

A Hospital Chapel Sermon from I CORINTHIANS 13:13
“Faith, Hope and Love for Every Season of Our Lives”

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I. A SCRIPTURE – I CORINTHIANS 13:13

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.¹

¹ 1, NKJV, I CORINTHIANS 13:13.

II. INTRODUCTION

Let us come together before The LORD, each in our own way:

[Sign of The Cross]

The Lord be with you!

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to The Lord.

Let us give thanks to The Lord our GOD!

It is right and just.²

My brothers and sisters, in this time of loss of loved ones for so many here, it is my deepest desire to offer some words of consolation in The LORD for us all.

I offer these 3 points: First, we abide in GOD with Faith, Hope and Love. Second, GOD's Love flows from His Mercy. Third, GOD's Mercy endures forever.

FOR IN EVERY SEASON OF OUR LIVES, GOD'S MERCY CALLS US TO A TIME OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

² 2, Roman Missal, 3rd Edition, "Introductory Rite."

I. FIRST, WE ABIDE IN GOD WITH FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

King Solomon The Preacher, in ECCLESIASTES 3:1, declares that, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under... Heaven.”³ Today I offer you this assurance from GOD’s Word, that there is a message of Faith, Hope and Love for Every Season of Our Lives.

Saint Paul records for us in I CORINTHIANS 13:13 that the greatest spiritual virtues we may possess from GOD’s hand are “Faith, Hope and Love,” that we may live out the greatest of these, which is Love.⁴ And that Love, lived out in our relationships with our precious ones – here and those who have passed on into the next life - will live on forever in Heaven.

Why? Because Love is the very essence of Who GOD is and how He embraces us! This is why Saint John records this simply clear and profoundly mystical Truth in I JOHN 4:8, that “GOD is Love.”⁵

This is why JESUS CHRIST Himself, quoting Moses, is recorded by Saint Matthew in MATTHEW 22:36-40 reminding us that the merciful heart of GOD’s Law is to “love The LORD thy GOD with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,” and to “love thy neighbour as thyself.”⁶

FOR IN EVERY SEASON OF OUR LIVES, GOD’S MERCY CALLS US TO A TIME OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

³ 3, KJV, ECCLESIASTES 3:1.

⁴ 1, NKJV, I CORINTHIANS 13:13.

⁵ 3, KJV, I JOHN 4:8.

⁶ 3, KJV, MATTHEW 22:36-40. See DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5 & LEVITICUS 19:18.

IV. SECOND, GOD’S LOVE FLOWS FROM HIS MERCY

GOD’s Love flows, by His Grace, to us before even He called us into existence, blessing us with the joy of loving Him back, and our family, friends and neighbours as ourselves!

Is this not the very fount of why GOD revealed His Glory to Moses, not allowing him to see the full Light of His Face in this world, but proclaiming Who He is in His Name in EXODUS 34:6, “The LORD, The LORD GOD, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth!”⁷

Therefore, because of The CHESED⁸ - **תֹּנִן** - The Divine “Mercy” of GOD, we may be at peace, knowing that The Love we shared with our departed precious ones in this life shall rest secure with “The All Merciful One Above”⁹ in the next.

Why? Because, as Saint John writes in I JOHN 1:9, when “we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!”¹⁰

FOR IN EVERY SEASON OF OUR LIVES, GOD’S MERCY CALLS US TO A TIME OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

⁷ 3, KJV, EXODUS 34:6.

⁸ 4, Hebrew-English Bible, EXODUS 34:6, CHESED - **תֹּנִן** - GOD’s Mercy.

⁹ 5, Koran, 112.1-4, “The Unity,” Introduction. Adapted from, “In The Name of Allah, The Beneficent, the Merciful.”

¹⁰ 3, KJV, I JOHN 1:9.

V. THIRD, GOD'S MERCY ENDURES FOREVER

Now we can see more clearly why The Psalmist writes in PSALM 136:26, "O give thanks unto The GOD of Heaven: for His Mercy endureth for ever!"¹¹ This is why Saint Paul declares boldly in ROMANS 8:38-39, that nothing "shall be able to separate us from The Love of GOD" – not in this life, nor in the next!¹²

This is why Saint John assures us in REVELATION 21:4, "And GOD shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain" with our LORD forever!¹³

With Saint Faustina, we see with confidence "...that Mercy is the greatest attribute of GOD."¹⁴ It is therefore so great a Wonder, as Saint Augustine concludes, that our hearts are restless, O LORD, until they rest in Thee!¹⁵

*FOR IN EVERY SEASON OF OUR LIVES, GOD'S MERCY
CALLS US TO A TIME OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.*

¹¹ 3, KJV, PSALM 136:26.

¹² 3, KJV, ROMANS 8:38-39.

¹³ 3, KJV, REVELATION 21:4.

¹⁴ 6, "Diary of Saint Faustina," # 301, p 139.

¹⁵ 7, CCC, #30, p 18-19. Adapted from St. Augustine, "...You Yourself encourage him to delight in Your praise, for You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You."

VI. IN CONCLUSION

Therefore we have this assurance from GOD's Word, that there is a message of Faith, Hope and Love for Every Season of Our Lives. And we have seen These Truths: First, we abide in GOD with Faith, Hope and Love. Second, GOD's Love flows from His Mercy. Third, GOD's Mercy endures forever.

Let us therefore, as we grieve the passing of our loved ones, not despair, but rest securely under The Hand of The Divine Mercy. Let us celebrate the fruits of The Love we have shared with our departed precious ones as a Gift from GOD.

And let us dwell in His never-failing CHESED¹⁶ - **תֻּן** - His Divine "Mercy," knowing that He will, in due time, turn our present tears of sorrow into greater tears of joy.

*FOR IN EVERY SEASON OF OUR LIVES, GOD'S MERCY
CALLS US TO A TIME OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.*

[Sign of The Cross]

And let us each say, in our own way, AMEN!

¹⁶ 4, Hebrew-English Bible, EXODUS 34:6, CHESED - **תֻּן** - GOD's Mercy.

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