

# Survival 7 of 14

## *1 Corinthians 13 and Survival*

#0431

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

Our study tonight begins with 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter presents in a wonderful way the key to survival. If we learn the lesson that the Apostle gives us here, we shall be among the survivors. If we fail to learn this lesson, we shall not.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity [love], it profits me nothing. Charity suffers long, and is kind; charity envies not; charity vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; Bears all things, believeth all things, hopes all things, endures all things” 1 Corinthians 13:1–7.

You see, here is survival. Love endures how much? All things. Then if you have love, how much can you endure? All things.

“Charity never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abides faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” 1 Corinthians 13: 8–13.

Yes, love is the key to survival. If we have it, we can bear all things and endure all things, and never fail. And believe me friends; we’re going to be called upon to endure all things, and to bear all things. If there’s anything you can’t bear, be sure that’s what you’re going to meet. If there’s anything you can’t endure, put it down—that’s what’s going to happen to you. I hope for your sake and Jesus’ sake it happens before the final examination.

We must pass 100 percent in this examination on survival. Fortunately, the questions have been distributed. We can know exactly what the examination will ask us. But if you've made some reservations, if you have said, "Well, if they ask me that question, I know I'll fail," then be sure that question will come up.

You see, there are two examiners in this examination. One is God, and the other is Satan. God is going to let Satan ask any question he wants. He's going to let Satan test every one of us during the great time of trouble—Jacob's trouble. He's going to test us in every way short of actually dying. And the death decree will be hanging over our heads, so we'll go through that test too, even though we don't actually die.

There're some things harder than death; you know that, don't you? But there's nothing to be afraid of. Turn over to 1 John 4. You'll see what I mean when I say there's nothing to be afraid of. I mean nothing to be scared about.

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment..."

That's now.

"...because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear hath torment..." 1 John 4:17–18.

And doesn't it, friends? We've already studied in this series those words of Jesus that in this last generation men's hearts would be, what? Failing them for fear, and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth. If we look where they look, we will share their fears. But if we look to Jesus and receive His love, perfect love casts out all fear. Isn't that wonderful, friends? You and I don't have to be fearful. We don't have to be worried. We don't have to be scared.

"...God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" Psalm 46:1–2.

We know God loves us, and we know we love Him. If we should suffer for His sake, that's a glory and a joy and a privilege. If we're called to be martyrs for Him, to lose our lives, we join that wonderful band of Able, and John the Baptist, of Stephen, and Paul and Peter, and that line of holy men and women and children who, through the ages, will wear the border of red on their garments.

Oh friends, there's nothing that can frighten the child of God whose heart is filled with love; who knows that God loves him and who knows he's settled that he loves God. Do you have that love tonight? Do you have that kind of love? Do you? Ah, let me tell you, if you say, even in your heart, "Yes, thank God, I do," believe me, the great enemy has a committee that's going to test you—tonight, tomorrow, next week. He's going to find out how much you can endure. And God will let him do it

to a point, He did with Job. That was the test with Job, you remember. Satan had to get God's permission just how far he could go. But finally, God let Satan do anything to Job except actually kill him. That's what's going to the remnant, just what happened to Job. The Devil can do anything except actually kill them.

How did Job endure the test? His hope at some times went out. His faith at times trembled. But in love he said:

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him..." Job 13:15.

"...he knows the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" Job 23:10.

That's the experience of the remnant. The greatest survivor in history is none other than the Captain of our salvation, our Lord Jesus Christ. His greatest test, His greatest battle was in Gethsemane and on the cross, as He went through those dark hours. Let me read you an interesting statement here, in *Volume 2*:

"Faith and hope trembled in the expiring agonies of Christ..." *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 210.

But there was something that never trembled. Do you know what that was? Love, why, yes.

"...although He had the most fearful conflict with the powers of darkness, yet, amid it all, His love grew stronger and stronger" *Ibid.*, page 212.

Isn't that wonderful? Why yes, there on the cross as the Devil said to Him, "If you give your life for men, there's not many of them are going to accept you anyway, and you'll go down in separation from Your Father, and will never see His face again."

