

I Peter 4:8-11

Fervent Charity Through Using Abilities For Service To The Glory Of God

I. Introduction:

A. Last week we talked about the “*end of all things*”, this week we will talk about what is “*above all things*” (**I Corinthians 13:13**).

1. We are rooted and grounded in love (**Ephesians 3:17**).
2. Thus, we act with love (**I Corinthians 16:14**).

B. These saints were scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (**I Peter 1:1**).

1. They are in heaviness through manifold temptations (**I Peter 1:6-7**).
2. Of course, the faithful always have God (**Romans 8:31** and **Hebrews 13:5-6**).
3. As we look at the instructions in our study today, just be mindful of the fact that when the world is against us [saints], we have each other for support (**I Thessalonians 5:11-14**).

II. Body: *“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen”* (**I Peter 4:8-11**).

A. Above [in front of] all things (**Colossians 3:12-14**; cf. **I Corinthians 16:14**).

1. Charity is the greatest (**I Corinthians 13:1-13**).
2. Charity [love] is the driving force of faith (**Galatians 5:6**), obedience (**John 15:9-10** and **II John 1:6**), and our relating to each other (**John 13:34-35** and **Ephesians 4:1-3**).
3. God’s love is complete in us when we love each other (**I John 4:10-12**).
4. Such love that is without hypocrisy (**Romans 12:9**).
5. To understand the word translated “fervent” [ἐκτενήζ] the best, consider how the Greek word is translated “without ceasing” in **Acts 12:5**.

B. Charity hides a large number of sins (**Proverbs 10:12**).

1. Does this mean being a loving person includes ignoring sin? NO, (**Revelation 3:19**)!
2. As we discussed love being a driving force. So it is in how sins are covered (**James 5:19-20**).
3. This should not be confusing to anyone, as the Bible clearly shows us not to conceal sin in the way of man hiding it (**Proverbs 28:13** and **I John 1:5-2:2**).

C. Like we see in the qualifications of elders (**I Timothy 3:2** and **Titus 1:8**), use hospitality (**Romans 12:13**).

1. Host faithful brethren (**Acts 16:13-15**, **Acts 16:40**, and **Romans 16:23**) if you are capable of doing so. **About to talk about ability more here soon.*
2. Even when you aren't fully familiar with them (**Hebrews 13:1-2**).
3. Just remember a caution (**II John 1:7-11**).
4. Also, understand the priority is not social affairs (**Luke 10:38-42**).
5. Don't do so while complaining about it (**Philippians 2:14**).

D. As every man hath received the gift (**Romans 12:4-8** and **I Corinthians 12:3-11**)... **Remember what we looked at earlier (**I Corinthians 13:1-13**). **Spiritual gifts have ceased as we now have "that which is perfect" (**James 1:25**).***

1. ...Minister [serve] to one another (**I Corinthians 14:12** and **Ephesians 4:7-16**).
2. ...As good stewards (**I Corinthians 4:2**).
3. ...Of the various gift of God, showing this is talking about multiple gifts rather than the ultimate gift (**Romans 6:23**).

E. Let every man speak as the oracles [an utterance] of God (**Acts 7:38**, **Romans 3:1-2**, and **Hebrews 5:12**).

1. Whether it was the gift of prophesying (**I Corinthians 14:1-5**; **14:37**) or saints without such gifts; God's word is the standard from which we must all speak and act (**Isaiah 8:20**, **Jeremiah 23:22**, **Colossians 3:16-17**, and **II Timothy 4:2**).
2. Serving as one has the ability to do so (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
3. To God be all the glory and praise (**I Corinthians 10:31** and **Philippians 1:10-11**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study; *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (**I Peter 4:12-19**).*