

NOISY WAGONS

THE DAILY DEVOTION: 2



NOISY WAGONS

THE DAILY DEVOTION: 2

Fill in the blank

_____ suffers long and is kind; _____ does not envy; _____ does not parade itself, _____ is not puffed up; _____ does not behave rudely, _____ does not seek its own, _____ is not provoked, _____ thinks no evil; _____ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

How did you do? Easy. Right?

Charity, Love, Christian Love, Perfect Love - they all fit.

Let's take a closer look at some of the action taking place in these scriptures.

Suffers long: Patient towards all. It suffers all the weakness, ignorance, and errors of the children of God and all the malice and wickedness of the children of this world – and all this – not merely for a time, but long, without end.

Kind: Tender affection, compassionate and obliging to others; mild and gentle - and if called to suffer, inspires the sufferer with the most amiable sweetness.

Does not envy: Is not grieved because others possess greater portions of physical or spiritual blessings. Prefers others before themselves.

Does not parade itself: Does not desire to be noticed or applauded, but rather that God is acknowledged in every matter and every circumstance.

Is not puffed up: Not inflated with a sense of its own importance, but possessing a true humility derived from an awareness of the fullness of God working within them.

Does not behave rudely: Never rude, but ever willing to become all things to all in order to edify others.

Does not seek its own: Doesn't care about their own welfare only, but the comfort and salvation of all.

Is not provoked: Is not made bitter or stirred to wrath.

Thinks no evil: Never supposes that a good action may have a bad motive - being so governed and influenced by the love of God that we cannot think of evil but where it actually truly appears.

Does not rejoice in iniquity: Does not rejoice in lies or over the vices of other people, does not delight when others fall into sin. Rejoices even when those who persecute them do well.

NOISY WAGONS

THE DAILY DEVOTION: 2

Rejoices in the truth: Stand opposed to iniquity. Those who are filled with the love of God and man rejoices in the spread of the Gospel of Christ and help it forward with all their might and power.

Bears all things: Never makes the sins, faults or imperfections of anyone else the subject of conversation, but covers them and if the only one aware of them, retains the knowledge of them within himself alone.

Believes all things: Remains ready to believe the best of every person and will credit no evil to anyone except with the most positive evidence.

Hopes all things: When there is no place left for believing good of a person, then love comes in with its hope and begins immediately to anticipate the repentance and restoration of the transgressor.

Endures all things. In perfect surrender to God, never says of any trial, affliction, or insult: 'this cannot be endured.'

Love never fails: Love never falls powerless.

Paul reminds us that God's love is already within us. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:5)

Think about the transformation taking place in your life and in your heart. Which of the action principles listed above can you see coming alive in you?

Which one is your biggest challenge right now?

Which of the action principles listed above do you value the most in others?

Now, let's go back and re-read these verses. Make it personal. Declare it over yourself and over your family! Let's fill in each blank with, "By faith, I / we ..."

____ will be longsuffering and kind; ____ will not envy; ____ will not parade myself, ____ will not be puffed up; ____ will not behave rudely, ____ will not care just about myself, ____ will not be provoked, ____ will think no evil; ____ will not rejoice in iniquity, but because the love of God works within me, I will rejoice in the truth; bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"He who has not the love of God and man filling his heart is like an empty wagon coming violently down a hill: it makes a great noise, because there is nothing in it!"

~ Josiah Gregory
