



# **A More Excellent Way**

**I Corinthians 13:1-3**  
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# Context Of I Corinthians 13

I Corinthians 12:31 is not a command, but a condemnation. The Corinthians were coveting what they deemed to be the greatest gifts.

Paul says to the Corinthians, “Let me show you what really is the greatest, the most excellent way, and that is love.”

The spiritual life is not just about what you do, it is about the motive behind what you do; it is about who you are.

God has given a supreme example of what love means by what Christ did for us on the cross. His love was His concern for our deep need and His self sacrificing action to benefit us. Our love is to be the same, a concern for the well being of others, an active effort toward their benefit. It is not emotional but volitional. It is concerned not with how we feel but how we act. It responds not to the attractiveness of the other person but to the condition and need of the other person. Its motivation is not the selfish desire to enjoy the other person but the selfless desire to benefit him.

# The Outline Of I Corinthians 13

13:1-3 – The Prominence of Love

13:4-7 – The Properties of Love

13:8-12 – The Permanence of Love

13:13 – The preeminence of Love

## The Outline Of I Corinthians 13:1-3

The Prominence of Love

- In Speaking, verse 1
- In Knowing, verse 2
- In Giving, verse 3

# In Speaking

Paul begins with the example of tongues because the Corinthians elevated this gift above all others.

Speaking in tongues without love was of no value, but simply an irritating noise.

Gongs and cymbals without music is just noise; speaking in tongues without love is just noise.

Paul was using hyperbole when he refers to the “tongues of angels.”

## **In Knowing**

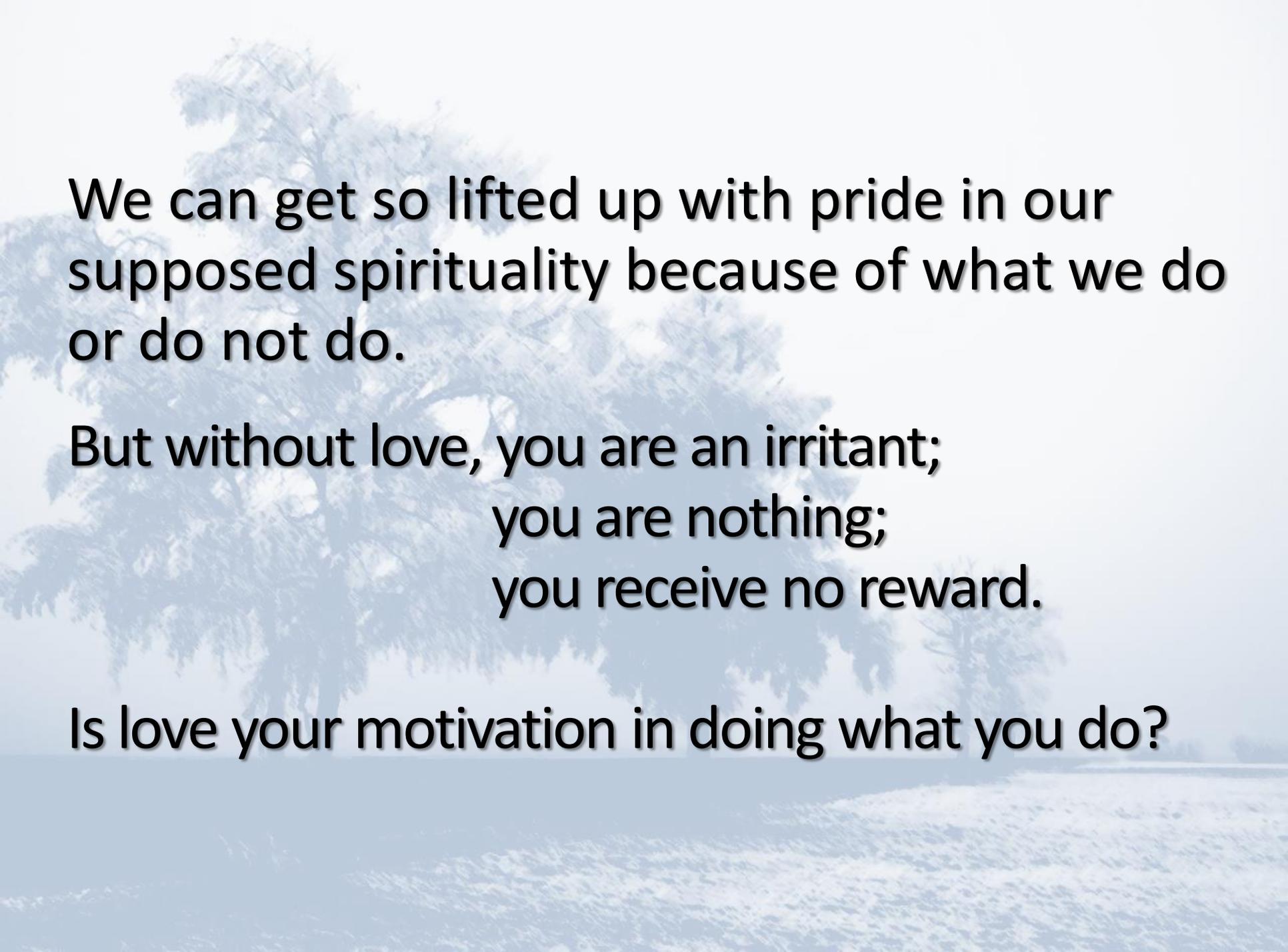
The gift of prophecy is the second example because this gift was of greater value than the gift of tongues when the church was together (1 Corinthians 14:4,5).

Even the gift of prophecy without love was nothing.

Knowledge and Faith were gifts of edification, but nothing without love.

## **In Giving**

The one exercising the gifts of helps or giving gains nothing if exercised without love.



We can get so lifted up with pride in our supposed spirituality because of what we do or do not do.

But without love, you are an irritant;  
you are nothing;  
you receive no reward.

Is love your motivation in doing what you do?