

# FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE & SPOTLIGHT

# LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

## LOVE / KINDNESS

### 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 & 13

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> Love is not rude, is not selfish and does not become angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it.

<sup>6</sup> Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices over the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes and always continues strong. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends... <sup>13</sup> So these three things continue forever: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love.

### **AFFIRMATION:**

Today's a new day! I leave yesterday in the past. I am ready for challenges and victories even after making mistakes. Together, we are better. Our teamwork makes the dream work. We collaborate. We communicate. We build each other up. We celebrate. We cooperate. We learn from our mistakes. We are growing with grit and grace. We're ready to take on today!

**DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

Like the book of Philippians, 1 Corinthians was written by the Apostle Paul. He wrote 1 Corinthians 13 to explain to the church in Corinth that love was the most important of the spiritual gifts that God had given His people. Paul wanted the people to know that God gave His people gifts in order for them to encourage others and not to puff themselves up.

Paul gave them a list describing what love is and does. Love is not just a word but an action. How is love patient? When is a time you had to be patient with someone you love? What happened? Did you find it easy or challenging?

Verse 4 also tells us that love is not jealous and does not brag. What do you think this means? Have you ever been jealous? What happened? Why do you think you were jealous? Why do you think we sometimes like to brag about ourselves?

Verse 5 tells us four more things about love. What are they? How are these things similar or different to each other? Are these actions easy or difficult? Why do you think we do them sometimes?

Verses 6-7 tells us six more things about what love does. What are they? How can we "rejoice over the truth"? How do we "patiently accept all things"?

Verse 7 tells us that love trusts and hopes. Do you find it hard to trust sometimes? Why? What about keeping your hopes up?

As we read through the list in verses 4-7, what can we conclude? Is it humanly possible to do ALL of these things ALL the time?

We realize from Paul that no one can love like that. The only one who can love perfectly....patiently, selflessly, kindly, etc. is God Himself. Love is not only an action but it is a state of being. This is the way that God loves us. Read through the verses again, and think about how this is the way God loves.

Just like any gift that has been given to us, we have to unwrap it and take it as ours. The Church in Corinth were caught up in wanting to make themselves important with other things that they were missing out on the most powerful gift. They had not taken the time to unwrap and enjoy it. Verse 8 and 13 remind us of what?

God's love never ends. As we think about this month and celebrate love, don't forget to receive the greatest gift of all!