

God's Love Never Fails

Introduction:

Please open your bibles with me today to the book of 1 Corinthians. Today I will be preaching from **1 Corinthians** chapter **13** verse **8a**. The title of today's Sermon is "**God's Love Never Fails**"

Scripture 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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

Prayer: Lead the service in Prayer

Sermon Opening:

Now many of you know, I like to open up our services with a question... Just to get you thinking... to keep you engaged...

Today, I have kind of a strange question... but it is something that I'm curious about...

Is there anyone in the congregation today that has ever failed at anything before?

If you're anything like me, there have been times where you have been successful and times where you have failed.

- I failed to learn how to ride a two wheel bike for years.
 - o Anyone else have trouble with that?
 - o But by the time I was 8 I figured it out and now I enjoy riding motorcycles
- I've failed at following instructions when I was building things and had parts left over?
 - o Sure, that thing, piece of furniture, car engine, lego toy, or whatever you were building came together, but there were some pieces left...
 - o Anyone else do that before...
- I've even failed at listening before...
 - o You say, Pastor, How can you fail at that... All you have to do is sit there and be quiet.
 - o Hey! That's hard for a guy like me. I love to talk!
 - o Anyone else agree with me here?

But perhaps my biggest failure in life up until this point in time anyway was trying to secure a second date with my wife.

- I don't know what happened, I was considerate, I was cute, I was stylish...
 - o I remember it to this day,
 - A white Nike hat on backwards,
 - A tank top
 - A pair of purple shorts with a little bit of my boxers showing
 - And even a pair of Orange suede shoes!

I mean... What was not to like about that....

- We even had a great... well maybe not great, but we did have a first date.
- But for whatever reason...I failed to get a second date with Shannon for weeks
 - o Lucky, I didn't let failure stop me...
 - o Oh no...I didn't give up and now we have been married 22yrs
 - o Happily right, honey 😊... (Whew.. Just Checking)

So while all of us I think in the congregation have had successes and failures...

Today I want to talk to you about something that **cannot fail**,

- that **will not fail**,
- that is **impossible to fail**
- and that is **Jesus's Love for you.**

Jesus's love for you is so deep, so wide, so long, and so far, that you and I just simply don't have the tools to measure it.

Jesus Love for us is **immeasurable**.

And just like the song we sang today ("One Thing Remains"). **His love never fails**, listen to the lyrics in this song you sang this morning:

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant through the trial and the change
One thing remains,
Yes, one thing remains.

Your love never fails,
It never gives up
It never runs out on me

Your love never fails,
It never gives up
It never runs out on me

Because on and on, and on, and on it goes
Before it overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains

In death, in life I'm confident and covered by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid.
There's nothing that can separate my heart from Your great love...

Your love never fails,
It never gives up
It never runs out on me

What an Amazing Song, but don't let the song be your source of truth, let's look to see what the bible has to say.

Would you please look back in your bibles with me today to **1 Corinthians 13: verses 4-8**

This passage of scripture is used in weddings all over the world..

- It is used by pastors,
- husbands, and wives to explain what perfect love,
- what true love really is.

And while all those reasons are great reasons to use this scripture.

The scripture, these words are really telling us how amazing God's love is for us.

Let's look at God's perfect Love for us together as we read **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

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

Many times when we read this, we focus on the definition.

- How we are supposed to love
- How others are supposed to love us
- After-all don't these words of scripture just melt your heart?

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

Talk about a romance story of unconditional love....

But today, I **don't** want to focus on the definition...

- I want to focus on the **promise** that God's Love makes to us...
- I want to **focus** on the **first part** of the last verse that says "**love never fails**"

Folks, many things in life we may care greatly about may fail.

- The vehicles we drive
- Our attempt at getting that date with that perfect boy or girl.
- Major Appliances in our homes
- Even The basketball team we cheer for might fail.... From time to time (OUCH)

But there is one thing that I can guarantee you that will **never fail**

- And that is God's love for you.

You see, God's love isn't dependent

- on **what you do** or **do not do**.

God loves you right where you are at today.

