

## I. He Believes the Best about Us

- 1 Cor. 13:7 Gods Love Believes All Things

A. In our culture today it is considered wise to suspect the worst of people and to make them earn our trust. This mindset causes our default impressions of people to be negative, critical, and cynical. We tend to start relationships looking for the faults of people rather than their positive virtues.

B. The love of God is contrary to the above paragraph. Even though we are rife with faults and weakness, He sees the best in us and sees what we can become. He believes in us and validates our worth and the sincerity of our hearts. He refuses to let us earn our way into relationship with Him but instead gives it freely and takes us at our word.

C. This does not mean that God is fooled by us, or that He is naïve of our weakness. He does not pretend that green is purple. He still sets up healthy boundaries with the authority He entrusts us with based on our maturity level. It simply means that He does not suspect negativity unjustly and that He sees our potential in the mist of our current state.

D. Definition of Believes (*pisteuō*) – To think to be true, to credit, to place confidence in.

*“Love chooses to believe the best about people. It gives them the benefit of the doubt. It refuses to fill in the unknowns with negative assumptions. And when our worst hopes are proven to be true, love makes every effort to deal with them and move forward. As much as possible, love focuses on the positive.” -Stephen Kendrick*

1. He takes us at our word and validates our willingness – (Gen. 15:6, Deut. 5:27-29, Acts. 2:37-38, Rom. 10:8-10, 1 John 1:9,)

2. He empowers us to overcome our weakness and calls out the potential greatness within – (1 Sam. 16:7, Song 1:5-6, Is. 55:7-9, Mat. 16:17-18, Mat. 26:31-41, Eph. 4:7-8)

3. He deals with our past faults and moves forward – (Ps. 103:11-14, Jer. 31:34, Is. 40:1-2, Is. 43:25, Is. 61:7, Is. 62:4-5, Mic. 7:19, Heb. 8:12, Heb. 10:17)

## II. He is Always Hopeful Towards Us

- (1 Cor. 13:7) Love Hopes all things

A. A common expression about hope that I hear a lot is “Well, I hope so, but probably not.” This is much better defined as “wishful thinking” or “fantasy” not “hope”. Biblical hope is a sure confidence in what’s going to come to pass.

1. Hope (*elpizō*) – To fully trust in and expect

*“Always hopes is the forward look. This is not an unreasoning optimism which fails to take account of reality, it's rather a refusal to take failure as final. It's the confidence that looks to ultimate triumph by the grace of God.” - Leon Morris*

B. Jesus looks at us and our future He is filled with hope He is 100% confident in that hope. He knows we will be all that He hopes for us through His mercy and grace. He does not change his hope for our destiny because of negative circumstances or even our stumbling. Jesus always hopes in us, and therefore love always hopes.

1. Our hopeful God – (“Prophesied Destiny Is. 10:20, Rev. 21:3”, Rom. 15:13,

2. His hope in us – (Mat. 16:18, Acts. 1:8, Eph. 4:13 Rev. 20:6,