

## The Way of Love is Extraordinary - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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“What does it mean to be truly spiritual?” is not a new question. It’s a question Holy Spirit answers in 1 Corinthians 13. In verses 1-3, Holy Spirit reveals that ἀγάπη-love is the Essential, indispensable, Evidence of Authentic Spirituality. Verses 4-7 describe how ἀγάπη-love is expressed.

ἀγάπη-love is not physical attraction or warm affection, though affection may accompany it. ἀγάπη-love is committed investment of personal resources for the good of others regardless of the cost. And that’s Extraordinary. In other words, ἀγάπη-love is \_\_\_\_\_ ordinary love.

Lord Jesus is the Ultimate Example of Extraordinary ἀγάπη-love. 1 John 3:16

There are 15 descriptions of ἀγάπη-love in these 4 verses, detailing 3 Expressions of ἀγάπη-love that confirm Authentic Spirituality. These are descriptions of what ἀγάπη-love does.

- ἀγάπη-love \_\_\_\_\_ the Love of God
  - “patient”  
e.g., 2 Peter 3:9
  - “kind”  
e.g., Titus 3:4-7
- ἀγάπη-love does not \_\_\_\_\_ first
  - “envies not”  
e.g., Acts 13:45
  - “self-promotes not, self-inflates not”  
e.g., 1 Corinthians 4:6-7
  - “does not act unbecomingly”



“seeks not its own”  
e.g., Romans 15:1-3

“does not flare up in anger”

“does not think on evil”  
Romans 13:10

“rejoices not in injustice, but rejoices in the truth”  
e.g., Acts 7:24

e.g., Romans 2:8

- ἀγάπη-love stays \_\_\_\_\_ in Challenge
- “all things bears” e.g., 1 Corinthians 9:12
- “all things trusts”
- “all things hopes”
- “all things endures”

Make it real:

### **Applying These Truths**

1. How does most people’s understanding of love compare to what Holy Spirit reveals in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?
2. Which of the 15 descriptions of love in these verses would other people say are characteristic of how you interact with them?
3. Which of the 15 descriptions of love in these verses are not characteristic of how you interact with others?
4. How does what most people’s understanding of “love” compare to what Holy Spirit reveals in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3?
5. How might you respond if someone tells you the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 is an impossible ideal?
6. What will you do to engage with Holy Spirit’s work to make the Truths revealed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 real in your life?
7. Whom will you request to support you as you seek to engage with Holy Spirit’s work to make these Truths real in your life?