- That's right.... Exactly where you are...
 - o He knows you aren't perfect...
 - He loves you anyway
 - o He knows about your mistakes
 - He knows that you lost your temper with your family before church
 - He knows that you cursed at that driver that cut you off
 - He knows that you've been selfish with your time
 - He knows that you may have drank that beer or two or three on Friday Night
 - He knows that you may have not treated your spouse the way they should be treated
 - o But in spite of all those things He loves you anyway!!!

Now, He may not be happy with some of the choices that you make, but that doesn't change His love for you.

Romans 5:8 "*while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*"

Jesus knows who you are....

- He created you...
- And He loves you... **UNConditionally**.
- And His Love Never Fails

Some people in our congregation today are going through really tough times.

- Some are having trouble getting a job, keeping their job, and paying their bills
- Others are having a tough time because their marriage could be in a rough spot
- Others are having a **difficult time** battling with a sickness that is taking them away from being at 100%
- Some are **dealing with Rejection** (Friends, Family, Co-workers)
- Some people in our congregation today are struggling with **addictions**.

Folks, I'm not trying to downplay any of the difficulties that you are going through in any way.

- But what I'm trying to do is to reassure you
- That no matter what you are going through
- **Jesus LOVES You**
- And that He can and Will Help you through it, if you just give your problem to Him.
- **Jesus already knows** what you are dealing with.
- Why won't you just turn to Him and Ask for Help?

Remember this.... Write it in the Front of your Bible, put it on your hand... Just don't forget it.

- Jesus Love for you **Never Fails!**
- **He loves you** right where you are at
 - o In the midst of the chaos
 - o And in the calmness
 - o **He loves you** and He will Never stop loving you!

Because He loves you so much, He makes another promise to you in several passages of scripture..

- You can find it in the **Old testament** by looking at Deuteronomy 31:6
- You can find it in the **New Testament** by Looking at Hebrews 13:5
- As a matter of fact it is **proven all throughout the bible** and that promise is this.
- *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them for the Lord goes with you; **He will Never leave you nor forsake you!***

Sis. Judy...

- Jesus Loves you...God's love never fails. He will never leave you nor forsake you

Bro. Thomas...

- The Lord Loves You. His love never fails. Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you

Bro. David...

- Jesus Loves you...God's love never fails. He will never leave you nor forsake you

Sis. Cindy...

- The Lord Loves You. His love never fails. Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you

Congregation...

- Jesus Loves you...God's love never fails. He will never leave you nor forsake you

Jesus has already **proved this over and over** and over in your lives and He has also proved it in the bible.

- When **Daniel** was in the **Lion's Den**
 - o The Hungry lions mouths were shut and **Daniel escaped** with no injuries
 - o **The Lord Delivered Daniel**
- When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Refused to bow down and worship this image of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - o Because **they would not worship any other God** other than our Lord
 - o So they were put through a blazing fiery furnace
 - o But they escaped unscathed and even a fourth was seen to be among them.

What about the Story of the Prodigal son in **Luke chapter 15:11-32**... You know the parable...

A man's younger son **asked** his father for his share of the estate,

- **packed his belongings**,
- and took a trip to a distant land
- where he wasted all of his money on **parties** and prostitutes.

About the time that his money was gone,

- a great famine swept over the land,
- and he began to starve.

He finally came to his senses

- and realized that his father's hired men at least had food to eat.

He decided, "I will go to my father and say,

- 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you,
- and am **no longer worthy** of being called your son.
- Please take me on as a hired man."

While he was still a long distance away,

- his father saw him coming and was filled with loving pity.

He ran to his son,

- embraced him and kissed him.

I think that the reason he saw his son coming while he was still a long distance away was that he was praying for his son's return and spent much time each day watching that lonely road on which his son would return.

Even as the son was making his confession,

- the father interrupted to instruct the servants to kill the fatted calf
- and **prepare for a celebration**
 - o his lost son had **repented**;
 - o he had **changed** his mind
 - o and had **returned** to become part of the family again.

