

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues

but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains

but do not have love,

I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love,

I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous,

[love] is not pompous,

it is not inflated,

it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick-tempered,

it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things,

believes all things,

hopes all things,

endures all things.^f

Love never fails.

If there are prophecies,
they will be brought to nothing;
if tongues, they will cease;
if knowledge,
it will be brought to nothing.

For we know partially and we prophesy partially,
but when the perfect comes,
the partial will pass away.

When I was a child,
I used to talk as a child,
think as a child,
reason as a child;
when I became a man,
I put aside childish things.

At present we see indistinctly,
as in a mirror,
but then face to face.

At present I know partially;
then I shall know fully,
as I am fully known.

So faith, hope, love remain,
these three;
but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord