

LOVE NEVER FAILS

1 Corinthians 13:8a

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

November 21, 2010 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Great time, no technology... gave it up cold turkey. Reached for iPhone; only to realize left it at home. I challenge you to try it. "I couldn't do that!"

All possible because of competent trusted ministry partners who get it. Travis, Amy, Terry, Amen, Teresa

SHAWN. Glowing reports. Impacted ... Importance of having a full tank.

Kelly (keeps it topped off), Shawn (10-20 bucks). Then there is me. Like to see how far I can go on fumes.

On the way home from church, October 10 ... approaching Mandeville east on Sunset. The FUEL light had

been on for quite some time, thought I have a few more miles. ///// White BMW ... Tyler & Kendall.

Only one thing worse than running out of gas, is having the world see that you've run out of gas.

TYLER ... "Does this make you angry?" Anger creates a log-jam in the tunnel of love; brings everything to a complete stop ... No, not really, more embarrassed than anything.

What to do when love runs out? Given all we've got and we feel we just go on loving ... where to turn?

Please open Bible to 1 Corinthians 13. Page 813.

Crescendo, pinnacle. Arrived summit. Writing to a church that had lost connection to the power within.

They were depleted, out of love ... evidenced by the many problems addressed.

When our love runs out ... God's love takes over ... AND IT NEVER FAILS.

Read ... 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV) ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails.

NEVER FAILS ... NEVER is an interesting word. NOT EVER. Not ever once.

NEVER FAILS ... means love will not fall down or collapse. CRASH.

NEVER FAILS ... Ill. brakes on a car, refrigerator, water heater. 9 out of 10 times, TRUST GOD

When my love runs out, God's love takes over.

"God's love is the transforming power of every aspect of the Christian life ... the one power that is self-generating, the one reality in life that is eternally unchanged, the one quality in life that cannot be improved." My love exhausted, limited ... inexhaustible, limitless.

1st - LOVE NEVER FAILS BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.

1 John 4:7-8 (NIV) ⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

LOVE NEVER FAILS BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.

The only attribute in Scripture used to define God's essence. God is not just loving ... GOD IS LOVE.

The reason love never fails is because it is based on the character/nature of God, Him not US.

Ill. Easy to love those you have affection for, but what do you do when your love runs out? Exhausted.

I can't do it, you can't do it ... but God can do it. When my love runs out God's starts flowing.

Ill. Person ... one that is not easy to love. Impossible to love. Lots of them in my life. Person you are married to, one of your children, sister, brother, mom or dad. Love, "I just can't do it." YEAH!

Not phileo ... affection, but agape ... that is when God's love takes over.

Love never fails because God is love. Love never fails because JESUS gives us LOVE when love runs out.

2nd - LOVE NEVER FAILS BECAUSE JESUS LOVES US.

John 13:1 (NASB95) Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

LOVE NEVER FAILS BECAUSE JESUS LOVES US.

NIV “showed them the full extent of His love” NASB -- He loved them to the end ... to the last.

They were doubting, would lose faith, betray Him, run from Him, deny they ever knew Him. JUDAS.

Ill. Romans 5:8, while sinners (acting out); always ready to help us when we cry out for help; to Peter who denied, to Judas who betrayed, to the Romans who crucified, to Jewish religious rejected/hated. Didn't stop Him from pouring out His love on them, new command ... LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Even when we did not LOVE HIM, He loved us ... never outside the circle of God's love.

Even when in doubt, running, in rebellion ... angry, fearful HE LOVES US TO THE END.

GOD IS LOVE, JESUS LOVES US and the HOLY SPIRIT gives us ABILITY TO love when our love runs out.

3rd - LOVE NEVER FAILS BECAUSE THE SPIRIT LIVES IN US.

Ill. Small group on Friday ... too high to attain, just want to give up. How love like Jesus loved? I could never love like that.

OK ... truth is that we can't. But the Spirit living in us can.

Divine reservoir ... Tap in, and invite the flow, then pour it out.

Ephesians 3:16–19 (NIV) ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ill. Her father had ignored her, neglected her, teased her, made fun of her. Struggling with how to honor, how to love. Prayed, what am I supposed to say? Love that she did not have. “Dad, I love you ...”

Genuine ... Not her love, didn't have it, it was the love of God. Not phileo love ... brotherly affection, but agape love ... Love that seeks the highest good of another person. Love that never stops loving.

We can never love TOO MUCH. Don't have to keep to ourselves and it never diminishes.

Ro 5:5 (NIV) God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Love transcends, it lifts up, it pours forth grace that we do not have. It comes from God. Father, Son, HS.



Ill. Florence ... SMN. Masaccio. Trinity.

Conclusion ...

Has your love run out? Running on fumes? Faltering, failing, exhausted, out of gas? Failing.

Ok, admit it. Draw on love you don't have, God's Love, Christ's love, HS presence ... love that never fails.

SCRIPTURE READING ...

John 13:31–35 (NIV)

³¹ When he (Judas) was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”