



## **Sermon by Ray Reynolds (February 14, 2010 - AM)**

Introduction: The Christian life is a life of victory (**Romans 8:37, I John 5:4**). Our faith moves us, spurs us, challenges us, and sustains us. The Hebrew writer says that it is “*impossible to please*” God without faith (**Hebrews 11:6**). James says that “*faith without works is dead*” (**James 2:14-26**). But how does faith work? What compels us to follow God? Is there a love connection to faith?

### Discussion:

#### **I. Paul’s Message to the Corinthians = JUST LIKE FAITH, LOVE SAVES**

“*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures. Love never ends.*” - **I Corinthians 13:4-8**

#### **II. Paul’s Message to the Romans = JUST LIKE FAITH, LOVE OBEYS**

“*Do not owe people anything, except always owe love to each other, because the person who loves others has obeyed all the law. The law says, “You must not be guilty of adultery. You must not murder anyone. You must not steal. You must not want to take your neighbor’s things.” All these commands and all others are really only one rule: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Love never hurts a neighbor, so loving is obeying all the law.*” - **Romans 13:8-10**

#### **III. Paul’s Message to the Galatians = JUST LIKE FAITH, LOVE WORKS**

“*When we are in Christ Jesus, it is not important if we are circumcised or not. The important thing is faith—the kind of faith that works through love.*” - **Galatians 5:6**

#### **IV. Paul’s Message to the Ephesians = JUST LIKE FAITH, LOVE BUILDS**

“*I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.*” - **Ephesians 3:17**

#### **V. Paul’s Message to the Philippians = JUST LIKE FAITH, LOVE GROWS**

“*This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; that you will see the difference between good and bad and will choose the good; that you will be pure and without wrong for the coming of Christ; that you will be filled with the good things produced in your life by Christ to bring glory and praise to God.*” - **Philippians 1:9-11**

#### **VI. Paul’s Message to the Colossians = JUST LIKE FAITH, LOVE HOPES**

“*In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because we have heard about the faith you have in Christ Jesus and the love you have for all of God’s people. You have this faith and love because of your hope, and what you hope for is kept safe for you in heaven. You learned about this hope when you heard the message about the truth, the Good News that was told to you.*” - **Colossians 1:3-6**

#### **VII. Paul’s Message to the Thessalonians = JUST LIKE FAITH, LOVE INSPIRES**

“*We do not need to write you about having love for your Christian family, because God has already taught you to love each other. And truly you do love the Christians in all of Macedonia. Brothers and sisters, now we encourage you to love them even more.*” - **I Thessalonians 4:9-10**

Conclusion: We cannot miss the love connection! Remember what the Lord has done for you. You cannot repay Jesus for what He has done, but you can share the gospel with others! Do you have faith in God? Do you have hope of eternal life? Do you have genuine Christian love?

**WORD OF THE DAY = “LOVE”**