



## 1. INTRODUCTION

**1 Corinthians 14:1** “*Let love be your highest goal...*” (NLT)

**1 Corinthians 14:1** “*Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does.*” (The Message)

## 2. DON'T LET LESSER THINGS KEEP YOU FROM WHAT MATTERS MOST.

A. Without meaningful relationships all that we **SAY** is empty. (1 Corinthians 13:1)

B. Without learning how to love people all that we **KNOW** is meaningless. (1 Corinthians 13:2)

C. Without learning how to love all that we **BELIEVE** is ineffective. (1 Corinthians 13:2)

**Galatians 5:6** “*...The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*” (NIV)

D. Love should be my greatest goal because without it, all that we give to others is **USELESS**. (1 Corinthians 13:3)

E. Love should be our greatest goal because without love, all that we **ACCOMPLISH** is worthless.

F. One Great Life Truth: The **RELATIONSHIPS** of our life are more important than the accomplishments of our life.

## 3. HELP YOUR FRIENDS SEE WHAT THEY CAN BECOME.

## 4. ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS IN THE HARD TIMES OF THEIR LIFE.

A. **Romans 15:2** “*We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak in order to build them up in the faith.*”

B. **1 Thessalonians 5:11** “Encourage one another and *BUILD* each other up.”

1. Our acts and words of encouragement need to be **REAL**.
2. Encouragement needs to be **HABITUAL**.
3. Encouragement needs to be **SPECIFIC**.

**5. CONSISTENTLY FEED HOPE INTO YOUR FRIENDS' LIVES.**

A. American Heritage Dictionary online: Hope is the desire and search for a future good that is difficult but not impossible to attain with **GOD'S HELP**.

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18** - “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we **FIX OUR EYES** not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

growing deeper with your  
**friendlist**



**Increase the Value of  
Your Relationships**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

**January 25, 2009**