Folks, this is a perfect demonstration of

- How **God's Love Never Fails.**
- How it is unconditional
- And it is **everlasting**

God demonstrated His love for us before we were Christians,

But this parable makes it obvious that God continues to love his child who has strayed far from Him. He eagerly awaits his return to the Christian family and fellowship.

Even when you are

- disobedient,
- he continues to love you,
- waiting for you to respond to His love and forgiveness.

Paul writes in **Romans 5:9-11:**

Since by his blood he did all this for us as sinners, how much more will he do for us now that he has declared us not guilty? Now he will save us from all of God's wrath to come. And since, when we were his enemies, we were brought back to God by the death of His Son, what blessings he must have for us now that we are his friends, and he is living within us!

What an amazing God!

The love that God has for you is far beyond our human comprehension

God's Love Reaches Beyond all Circumstances

The early Christians endured persecution, hardships and unbelievable suffering. Yet Paul wrote to them:

Romans 8:31- 39

³¹ *What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our side, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else?*

³³ *Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has forgiven us and given us right standing with himself.*

³⁴ *Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? No! For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us there in heaven.*

³⁵ *Who then can ever keep Christ's love from us? When we have trouble or calamity, when we are hunted down or destroyed, is it because he doesn't love us anymore? And if we are hungry or penniless or in danger or threatened with death, has God deserted us?*

³⁶ *No, for the Scriptures tell us that for his sake we must be ready to face death at every moment of the day—we are like sheep awaiting slaughter; ³⁷ but despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, ³⁹ or where we are—high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.*

God's love is so amazing that it is beyond our ability to grasp with our minds, but it is not beyond our ability to experience with our hearts.

As We Close today...

I want to point you to just one more scripture to think about.... That's **Matthew 24:35** it says "³⁵ *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*"

This is the greatest romance novel, the greatest book of truth, the greatest book of Love you will ever read in our life and do you know what?

³⁵ *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

What a blessing it is that we have the bible today.

Next time you are worried,

- you feel like giving up,
- throwing in the towel
- and **you just aren't sure** how valuable you are...

Pick this book up and read it.

- **It will remind you** that you are so valuable, so important That you are the Only thing created in God's likeness (**Genesis 1:27**)
- **It will remind you** that God loves you so much that he knew you before you were knit together in your mother's womb (**Psalm 139**)
- **It will remind you** that He loves you so much that He has a plan and purpose for your life (**Jeremiah 29:11**)
- **He loves you so much** that He came out of his perfect place in heaven, assumed the body of a human, to witness, to teach, and to provide for you and me a way to go to heaven
- **Jesus loved you and he loved me so much** that He was persecuted, , that He died. On a cross for our sins, so that He could talk our place and we could be forgiven of sins (**John 3:16**)
- **He loves you so much** that He made a place for you in heaven. A Mansion built with His own hands that He is preparing for you. (**John 14:2**)

Folks, there is a lot of things that **can fail in life**, but **Jesus' love** is not one of those things.

- Don't look to the world for your worth.
- **Look to Jesus**. He said that you are so valuable, that you are worth everything to Him,
- So **He paid the ultimate sacrifice**
- And now it comes down to you...

The **Only thing** that **Jesus wants is for you to accept Him**,

- for you to **Love Him back**,
- for you to **invite Him into your life** to be your **Lord and Savior**.

Is there anyone here that wants to do that today?

Maybe you're here today and you've been hurt, your heart has been broken and you've been cast out of the world by your friends, a boyfriend, a girlfriend, a parent...

And you just want to know what it's like to be loved unconditionally.

- Why don't you **come down to the alter** and sit at the Lord's feet today.

Maybe you are here and you've lost a loved one. Your heart is hurting and you just don't know how to deal with the pain. You may even know that your loved one is in heaven, but it still is just tearing you apart.

- come on down to the alter and tell God how you feel.
- Let him put that broken heart back together again.
- Whatever reason you have, please come to the alter and spend time with our Lord Jesus Christ today as we listen to this verse of invitation.

Invitation: (Would everyone please stand and bow your heads)

Play the song... "Just be held"