV
 - b) Y’shua said, *“Go learn what this means...”* (in Matthew 9:13; 12:7)
 - c) But like men do, you faithlessly broke God’s covenant.
4. I have seen a horrible thing... (Hosea 6:8-11)
- a) Your leadership (priests) have become evil, stained by the blood of those they lead astray.
 - b) They rob the people of truth which brings death.
 - c) They commit lewdness and harlotry **Yet, **God is still willing to restore you** from the captivity of your sin!* (Hosea 6:11)
- (d) Chapter 7
- 1. Every time God desires to heal you, more sin, wickedness, and fraud is uncovered. (Hosea 7:1)
 - 2. A Record of Wrongs: (Hosea 7:2-10)
 - a) God **remembers all your wickedness**; your actions expose who you truly are to God. (Hosea 7:2)
 - b) You prefer to please the people who the world finds admirable; they are all spiritual **adulterers**.

- c) **Those in the world do everything in their power avoid anything that might inhibit their sins.**
 - d) Consequently, they will also do everything in their power to intentionally draw you into their sin.
 - e) They avoid God by any means possible and you are mixed in with them and you don't even see it!
 - f) You are so blind to your sin that it's like you have gray hair on your very own head and yet when you look in the mirror you see nothing but black hair.
 - g) Pride itself will prevent you from repenting!
3. Futile Reliance on Pagans: (Hosea 7:11-16)
- a) It is pure self-deception to think that pagans can help you.
 - b) No matter what you attempt to do to help yourself apart from God, it will only end in God's rebuke.
 - c) If you run from God and insist on sinning, it can only end in your ruin.
 - d) God stands ready to redeem you, yet you'd rather live in a lie.
 - e) If you cry out, but it is not to God, it's just a continuation of your rebellion, like biting the hand that feeds you.

- f) You are actively seeking help, but not from the Most High.
- g) And those from who you seek relief, they too will fall.

(e) Chapter 8

1. Apostasy: (Hosea 8:1-11)

- a) You have transgressed God's covenant and rebelled against His law, even while you claim to know God.
- b) If you reject God's goodness, you are inviting the enemy to pursue you.
- c) You should resist the Devil...
 - 1) *"Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* James 4:7 WEBUS
- d) Don't set up earthly leaders for yourself, nor depend on earthly riches; it only angers the Lord.
- e) You cannot maintain innocence if you depend on things made by man; those things all deteriorate.
 - 1) *"Don't lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where*

thieves don't break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21 WEBUS

- 2) *"“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve both God and Mammon."*

Matthew 6:24 WEBUS

- 3) *"“Therefore don't be anxious, saying, ‘What will we eat?’, ‘What will we drink?’ or, ‘With what will we be clothed?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first God's Kingdom and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore don't be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient."* Matthew 6:31-34 WEBUS

- f) It's like sowing your seeds in hurricane winds; nothing will grow from it.
- g) You will just wind up like the pagans who are always seeking the next form or source of pleasure, because they never feel satisfied.

- h) *It's like hiring a prostitute and hoping for the fulfillment of marriage—only regret ensues. (Hosea 8:9-10)
 - i) It's like looking for God on many different altars, which just accentuates your sin!
2. God gave you the answer already! (Hosea 8:12-14)
- a) "I have written for you great things in My law, but to you they were considered a strange thing."
 - b) Instead, you perverted your offering to God by consuming them for yourself!
 - c) Now your sin must be accounted for!
 - d) If you insist, I will let you go back to Egypt! And then I will punish you for your sin!
- 1) *"They said to one another, "Let's choose a leader, and **let's return into Egypt.**" Numbers 14:4 WEBUS*
 - 2) ***"Therefore God also gave them up in the lusts of their hearts** to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves; who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."*
Romans 1:24-25 WEBUS

e) You have forgotten your Creator and built temples to your own God.

f) You think you can build security in your life with the things of the world, but all of it will end in ashes.

1) *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For **we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can’t carry anything out.**”* 1 Timothy 6:6-7 WEBUS

(f) Chapter 9

1. Don’t you dare celebrate your sin! (Hosea 9:1)

a) **“Do not rejoice,** O Israel, with joy like other peoples, For **you have played the harlot** against your God. **You have made love for hire on every threshing floor.**” Hosea 9:1 NKJV

2. There will be no benefits... (Hosea 9:2-4)

a) Your harlotry and self-indulgence will fail you.

b) Your sin and unclean choices cannot be part of your life in the Lord; you’ll have to go back to Egypt and Assyria for that.

1) *“For if, after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again***

entangled in it and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.” 2 Peter 2:20-21 WEBUS

- c) Nothing you offer God will be accepted nor pleasing.
 - d) Nothing you bring will count as a sacrifice to God, but as if it benefited yourself.
3. What will you do when God comes to take account?
(Hosea 9:5-17)
- a) You might be long gone by then, swallowed up in Egypt (your old life).
 - b) Because of the greatness of your iniquity, your hatred for God’s ways, and your deep corruption, the days have come to pay the price.
 - c) Those you honored as prophets are fools—as spiritual men are insane.
 - d) You honored pagan God’s with your firstfruits, an abominable shameful act.

