

## An Unfinished Life Part 9

*“Human life is a struggle, isn’t it? It’s a life sentence to hard labor. Like field hands longing for quitting time and working stiff with nothing to hope for but payday, I’m given a life that meanders and goes nowhere— months of aimlessness, nights of misery! I go to bed and think, ‘How long till I can get up?’ I toss and turn as the night drags on—and I’m fed up! I’m covered with maggots and scabs. My skin gets scaly and hard, then oozes with pus. My days come and go swifter than the click of knitting needles, and then the yarn runs out—an unfinished life!*  
**Job 7:1-6 (Msg)**

No Love, no Root  
No Root, no Power  
No Power, no Fruit  
No Fruit, no Display  
No Display, no Confidence  
No Confidence, no Presence  
No Presence, no Impact  
No Impact, no Glory

- **Love Is The Best Way Of Life.**

*So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.*  
**1 Corinthians 12:31 (NLT)**

- **Without Love Nothing Else Matters - The Importance Of Love.**

*If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, **but didn’t love others**, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, **I would be nothing**. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, **I would have gained nothing**.*  
**1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT)**

- **Love Acts In A Very Specific Way - The Qualities Of Love.**

*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*  
**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)**

- **Love Has No Expiration - The Duration Of Love.**

*Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. **But love will last forever!** Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.*

**1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (NLT)**

- **Love Is Reflected Growth - The Maturity Of Love.**

*When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, **I put away childish things**. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. **All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.** Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.*

**1 Corinthians 13:11-13 (NLT)**

- **Pursue Love And Desire Spiritual Gifts**

*You should seek after love, and you should truly want to have the spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.*  
**1 Corinthians 14:1 (NCV)**

*Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. **1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)***

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. **He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.** Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.*  
**Ephesians 1:3-11 (NLT)**

- **What Does Living This Out In Practice Actually Looks Like?**

*Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. **Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.***

**Ephesians 4:1-7 (NLT)**

*eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.*

**1 Timothy 4:6-16 (MSG)**

### **Here's How It Looks Like, Practically:**

- **Always Be Humble**
- **Always Be Gentle**
- **Be Patient With Others.**
- **Make Allowance For Other Peoples Mistakes**
- **Make Every Effort To Keep Unity**
- **Make Every Effort To Be Bound Together By Peace**
- **Remember The Principle Of One**
- **Do Not Negate Christ's Generosity By Ignoring The Gift He Gave You.**

*You've been raised on the Message of the faith and have followed sound teaching. Now pass on this counsel to the followers of Jesus there, and you'll be a good servant of Jesus. Stay clear of silly stories that get dressed up as religion. **Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever. You can count on this. Take it to heart. This is why we've thrown ourselves into this venture so totally. We're banking on the living God, Savior of all men and women, especially believers. Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity.** Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their*