**Love Always Believes**

Love……**always trusts/believes**, hopes all things, endures all things. I Corinthians 13:7

Greek word translated as “believes” is a form of the verb *pisteuo*, which means “to believe, place faith in, or trust.”

1. **We believe/ trust \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I John 4:13-16, 19**

It is the effectual love of God that first changes our hearts in order to make us capable of love, and it is His example of love that reminds us again and again of our need to love other people. Our sin has been forgiven……..so we have the ability to trust in the best and forgive.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.  If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them…..We love because He first loved us.  I John 4:13-16,19

1. **We believe/trust because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He has showed us His love by being trustworthy.**

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations. Deut. 7:9

People do not wake up one day and decide to love

There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away. Romans 3:1

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight. Proverbs 3:5,6

Never afraid to trust an unknown future to known God. – Corrie Ten Boom

1. **We believe and trust because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

He who began a work in us will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:6

Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, rather than paying attention to the plank in your own eye? Matthew 7:3-5

I have been sinned against more than I have sinned. King Lear

Their sin against me, not my sin against a holy God, troubles me most. And when this is our focus, we are quick to speak and slow to listen, quick to write off and slow to bear with, quick to suspect and slow to forgive.

***Love is based on who He is*, not on what others do.**

A person with God’s type of love is “ev*er ready to believe the best*” AMP

We pray, root and deeply desire to trust. Slow to be suspicious

Enduring (not fragile) does not come easy, we pass through difficulty

\*is patient (longsuffering). \* endures all things

\*bears all things \* hopes all things

\*believes all things

“Christ bids us out of the shadows of suspicion, to live in the sunshine as children of the day.” Spurgeon

 Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11

While the self-important — and thus self-imprisoned — deaden the beautiful flowers around them, Christ lifts drooping lilies and teaches us to hope all things, especially with other believers. Loving God with all and our neighbors as ourselves gives sunlight and blessing to our relationships, fresh meat and drink to our own souls, and obedience and honor to the name of Christ.

This is the air from above that will keep us healthy and unified.

Oh Lord God, we come just asking your help. Asking that you would help us to trust you. That we would obey you in all things, because we really can trust that you are good, and you're going to meet us there. And you're going to provide and care for us. And when things totally fall apart, even when we've obeyed to the best of our ability, that that's not a sign that obeying you doesn't work. It's a sign that you are up to things greater than things being easy, or going the way we hope. Lord, I'm so thankful that we can trust you in all things. Would you help us to trust each other in ways that are fitting? To be fans of each other, to desire deeply that we would grow in trustworthiness. That we ourselves would aspire to be more trustworthy, that we would become more faithful, more true, more righteous and upright and upstanding, and the kind of person you would want in your life. May we be that friend, that neighbor, that brother, that sister, that coworker. God, will you make us those people, and will you help us to trust in ways that are fitting, to extend that to each other in ways that are full of love and of hope, and of willingness to endure hard things? Because we want to be more deeply connected. We want to move toward each other, and in doing so, honor and worship and entrust ourselves to you. We pray this in your name. Amen.

Just for you – Write down those that God is bringing to mind as you think of “believing the best”, or “believing that God is at work” in them, even if they have hurt you.

Questions –

* 1. All of us have walked through times that challenge our belief to love. Share about a time that you were challenged and how His trustworthiness sustained you.
  2. Share a story about someone you were able to “believe the best” about and waited as you built trust again.
  3. Is there a time in your life where you hurt someone else and they believed the best in you?

What happened and how did that feel?

* 1. Share a scripture of story in scripture that has encouraged you to love with faith, trust, and belief.