

Donna's Devotional

“LOVE”

For Pastor's birthday, I gave him a cross that was inscribed with the words, "Faith, Hope, and Love Abide, but the Greatest of these is LOVE." These words are taken from the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians.

This got me thinking about the word love. Today we use it to describe everything from ice cream to a romantic encounter. What then is the scripture talking about in Deuteronomy 6:5 when it says that you are to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your strength"?

As I pondered the word love, Pastor shared with me a quote from *Walking on Water* by Madeleine L'Engle (2001), "Charity long ago lost its original meaning and has come to mean a cold, dutiful giving. And love is now almost entirely limited to the narrower forms of sex. . . . perhaps for our day, the best translation for love is the name of Jesus, and that will tell us everything about love we need to know."

Then my thoughts centered on Calvary and the sacrifice of my Savior. "Greater love hath no man than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). What a challenge this is when we realize that part of the fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22). The Holy Spirit expects to produce that kind of love in your life.