



*Unlocking the
Power of Love in
Your Life*



DAVIDJEREMIAH.ORG



Lesson 1: The Power and Priority of Love



“THE POWER OF LOVE”

by Huey Lewis and the News

“The power of love is a curious thing
Make a one man weep, make another man sing
Change a hawk to a little white dove
More than a feeling, that’s the power of love...”

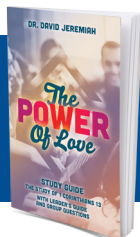


Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

~ Ephesians 5:1-2

Love can provide power over envy, pride, anger, discouragement, selfishness, and other carnal attitudes. When love becomes the priority in our lives, nothing can overpower it.

It is possible, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13, to accomplish seemingly wise, important, powerful, and noble works—all without love. That would make us the exact opposite of the God who is love. Everything God does is motivated by sacrificial, *agape* love. *Agape* love is the power that moves us to respond to someone’s needs with no expectation of reward.



See Dr. David Jeremiah’s teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “The Power and Priority of Love.”



“YOU CAN’T HURRY LOVE”

by *The Supremes*

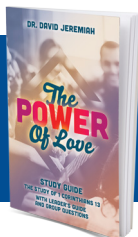
“You can’t hurry love
No, you just have to wait
She said, love don’t come easy
It’s a game of give and take.”



When dealing with people, we need the ability not to give way to anger and resentment; to suffer through those times without reacting negatively, to endure wrongs and injuries, nagging and criticism, irritations and unpleasantness.

If we are kind only to those who are kind toward us, we have missed the point of Jesus’ teaching. The world will lend and be kind to those who can repay. Jesus says we should do more—lend and be kind to those who cannot repay.

LEND AND BE KIND TO THOSE
WHO CANNOT REPAY.



See Dr. David Jeremiah’s teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “The Patience and Kindness of Love.”



“HE STOPPED LOVING HER TODAY”

by George Jones

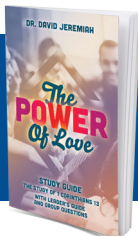
“He said ‘I’ll love you till I die,’ she told him ‘You’ll forget in time’
As the years went slowly by, she still preyed upon his mind
He kept her picture on his wall, went half-crazy now and then
He still loved her through it all, hoping she’d come back again”



The divorce rate in America is evidence of a complete misunderstanding of the nature of true love. People decide to leave their marriage because they don’t “feel” in love the way they used to. Or they think they’ve fallen out of love. When that happens, it usually means that they didn’t understand love when they got married—that they married on the basis of *phileo* (affection or feeling) and not *agape* (the commitment of the will to seek another person’s best interests).

Agape love can be learned and cultivated. And when the legitimate feelings of love that accompany true commitment begin to wane due to inattention, disappointment, or conflict, *agape* can be rekindled. How? Through prayer and the study of God’s Word.

If the flower of *agape* is to grow and blossom in your heart, then the weeds of envy and jealousy must be pulled up immediately.



See Dr. David Jeremiah’s teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Love’s Power Over Envy.”



“LOVE HAS NO PRIDE”

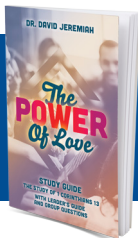
by Rod Stewart

“Love has no pride
When I call out your name
Love has no pride
When there's no one left to blame
And I would give anything
To see you again”



Pride thinks it is the greatest one in the room and when someone else appears who seems qualified to take that position, pride kicks into gear.

This is what sets pride apart from other vices—it is the only one that is competitive at heart. Pride thrives on comparison and remaining on top. That is why we are admonished about the dangers of pride in Proverbs 16:18 (KJV): “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil.”



See Dr. David Jeremiah's teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Love's Power Over Pride.”