Faith and hope trembled. He could not clearly see through the portals of the tomb. But there was one thing that was settled. He loved me so much that if it meant eternal separation from His Father. He loved me that much to pay my debt and opened the gate for me; even if it meant to close it for Him eternally. He would open the gate for me at the sacrifice of His life. Oh friends, that's wonderful love, isn't it?

We're going to need as much of that love as our poor, little hearts can hold to go through the great crisis ahead, that time of trouble that will soon begin and wax worse and worse, harder and harder, deeper, higher, broader. Oh, that time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.

But love will take us through friends. For love bears all things, endures all things, love never fails. Do you have it? Oh, that God may give us an ample portion, every one of us.

It is because that the remnant church faces this tremendous ordeal that the True Witness has sent a message to us. Turn to Revelation 3. This is the Laodicean message. Note please, that it is a love letter from the heavenly bridegroom. He longs for the day when He and His bride, His church, can be fully and eternally united. It is for this that He prays day by day at the mercy seat. And now from that sanctuary above, He sends this message—This letter of love to you and me down here in this world.

“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou may be rich” and white raiment, that thou may be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou may see”  
Revelation 3:18.

You know what the gold is, don’t you? It’s faith and love. Just what we’re studying about tonight. Of those two, love is the most valuable. I counsel thee to buy of me what? Gold. Now, this is the counsel of the True Witness. Isn’t that what He says? The 14<sup>th</sup> verse, He’s the faithful and True Witness. The 18<sup>th</sup> verse, I counsel thee to buy of me gold.

Please get this clear, for in *Early Writings*, we are told what the counsel of the True Witness will do for those who accept it. This is the chapter on the shaking.

As Jacob’s trouble precedes the coming of Jesus, and as the Latter Rain precedes Jacob’s trouble, so the shaking precedes the Latter Rain (*Early Writings*, pages 269–271). We see God’s people when they have received the Latter Rain, their countenances aglow with light and love, moving in exact order like a company of soldiers, and going out to give the Loud Cry and gathering in from Babylon all the true-hearted before the final pouring out of the plagues. That’s the Latter Rain, the Loud Cry coming during that short time of trouble. But now this shaking time then precedes that. I want you to notice what it is that brings about the shaking. I’m going to read it:

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans” *Early Writings*, page 270.

What causes the shaking? The straight testimony. What causes the straight testimony? The counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. Now, notice carefully as I read this sentence again, and then you’ll see that. We have two causes, and two affects:

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans” *Ibid*.

Again, what causes the shaking? The straight testimony. And what brings about the straight testimony? The counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans.

“This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people” *Ibid.*

Now let’s study this, for this is most vital. I wish every one of you’d study that paragraph until you know it by heart. Not because you tried to memorize it, but because you’ve gone over it so many times, you can’t help but remember. Study it on your knees.

Dear friends if receiving the counsel of the True Witness will bring about the straight testimony, and if the straight testimony will bring about the shaking, and if the shaking will bring us on to the Latter Rain, and the Latter Rain will give us power to give the Loud Cry, and the Loud Cry will finish the work and prepare us for translation, don’t you think we ought to be interested in the thing that starts that chain reaction?

This is so important, my friends. Events come in order, we’re told. Anybody that knows anything about agriculture sows a crop if he expects to reap a crop, is that right? So we have it here. Receiving the counsel of the True Witness brings about the straight testimony. Giving the straight testimony causes what? The shaking. The shaking leads us on to what? The Latter Rain. And the Latter Rain gives power to give the Loud Cry and finish the work. Then we can go through Jacob’s trouble, and Jesus will come.

Now we’ve been hanging right at that point for a long time. As far as fulfilling prophecy is concerned, all around us in the world, there are tokens of the coming of the end. Yet things have been held back for decades. The closing scenes that could have been here long ago, they’re not here yet. Why not? Because before Jesus comes, we must go through Jacob’s trouble. But if we’d go through it tonight, we’d all fail. Before we can go through Jacob’s trouble, we must have the Latter Rain. Well, why don’t we have that? Because we’re not ready for it. What will prepare the church for that? The shaking, the straight testimony. But what will bring about the straight testimony? Ah, this is the key, my friend, receiving the counsel of the True Witness.

May I tell you friends; here and there are individuals who are perfectly willing to give what they call the straight testimony. The question is, have they received the counsel of the true witness?

