

Word on Wednesday Bible Study
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Love Can Take It – Text: 1 Corinthians 13:7
June 17, 2026

Over this series, Paul has shown us that without love everything else amounts to nothing, that love is patient and kind, and that love keeps no record of wrongs. Now, in one single verse, he gives us four declarations that describe not just what love *does*, but how love *survives*.

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Each of these is a choice love makes in the face of pressure, pain, and disappointment. None of them comes naturally to the flesh. The message of this text is simple: when you wonder whether love is still worth it, Paul’s word is that **love can take it**.

I. Love Bears with Brokenness — 1 Corinthians 13:7a

Paul says love “*bears all things*.” The picture behind the word is not gritted-teeth tolerance, it is shelter.

The Word Behind the Word

The Greek word for **bear** is *stego*, which means to _____
or to roof over — to protect something by standing over it.

So love does not merely take a beating; love acts like a _____,
standing between the vulnerable person and the storm.

What Covering Looks Like

Peter says in 1 Peter 4:8 that love covers a multitude of _____.
This is not enabling wrongdoing; it is refusing to broadcast or weaponize what we know about someone’s failure.

Love refuses to turn a person’s wound into _____.
As the preacher put it, love chooses to be a roof over this person, not a megaphone for their mess.

Some of the most powerful things love ever does are the things nobody ever finds out about — the conversation never repeated, the failure never disclosed, the moment you had every right to expose someone and chose to cover them instead.

Reflect

Be honest: when you learn something private about a person’s failure, what is your instinct: to cover it or to talk about it? What feeds that instinct? Is there someone in your life you have been “exposing” when love is calling you to “cover”? What would covering look like this week?

II. Love Believes the Best — 1 Corinthians 13:7b

Paul says love “*believes all things.*” This is the most misunderstood phrase in the verse. Paul is not saying love is gullible or naïve; he is writing to adults who have been hurt and deceived by real people in a real church.

The Word Behind the Word

The word for “**believes**” comes from the root *pistis*, the same word translated _____ throughout the New Testament.

So, love operates from a posture of _____ rather than suspicion — it starts with the best possible interpretation and works from there.

Why Love Can Believe

Love believes the best not because it is foolish, but because it knows that God is not _____ with anyone — the last chapter of a person’s life has not yet been written.

Philippians 1:6 anchors this: “He who began a good _____ in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

It is easy to believe the best about people who have never hurt you. It is something else to believe the best about someone with a track record of disappointing you. Love chooses to believe anyway, refusing to write people off before God is done with them.

Reflect

Who in your life is hard to “believe the best” about right now? What past disappointment makes it hard? How can you tell the difference between believing the best about someone and being a doormat? Where is that line for you?

III. Love Builds Through Burdens — 1 Corinthians 13:7c–d

Paul closes with two descriptions that build like the last two steps of a staircase: love “*hopes all things, endures all things.*” Together, they show what love looks like when it carries the full weight of difficulty.

Love Hopes — The Word Behind the Word

The Greek word for **hope** is *elpizo*, which is never wishful thinking but a confident _____ anchored in the character and promises of God.

Because of that, love does not _____ over people — it does not give up on a marriage, a prodigal child, or a fractured church.

Love Endures — The Word Behind the Word

The word for **endures** is *hupomeno* — *hupo* means “under” and *meno* means to remain — so it means to stay _____ the weight.

This is not passive suffering; it is active, chosen, committed remaining — love stays under the burden on _____.

Discuss

What burden have you been carrying so long that you have forgotten what it felt like to put it down? What would it mean to “stay under” it with God’s strength rather than your own? Where do you need biblical hope, confident expectation in God’s character, rather than wishful thinking right now?

BRINGING IT HOME

The word that ties all four descriptions together is **ALL**. Love bears **ALL**. Believes **ALL**. Hopes **ALL**. Endures **ALL**.

Paul gives love no fine-print clause, no exception for offenses too great or burdens too heavy. This is not human love at its highest capacity; **IT IS DIVINE LOVE** flowing through people who have said yes to the more excellent way.

If you came in under a weight, a relationship grinding you down, a person you have carried for years, God’s word is not “try harder.” It is:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... Take my yoke upon you” (Matthew 11:28–29).

You are not carrying the weight alone; you are yoked to the One who bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. **WHEN YOUR STRENGTH RUNS OUT, HIS DOES NOT.**