

“LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS.”

1 Corinthians 13 : 7

Love endures all things.

Endure has two meanings.

To suffer patiently and to remain in existence.

Oftentimes it has been said that love is never easy; However, the truth behind the statement is not always understood.

Especially when there is eagerness and excitement to fall.

To fall in love.

God has said that the greatest of what remained was love.

This is why love is what bears the most range.

Love is connected to every beginning and every end.

Love is felt in our happiest and greatest moments, like getting married and the birth of the child;

However, love is also felt in our hardest and lowest moments, like separation and death.

Love is in every beginning.

It's in the sunrises.

The warmth of the sun beaming on your skin.

The calm in hearing the sound of the rain.

The gratitude in receiving a genuine compliment.

The coziness of covering up with a blanket.

The relief of changing into sweatpants.

The bracing of the cool pillows on the bed against your face.

The butterflies when you share your first kiss.

The passion and intense feeling of pleasure.

The relaxing feeling of a hot shower.

The refreshing first sip of an ice cold glass of water.

The excitement in doing something for the first time.

The exhilaration of going over a roller coaster's first climb.

The comfort of smelling a home cooked meal.

The tenderness of eating a warm piece of bread.

The safety of being held.

The joy of laughing uncontrollably.

The security in coming home, to wherever and whoever home may be.

When one is falling in love, there often is no concern about the risks that come with falling out of love. The risks of everything that love also is.

Love is also in every ending.
It's in the sunsets.
The bitter chill of the cold.
The growing pains in getting old.
The disappointment when you reach the bottom of the cookie jar.
The realization that six feet is too far.
The caution when touching the rough and sharp edges of glass.
The loneliness that comes with having the bed to yourself.
The weariness in tossing and turning at night.
The hunger after you ate the last bite
The grief in losing the ones that you love.
The exhaustion that comes after giving all that you have, and it still not being enough.
The withdrawal from a drug.
The drowsiness when you take a pill.
The queasiness when you're nervous for what is inevitable.
The fear in screaming and crying for help, yet no one can hear.
The hunger with no desire to eat.
The longing for someone to hold you.
The feeling you get when your parents say they're disappointed.
The overthinking in wondering where he has been.
The discomfort in your own skin.

The Emptiness.
Where love once was, yet at the same time, still is.

Because love remains, lasts, and leaves a residue.
Residue is what remains after part has been removed or used.

There are residues in love.
Growing up.
Break-ups.
Divorce.
Death.
Things where love was, and still is, even after parts have left.

It's the patient suffering.
It's the patience in treating a cold.
It's the eagerness of coming home.
It's the waiting for the text or call that never comes.
It's waiting for him to change, but he never does.

It's kids waiting for mom or dad to come home, yet they don't.
It's the dogs that get left at the shelter, thinking that it's not their permanent home.
It's sitting in the waiting room, wondering how it all only started as fun.
It's the doctors wishing they could do more, after everything has already been done.
It is the patient suffering of a mother eager to go to heaven after losing her son.

Love has the highest height and deepest depth.
It has been declared the greatest of what remains, yet it holds no easy title.
With such a title, comes the strength to bear it.

Strength comes with the adaptation to and the accompaniment of pressure.
All great things take pressure.
The formation of a diamond needs temperature and pressure.
The growth of a muscle takes increased time and pressure.
The direction and patterns of leaves is determined by their growth and adaptation to pressure

Now do you understand when they say that love is never easy?

Love.
Endures.
All.
Things.

It exists through every beginning and every end.
It remains patient in suffering.
Love is the direct cause of immeasurable joy and immense pain. It is the greatest thing we can give, and the most obstructive thing we can sustain.

There are just as many reasons to love as there are not to love.
You cannot feel one side of love without feeling the other.
And perhaps if you only felt one side, it wouldn't even amount to all that love is.

Love is a constant choice.
A choice to experience all that love is.

All of the joy while simultaneously feeling all of the pain.
One cannot experience its depth by dipping just their toes in.
This is a jump in head first type of feeling.
How lucky are we to experience what god named the greatest of what remains.

Because when we think of where love once was, it is often the place it still remains.

- *Liberty Tetzlaff*