Do you remember back in the days of David, that day when Absalom died, and Joab selected a young man and said, “Run and bear tidings to the king, tell him what you’ve seen.” There was another young man there. Do you remember what he said? “Let me run. I want to bear tidings.” No, the commander said, “You will not bear tidings today.” Oh, but he said, “Let me run.”

Finally, the commander did just what God sometimes does. He let people do what they are determined to do. So, he said, “All right, run.” Interestingly enough,

he was so full of enthusiasm that he ran, and took a short cut, and got there before the messenger that the commander had sent. But you remember when he got there, he didn't have much to say. He could not answer the questions that were put to him.

The king finally had to say, "Turn aside and stand here." Presently the chosen messenger arrived. He gave the king the word that the commander sent him with.

And so, my dear friends, as I studied with you in earlier lessons in the course, we need to learn to wait for God's time in this program. All the shouting and the ranting, the writing of men, trying to point out the mistakes of the church, will not in itself bring the true shaking and the true latter rain. If their efforts, these human efforts, these self-appointed reformers, if efforts like that would have brought about the true shaking and brought the true latter rain we would have been in the kingdom long ago; for there has been a whole parade of self-appointed messengers. But every decade has seen some new star arise, blaze like a meteor, and then fade out in like manner.

No my friends, as we must wait for the true Christ, as we must wait for the true latter rain, so we must wait for the true reformation.

This does not mean there's nothing for us to do. On the contrary, the waiting period is for a certain purpose, and God in Heaven will wait until we've done the thing the waiting time is for. What's that? That's receiving the counsel of the True Witness.

"Well," someone says, "Haven't we done that?" Well, let's see. What is the counsel of the True Witness? I counsel thee to buy of me what? Gold tried in the fire, that thou may be rich. And the gold is what? Faith and love. Do you have faith and love? How much? Do you have enough to go through?

When we have the faith and love that Jesus is counseling us to buy, then we can give the straight testimony, then can come the shaking, then can come the Latter Rain, then can come the Loud Cry, then can come the finished work, then can come Jacob's trouble, then can come the last great battle, and the appearing of Jesus in the clouds of heaven.

So what do you say instead of being restless and wondering when God is going to do something, suppose that we listen to His counsel and take it to heart, what do you say?

Now you're looking at Revelation 3:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" Revelation 3:19.

This love then is not some silly, foolish, sentimental thing. It's a deep, earnest longing for our salvation. That's the love of God. If we have it we'll have a deep, earnest longing for the salvation of others. That's why we will give the straight testimony when we have this love. But if we try to give this testimony without this

love, God isn't going to work with us. The Devil will, and that'll make a mess, I can tell you; whether it's in the home, in the school, in the church, or anywhere else.

Now the 20<sup>th</sup> verse, what does Jesus say?

"Behold, I stand..."

Where?

"...at the door, and..."

Do what?

"...knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me"  
Revelation 3:20.

Imagine Jesus standing at the door. Where should He be? Inside, but He's standing where? At the door, and doing what? Knocking. What does He want? Do you want Him in? He wants to fill the heart with love. But that love that we studied in our opening text suffers long and is kind. It's not provoked. Do you get provoked? "Oh," you say, "I don't until someone does something I can't stand."

That's the point. What did we read there? Love bears all things, endures all things. I wonder, dear friends, if we should insist on going into the second grade until we've passed the first grade, what do you say? I think we ought to be busy with our homework, heart work, getting this what? Love.

Many people are longing for power. But before power, we need love, or else we wouldn't know what to do with the power.

I want to read you something interesting; an article the servant of the Lord wrote in the *Review and Herald*, August 8, 1893. Most of what I'm going to read is in the little book, *Our High Calling*. Listen carefully:

"In this world we shall become hopelessly perplexed, as the devil wants us to be, if we keep looking upon those things that are perplexing; for by dwelling upon them, and talking of them, we become discouraged. In criticizing others because they fail to manifest love, we shall kill the precious plant of love in our own hearts"  
*Our High Calling*, page 246.

Oh, dear ones, if all I get out of this lesson tonight is to say, "Yes, that's what's the matter with the church. It's so cold and lacking in love. Look how they treat me."

If that's all I get out of it, then what's going to happen to any love that might be in my heart? It's going to get what? Killed. Who killed it? I killed it. Let me read this sentence again: "In criticizing others because they fail to manifest love, we shall kill the precious plant of love in our own hearts."

