

LOVE NEVER FAILS

There is something theologically profound and inexplicably wonderful about love. One of its crowning virtues is that it never fails. This is not only stated explicitly in Scripture: “**Love never fails**” (1 Cor. 13:8), it is also something that we have discovered by personal experience.

We first found out about love from the soft caress and tender touch of our mother. She became the teacher who indelibly impressed upon our minds that love is patient, kind, and without envy. We learned from her that love does not boast, nor is it proud, rude, or self-seeking. Her love was not easily angered, it also forgot the wrongs we had done, and never delighted with any evil in our lives. Her love always protected, trusted, hoped and persevered. No matter how far we may have drifted from the straight and narrow way, the love of our mothers never failed.

Somehow in the process of learning about love from mother we also learned about God. The Apostle John, by inspiration, said it like this: “**Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**” (1 Jn 4:7-8)

But just as we learned from mother that her love never failed, we later learned from God that His love does not fail either. Even when we drive cruel nails into His hands and feet, our blessed Savior lovingly cries out for our forgiveness. Here is another quote from John that staggers the mind and challenges the limits of human intelligence: “**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.**” (1 Jn 3:16) It is only in the miracle of conversion that we can come to comprehend this love that surpasses knowledge (Eph. 3:19).

As we continue to mature we encounter another expression of love in the bond of holy matrimony. The wedding vows only confirm that we already knew. Love never fails! It binds us into one body “for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, for better or for worse”. Marriages may fail, but love never does. Love is like God and God is like love. They both always persevere. When husbands and wives separate it is proof positive that whatever feelings they had for one another are different from the feelings that God has for us. God so loved us that He gave Himself for us. The very idea that God would change His mind about us borders on blasphemy. This is the very point that Malachi was making when he wrote that God doesn’t change (Mal. 3:6).

The prodigal son had wandered into a far country and wasted his substance in riotous living. When he came to himself, however, he started home. When he arrived at the house he found that his father had not changed. Our Father doesn’t change either. He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Whosoever wills may come, and whoever comes will not be cast out.

We learned it from our mothers. We felt it in our life.
We sought it as a refuge in the midst of toil and strife.
We saw it in our Savior when He died upon the tree.
His love that never fails has reached out to you and me.

The nature of this love is eternally the same.
It was before the angels, and will constantly remain
A witness to the nature of the Maker of us all.
As He reaches out to touch us with the kindness of His call.

We never will deserve His love or go beyond its limit.
We cannot grasp the fullness of the power that’s within it.
But if by faith we see His hands held to the cross by nails.
We gain a little insight for His love that never fails.