- e) You will suffer with few children and those who are born will be deprived of love and left to those who want them dead.
- f) Because of your rebellion and disobedience, you will be driven from God's presence and absent His love.
- g) You shall wander among the pagans.

(g) Chapter 10

1. A Divided Heart: (Hosea 10:1-15)

- a) Whatever you do, you do for yourself.
- b) And you use your resources to support your false gods and false religion, which God stands ready to destroy.
- c) You have no reverence for Yahweh as your king, and yet you swear He is, and you say no other king could help you.
- d) Your beliefs are self-intoxicating with deadly poison.
- e) You will be ashamed of your **allegiances to foreign kings and false religion** as they amount to nothing.
- f) At the proper time you will be chastened with fruitless labor for **these two transgressions**.

- g) You should instead sow righteousness (by truly seeking the Lord) into a fertile field, so you can reap mercy.
- h) Unfortunately you have sown your own way; you have plowed wickedness and will real reap iniquity.
- i) You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way (in men).
- j) You will be like a mother horrified by her own children and when the sun rises for you to see, you will realize your leaders have been utterly cut off.

(h) Chapter 11

- 1. God's still loves you... (Hosea 11:1-12)
 - a) God called you out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15; Exodus 4:22-23)
 - b) And you sacrificed to false gods and idols.
 - c) God raised you, freed you, fed you, and protected you from returning to you old life, but you refused to repent.
 - d) You chose your own counsel and it destroyed you; you are bent on backsliding.
 - e) You call Yahweh the Most High, but you don't actually exalt Him.

- f) All this and God still does not want to permanently destroy you; He still has sympathy for you.
- g) He is God, and not man, and He believes you will return to Him.
- h) You will again faithfully walk with God as your Holy One.

(i) Chapter 12

1. Some of you will persist in your daily sin: (Hosea 12:1-14)

- a) You will continue in your allegiance to idols and the Lord must bring a charge against you and punish you accordingly.
- b) Please remember how Jacob struggled with God and prevailed; return to the God and find mercy and justice.
- c) Stop depending on riches and wealth and your own success.
- d) Stop deceiving yourself as if in everything you do God will find no iniquity in you.
- e) **And still a continued promise...** as in the days when He freed you from your sin (when a prophet brought you out of Egypt), **God will free you again from your idolatry.**

- f) But again, some will still refuse to leave their bloodshed.

(j) Chapter 13

1. Relentless Judgment: (Hosea 13:1-3)

- a) If you worship false God's, you die.
- b) You shall be like the morning cloud and like the early dew that passes away, like chaff blown off from a threshing floor and like smoke from a chimney.

2. There is no God and savior but Yahweh! (Hosea 13:4-16)

- a) He is the one who supplies all your needs; but you forget Him when you are satisfied.
- b) That approach brings destruction, and your only remedy is God
- c) Remember, He gave you you a **king (Saul)** in His anger, and took him away in His wrath.
- d) Following the wrong king brings death, and yet God still wants to ransom you from the power of the grave, to redeem you from death.
- e) God will do whatever is necessary to get your attention; He will dry up everything you touch.

(k) Chapter 14

1. Restored! (Hosea 14:1-9)

a) Return to the Lord your God. Say to Him, *“Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.”*

1) *“No one else can save us. We will no longer say to the work of our hands, ‘You are our gods.’ In **You alone Yahweh**, the fatherless finds mercy.”*

b) God’s Response when you finally admit, **“What have I to do anymore with idols?”**

1) *“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away. Those who dwell under My shadow shall return; They shall be revived.”*

2) Love **keeps no record of wrongs**, nor does it retain an account of evil things done to it, therefore it maintains no checklist of past offenses.

3) Love always succeeds and thrives, no matter what, and as such it **never fails!**

c) *“Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right; The righteous walk in them,*

But transgressors stumble in them.” Hosea 14:9

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(4) **Conclusion:**

(a) **Love never fails:** the story of Saul, Jonathan and David.

1. Love always succeeds and thrives, no matter what,
and as such it **never fails!**

(b) **Love keeps no record of wrongs:** the story of Hosea and Gomer, Yahweh and Israel, and Yahweh and you!

1. Love **keeps no record of wrongs**, nor does it retain an account of evil things done to it, therefore it maintains no checklist of past offenses.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Read the introduction three times.

- A. Define Love.
- B. Why must love be the final step in the practice of your faith?

2. Personal Object Lesson:

- A. Describe a time in your life when demonstrated the love of God? What was the outcome?
- B. Describe a time in your life when you did not demonstrate the love of God? What was the outcome?

3. Transformation:

- A. What did you or will you do to correct your error in discussion point 2B?
- B. What will you do in the future to ensure you do not repeat the same mistake?