Well then I want to ask you something, friends, if we've been criticizing others for years, how much love do you think we have left? No wonder the True Witness stands at the door and knocks. He says, "I have something here you need." But poor Laodicea says:

"...I am..."

What?

"...rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing..." Revelation 3:17.

Ah, dear ones, that God may anoint our eyes with eye salve that we may see; that we may see our need of this gold, this real love, true love—love that can endure, being lied about. And what is sometimes even more, love that can be endured having the truth told about us.

You know, sometimes having the truth told about you irritates more than a lie. Love can take both. Real love can and never get upset.

"Oh," somebody says, "you're talking about an angel, and there aren't any angels on earth, they're all in Heaven."

Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Do you think it will ever get done, friends? Oh, I know it will. On the day of Pentecost, thank God, it happened.

The early rain Pentecostal power didn't come until they were all of one accord in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, and filled all the house where they were assembled. And 3,000 souls joined that little band that day.

Would you like to see that? It's going to happen. Will you have a part in it? Every bit of criticism must come out of your heart. Every bit of gossip must be cut out of your tongue. Every bit of faultfinding must leave your brain.

Oh, what a standard! But would you want it any less than that?

It was murmuring and complaining that started the problem in Heaven 6,000 years ago. There was nothing to complain about, but Lucifer began to spread that virus of murmuring and faultfinding.

Did you ever suffer from it? "Oh, yes. There are a lot of people that murmured about me, and complained about me, and found fault with me. That's not what I'm talking about. I say has that virus ever affected you? Has your tongue ever passed on a bit of gossip? Oh, you didn't call it gossip, but if God called it that friends, it went down in the books the way God calls it not what you did, not what you called it.



Have you complained, murmured, found fault in the home? Children, do you murmur and complain about your parents? “Ah,” but somebody says, “You don’t know the father and mother I have—you’d complain too.”

I wonder why God gave you the parents He did? Did He make a mistake? Did He know where to put you? I want to tell you something, friends. There’re some children and young people who, if their parents are so good that there’s nothing to complain about, God may arrange for them to have a training somewhere else where there will be something to complain about, and they won’t complain.

And example of what I mean is Joseph. Did Joseph have anything to complain about his father? Not a thing. Joseph loved his father, and his father loved him. When he was 17 years old, God said, “It’s time for this boy to meet some real problems.” Do you remember? His brothers sold him as a slave, and he landed down there in Egypt. He never got a letter from the church pastor. He never had a visit from the church elder. He didn’t have anybody to pray with or encourage him. And after 10 years of the most faithful service under those discouraging circumstances, he was falsely accused, cast into prison, and there, base ingratitude kept two years longer than he should have been there.

What did Joseph have? He had faith and love. Hope sometimes trembled and dwindled as the dreary days went by. But faith and love grow stronger and stronger under the test.

Oh my dear young friends, children and young people, will you learn the lesson to accept the assignment of God’s providence in the home, in the institution, in the church, wherever God’s providence leads you? Will you let God give you such love that you will not murmur or complain?

Church members, how about it? Do you complain about the church elder? Do you complain about the pastor? Do you complain about the Sabbath School superintendent? Ah, someone says, “If you knew what we had to put up with, you’d complain too.”

Well, if I would, friends, then I’m not ready for the Latter Rain. I’m not ready to give the straight testimony until I can learn Heaven’s way of love. I’m not ready for any of these wonderful, solemn, and glorious events that lie ahead. I wouldn’t survive. I’d go down and out. Read the lesson in Early Writings in this chapter:

Those who do not enter into a prayer experience and plead with God for this gift of love will grow indifferent and careless. They will rise up against the straight testimony when it is given. And eventually, be sifted out of the church in the days of persecution that comes just before the close of probation.

Now is the time to lay in a stock of gold—love, faith and love.

The sad thing is that too many think that the way to get God’s work done is to take the sword out and start chopping. Peter tried that in Gethsemane—aimed for a man’s head and cut off his ear. Jesus had to stop and heal him, rebuke Peter for his foolish zeal. Peter got offended and ran away.

