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LOVE IS A “MORE EXCELLENT WAY”

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Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 12:31 that he was going to describe to them a “more excellent way”. In chapter 13, he describes to them the “love” that we are to have for each other. Love was “the more excellent way.” What was happening in the early church that Paul felt (through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21) was important enough that he had to draw a contrast between and show the superiority of love? In chapter 12, Paul discusses nine miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those were the things that Paul said love was more excellent than. They include:

- The “word of wisdom” (v. 8)
- The “word of knowledge (v. 8)
- The “gift of faith” (v. 9)
- The “gifts of healing” (v. 9)
- The “working of miracles” (v. 10)
- The “gift of prophecy” (v. 10)
- The “discerning of spirits” (v. 10)
- The “gift of tongues” (v. 10)
- The “interpretation of tongues” (v. 10)

The implication of Paul’s teaching is unmistakable: Love is better than, more excellent than, superior to the ability to perform miracles. Some, like Simon in Acts 8, want the ability to perform great wonders. Paul says we are to desire something better. That something is having sincere biblical love for one another.

God bless, Pat