“LOVE IS A VERB”

by John Mayer

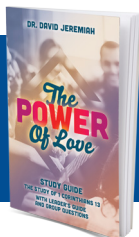
“When you show me love
I don't need your words
Yeah love ain't a thing
Love is a verb”



We've all seen behavior like this; indeed, we've all done it—said or done the wrong thing at the wrong time. Rude behavior is out of step, out of context, and out of order. “Rude” refers to people who know better but choose to act out of order anyway. Paul says that *agape* love is never rude in this way. *Agape* is always thoughtful and courteous.

Courtesy is love's symmetry—it keeps virtues from becoming vices and allows a time and place and way for everything.

If we will remember the kind of person we were before Jesus Christ changed our life, we will likely be much more patient, and more courteous, with others. It is when we adopt a “holier-than-thou” attitude toward those with whom we disagree that our rudeness hurts the cause of Christ. Love does not behave rudely.



See Dr. David Jeremiah's teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Loves' Power over Rudeness.”

Lesson 6: Love's Power Over Selfishness



“I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU”

by Whitney Houston

“If I should stay I would only be in your way
So I'll go but I know I'll think of you every step of the way
And I... will always love you”

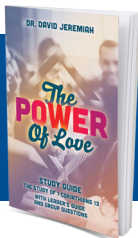


We can live a selfish life or live a life with and for others—it is our choice. And selfishness is just as much a temptation for Christians as for anyone. The root of all human failure is the desire to have things our own way. Selfishness is the exact opposite of *agape* love. *Agape* serves others sacrificially while selfishness cares not for the needs of others.

Jesus Christ exemplified seeking the good of others in so many ways by taking on the form of a servant (Philippians 2). His life theme was, “Not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42). Instead of forcing His disciples to serve Him, He served them by washing their feet (John 13).

The opposite of selfishness is service. You cannot live a solitary life and be selfless. Selfless people are involved in service and ministry to others. On the other hand, you cannot be a genuine servant of Christ and people and be selfish. The more you focus on others, the less time and interest you have to focus on yourself.

Whether in the home or in the fields of service, people recognize *agape* love when they come in contact with it. Make sure that, wherever you are, selfless love is what people see in you.



See Dr. David Jeremiah's teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Loves' Power over Selfishness.”



“CRY ME A RIVER”

by Ella Fitzgerald

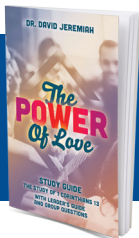
“Now you say you're sorry
For being so untrue
Well, you can cry me a river
Cry me a river
I cried a river over you”



The person in the song's rejection of the formerly loved one is not how God approaches us—He quickly forgives and forgets our transgressions.

The Bible warns many times about allowing oneself the luxury of being angry. We make the mistake of thinking that an outburst of anger is a momentary, isolated incident unrelated to other factors in the person's life. That is rarely the case. Temper is not the problem—it is but a symptom of the problem that lies beneath the surface.

“Do not give in to the temptation to seek revenge. *Agape* is only found in loving our neighbor as ourself.” (Matthew 22:39)



See Dr. David Jeremiah's teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Love's Power Over Anger.”



“TO MAKE YOU FEEL MY LOVE”

by Billy Joel

“When the rain is blowing in your face
And the whole world is on your case,
I would offer you a warm embrace
To make you feel my love.”

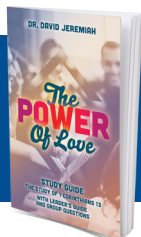


God's love gives freedom from bearing the bitterness that comes with resentment. When offenses are not forgiven immediately, they become like logs and trees that accumulate in a creek and eventually stop the flow of water.

The following five steps can lead you to freedom from resentment, if you will follow them:

- Think It Through
- Write It Down
- Work It Out
- Talk It Over
- Give It Up

You may never completely forget about a wrong done to you, but you can choose not to let it hinder your relationship with the other person. Only God's love can allow us to enjoy the freedom of forgiveness—embrace it today.



See Dr. David Jeremiah's teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Love's Power Over Resentment.”



“BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME”

by Celine Dion

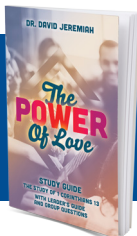
“You were my strength when I was weak
You were my voice when I couldn’t speak
You were my eyes when I couldn’t see
You saw the best there was in me
Lifted me up when I couldn’t reach
You gave me faith ‘cuz you believed
I’m everything I am
Because you loved me”



“Love does not rejoice in iniquity” (1 Corinthians 13:6) means that love takes no satisfaction in sin. To rejoice in unrighteousness is to glorify it, to make wrong appear right. The prophet Isaiah warned about such an attitude when he wrote, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20).

Instead, righteousness and truth should be the source of our rejoicing. Third John 4 says, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” When we hear that others are doing well, we should rejoice in their blessing.

And when others fail or sin? Peter’s words are appropriate: “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love [agape] will cover a multitude of sins’” (1 Peter 4:8). When someone sins or struggles, agape love covers their sins.



See Dr. David Jeremiah’s teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Loves Power Over a Negative Attitude.”



“I WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS”

by Foreigner

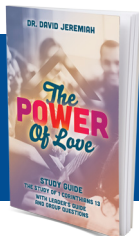
“In my life there’s been heartache and pain
I don’t know if I can face it again
Can’t stop now, I’ve traveled so far, to change this lonely life
I want to know what love is, I want you to show me
I want to feel what love is, I know you can show me”



Love is strong in its silence. It endures without fighting back or responding harshly when wronged.

Love is like a roof over our heads that protects us from exposure, ridicule, or harm. Love shelters people from damaging words. Love in Christ “bears” all things, while life in the world “bares” all things.

Love sympathizes and empathizes. To use modern terminology, love “feels the pain” of those who are covered by it. Jesus loved us when He bore our griefs and sorrows... It is that reality that is the heart of the Christian Gospel: Christ taking our sins upon Himself.



See Dr. David Jeremiah’s teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Love’s Power Over Discouragement.”



“ENDLESS LOVE”

by Diana Ross and Lionel Richie

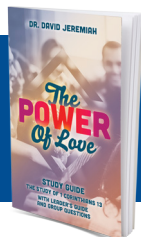
“My love,
There's only you in my life
The only thing that's bright
My first love,
You're every breath that I take
You're every step I make”



To get a human picture of what it means for love to never fail, we need only to look at Jesus—the only human ever to live on earth and live a perfect, unfailing life. Jesus was the personification of *agape* love.

It is not hard to see Christ's love in His interactions with those who needed His help; in His love for Peter who had betrayed Him, forgiving those who had crucified Him, and dying a cruel death for the ones whose sins put Him on the cross. His love is always love to the uttermost, love to the fullest.

HIS LOVE IS ALWAYS LOVE TO THE
UTTERMOST, LOVE TO THE FULLEST.



See Dr. David Jeremiah's teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “Love's Power Over Time.”



“VISION OF LOVE”

by Kris Allen

“Lonely needs a friend
Ask him where he’s been
You could be the Light that comes
And turns his world around”

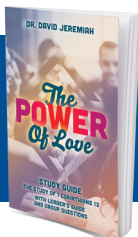


At least 55 times in the New Testament, Christians are commanded to love. This tells us love is a command and responsibility, not a feeling or an option. While love is produced in us by God, it is our responsibility to manifest that love by our choices.

As we obey the command to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), that fruit will be manifested in our lives:

- Joy: the strength of love.
- Peace: the security of love.
- Longsuffering: the stability of love.
- Kindness: the sobriety of love.
- Goodness: the simplicity of love.
- Faith: the surety of love.
- Gentleness: the selflessness of love.
- Self-control: the selflessness of love.

Only the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to carry out the command to love. The concept of love in the world today is that we love “because of what you can do for me.” God’s idea of love is to love “in spite of what you don’t do for me.” It doesn’t matter if the person we love never responds. Our commitment and responsibility is to love in spite of that lack of response.



See Dr. David Jeremiah’s teaching series on 1 Corinthians 13, *The Power of Love*, for his message “The Final Priority: Pursue Love.”