Oh, there are thousands in the church today that would rally oh so fast to the call to get the sword on and get busy and clean up the church. But they do not know how to go to the secret place of prayer, and there plead with God until love melts their heart and gives them what is needed to change things in Heaven's way.

What will you do as the Master knocks? Let Him in. Oh, I wish that somebody here tonight would lay down the sword of criticism and faultfinding. I wish that somebody here tonight would become a noncombatant. I wish somebody here would put the sword in its sheath, and never let it out again to pierce a brother or a sister.

I'm talking about us here tonight friends; I'm not talking about the Gentiles. I'm not talking about Babylon. I'm talking about you and me. This is one of the greatest barriers that stand between the Latter Rain and us. This sin, I cannot call it anything less, of talking about the faults of our brothers and sisters, high and low, near and far. May I read you a sentence?

“Let nothing but kind, loving words fall from your lips  
concerning the members of your family or of the church”  
*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, pages 437–438.*

I hear people even talking about their families: husbands, wives, parents, children, brothers, sisters—Talking about one another. Oh, Jesus weeps over all such.

“Ah,” but someone says, “Look what they say about me.” What did Jesus do when He was reviled? He reviled not again.

Will you put down the sword? Is there somebody here tonight who will put down the sword? That will see this wicked thing of faultfinding and criticism and talking about the mistakes of others, will see it for what it is—The Devil's barrier that stands between the Latter Rain and us, and the finishing of the work. Will you put it down, my friends?

Will you accept the gold of love? Believe me, if a man has enough love, he's not going to talk about somebody. I know that. You could try every way you could, and you couldn't get my wife to say things bad about me. It isn't because she doesn't know a lot of my faults either. She knows them better than anyone in the world. I don't think you could get her to say a word of faultfinding, or criticism, or murmuring, or complaining. And it isn't because she has such a wonderful husband. It's because the Lord has put into her heart love.

That's it, that's all it takes, but it takes all of that, my friends. And if you love the church, you won't be criticizing it. If you love the leaders, you won't be finding fault with them and spreading reports of their mistakes. And in the home, husbands, wives, parents, and children, brothers, and sisters, if you have love, you'll want to cover the multitude of sins.

That's what it takes; it takes all of that. Would you like to seek for it? Oh, I wonder if there's anybody here tonight that the arrow from God's quiver has reached your heart? If you recognize tonight that this is your need, and by God's grace, you're going to do just what He says, seek Him with all the soul, for this love, which will set things to moving for the finishing of the work. Is anybody like that here? I wish you'd knee where you are. If you can't knee, you can bow your head.

Talk to God personally, individually. Open the door, and plead with Him for that gold of love. Tell Him you mean business. You're laying down every bit of that criticism, faultfinding, circulating reports, telling about the faults of others; you're going to get that love which will cover the multitude of sins—Then and only then will God give you a commission to give the straight testimony. Then and only then will you be equipped to have a part in the finishing of the work.

Heavenly Father, in our great need, we come to Thee tonight, asking Thee for the love without which all our efforts are indeed like sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. We pray for the melting love, the tender love, the forgiving love, the enduring love.

Oh, we pray for love that will enable us to survive today, that we may get ready to survive tomorrow. We pray for love that will enable us to go through the little times of trouble we're having now, that we may be ready for the great time of trouble ahead.

We pray that we shall never again cover with sanctimonious words or attitudes, this wicked spirit of gossip, criticism, faultfinding, murmuring, and complaining. Whether in the home or the institution, or the church, banish it from our lives we pray—forever Lord.

May we lay this down like the cigarette slave lays down his package of tobacco. May we put it away like the whiskey slave breaks his bottle, and lets the alcohol flow out. Lord, by Thy grace here at Thy dear pierced feet, we lay down this bundle of self, which has stood between us and the power of the Latter Rain in low these many years.

Forgive us we pray, help us in the home, in the institution and the church to make right where we've hurt others and wounded others. And oh, may the humbling of self that this involves be part of the cure of this thing. May we never again take up weapons of carnal warfare.

May we determine that no matter how much we are misunderstood, we shall not speak evil of others. May we be determined that Thy love shall fill our hearts, so that we will want to shelter others, want to cover others, want to protect others.

Lord, this is impossible for us, but not for Thee. Work the miracle of Thy love just now. We thank Thee in Jesus' name, amen.

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