

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

**Date** : 2 Apr 2023

**Sermon Title** : Love Bears and Believes All Things

**Speaker** : Rev Peter Koh

**Text** : 1 Corinthians 13:7

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This sermon is the second last instalment of 'Love Is' Sermon Series and will focus on the first part of 1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV):

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

This verse is like a summary of how we put love into action what we have learnt in the previous 9 sermons on what 'love is' and 'love is not' from 1 Corinthians 13:1-6. How do we love people genuinely? How do we love people fully? The verse says we are to bear all things, not just some things but all things, everything.

## **Love bears all things**

God has entrusted to us His love, do we carry that love seriously? Are we able to execute that love in such a way that people see God's love oozing out of us. Do they see genuine love and not fake love?

- Put up/Endure/Tolerate all things (anything) that can hinder the gospel of Christ

To bear all things is basically about putting up, enduring, tolerating all things. It is easy to bear some things but difficult to bear 'all' things. Bearing all things is about the present circumstances, the situation that we are facing right now. How do we love the colleague who is a pain in the neck, how do we love our neighbour, our community, our spouses, children, parents?

The difficulty comes when we see things from our own eyes. We use our own emotion, our own strength. It is almost impossible to put this verse into practice, as we are easily affected by people and situation that bring hurt to us.

- ❖ In order for us to live out this verse, we need to see through the lens of Jesus Christ - to see things from Christ's perspective and to be able to have forgiveness in our lives.
- ❖ When we harbor hurt and pain, or offenses that people have done to us, we would resist or fight. If we understand that we do not wage war against flesh and blood

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but against the principalities and dark forces of this world, we begin to understand how to do the battle and how to love people.

- ❖ Many times, we get irritated by our colleagues because we see in the flesh. But when we look in the spiritual realm through the lens of Christ, we see the spirit controlling our fellow colleagues, likened to a matador in a bull fight. The matador is a bull fighter that carries a red cloth to irritate the bull so the bull keeps charging at the red cloth. The matador represents the devil. The bull represents all of us. The red cloth represents our colleague or the people that we ought to love, that irritates us. Looking from our perspective we will keep charging at the red cloth but when we look from Christ's perspective, our target is the matador. We take authority to bind the matador and he will let go of the red cloth, because he will not be able to move. This is how we can loosen the person from the devil's clutches. The person will no longer irritate us and it will now be easier for us to love that person.

When we love somebody, we need to love them from Christ's perspective. We see them as God's workmanship, we see them as a masterpiece. We see them as God's creation, a gift that God has given to us - a precious gift that we should treasure. That makes it easier for us to bear all sufferings for them.

- Love covers a multitude of sins – 1 Peter 4:8

Many of us will sacrifice for our loved ones whom we love dearly and bear consequences for them.

- ❖ We are able to bear all things out of love because love covers a multitude of sin. That is why it is important for us to forgive as the Lord has forgiven us. When we forgive, we are free from hurt. We are set free and nothing will trigger us.
  - ❖ When Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He came in peace as a humble leader and not a warrior, bearing all the humility because of His love for us that covers all our sins.
- Opens the way for the gospel to touch lives
  - ❖ By Jesus bearing His suffering and death on the cross, we now have access to God the Father. Likewise, when we love people and bear all things for God, we open the door for the gospel to reach the hearts of all our loved ones.

## **Love believes all things**

- Not about believing the best in others

Believing all things is not about believing the best or seeing the potential in others.

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- Rather, it is believing all things that the word of God teaches and apply with good and necessary principles

We believe that the Word of God tells us the truth and because of that, we are confident that it will come to pass.

- ❖ Love believes all things about the future circumstances; that there is hope for our loved ones because they will come to know the Lord. Even though the person may still be closed to the gospel, we choose to believe and love the person so he/she will come to know God. We choose never to give up so that we can share the gospel, believing one day for those saved, the whole household will be saved.
- ❖ Believing in all things is really about knowing God, having faith in God, that God knows what He is doing. Just like what Jesus did. He knew He was going to be falsely accused and nailed to the cross. Yet He did not run away because He believed all things that God had revealed to Him. He believed and availed Himself to ride on the donkey into Jerusalem.

Jesus loves us and wants us to have a future. That is why He instituted the Lord's Supper – “this is my body broken for you, this is my blood that is shed for you” – that is the kind of love that Paul is talking about to us.

## **CONCLUSION**

Love that bears all things and believes all things – this is the love Jesus modeled and demonstrated for us. Having received this love, let us do likewise for our loved ones, our community, and our nation. When we love them from Christ's perspective, seeing them as God's workmanship and masterpiece, we will treasure them and bear all things for them so they may have the future that we believe the word of God teaches.

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## **A. Review Sermon Application**

*Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.*

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?
  
- 2a. Appoint someone to read 1 Corinthians 13:7 aloud slowly.
- 2b. Reflect on your current life as a child of God. How have you embodied love that bears all things and believes all things in your daily living?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. Love bears all things.
  - a. What are some things you are unable to bear for/in/from others in your family, at work/school, in church or in the community? Why?
  - b. Would bearing some of the things listed in 3a above result in an open door for the gospel to touch the person's life?
  
4. Love believes all things.
  - a. Consider the way you live your life. Does it affirm that you believe in all things that the word of God teaches? If not, why?
  - b. Christ could bear all things, even death on the cross for us, because He believed all of His Father's plan and purpose for Him. What change do you need to make in your life so you too will be able to bear all things?
  - c. How can your group members encourage or help you to achieve 4b above, in the following week(s), till your next meeting?

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## **C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action**

***Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.***

5. Share your personal experience on how God enabled you to bear a difficulty or suffering out of love for someone and it resulted in God's word touching that person's life.

OR

Give thanks to God for bearing all for you so you can have the future that God's word teaches.

6. As a group, seek the Holy Spirit's leading in your daily lives so you may live out God's purposes for you. Ask God to show you how you can grow your faith in Him so you will believe in all things and hence be able to persevere in bearing all things for the purpose of His gospel.

### Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. You Hold It All Together – Maverick City [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t\\_ROjJyg48](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t_ROjJyg48)
2. I Speak Jesus – Charity Gayle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBIz8vDMG20>
3. Make A Difference – City Harvest Church  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrPMxtUeONE&t=61s>

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