

## **Uphill**

**Moving beyond the daily grind of life as mentioned in Upstream, there are the people in our lives that we look to for support and comfort. Our family members and our close friends. Sometimes we have issues with our closest loved ones. Perhaps there are old wounds, or hurtful words that have been said.**

**Perhaps there is damage in some of your relationships that even though you continue to be friendly there is a lack of true love being expressed due to some pain or assumed hurt.**

**We must keep these associations possibly only on the holidays or special occasions maybe only at work events, funerals, or perhaps, you may not have to see these folks at all.**

**Perhaps we only have to “deal” with these folks at a few times in your lifetime.**

### **Matthew Chapter 5**

**43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.**

**44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

**45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

**46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?**

**47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?**

**48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect**

**God teaches us how to Love our enemies but perhaps you find it difficult to “put up” with your loved ones.**

### **John Chapter 13**

**34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

**If you are saved, God has made you a new creation., but sometimes we feel less than because we are still in this clay pot, this flesh still in the world.**

**When our Friends and Loved ones cause us distress, it can be easy to become very frustrated, angry, mad and impatient, but it is the Love that God has placed in our hearts which helps us to have understanding and patience.**

**We develop patience with others as we humble ourselves before God to realize that we are not better than others. That without God we truly would have nothing.**

### **1st John Chapter 4**

**11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.**

**We should strive to show love to those that it can sometimes be most difficult to show Love. Thereby we are exercising God's commandment to be the “Light” in this world. We return love for hate, kindness for evil, soft words for hard.**

## **Proverbs Chapter 10**

12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

**Seemingly it is the hardest to show this Love to our very Family. Those we should naturally love.**

**This can be because of issues in childhood, over controlling parents, rebellious children etc. There are a multitude of reasons as there are opportunities for our relationships to break down, but to be a disciple, we must strive to the example of our elder brother, Jesus Christ, and follow his example. As he faced serious situations with folks that were against him, we must take courage in his great example and his great Love to move forward when the mountain may seem so high.**

**This Love shows itself in selfish actions, giving of ourselves, kindness, understanding and charity.**

## **1st Corinthians Chapter 13**

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

**As we exercise this great Love inside us, we learn, we gain wisdom, we start to truly understand that the answer to any of our problems is God.**

## **1st Corinthians Chapter 13**

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

**As we grow in Grace and wisdom, God will help us to see the importance of how Gods Love can impact people, in their darkest times, in their worst sorrows and trouble, thru family issues, thru mankind's evil, God's Love can cut thru any barrier, any wall that we have built around ourselves or others.**

**We maintain the stance that God has ordained, we love the Sinner but hate the Sin.**

**We love those that hurt us, that cause us pain and trouble.**

**Can we do such a great thing?**

**Only with the help of the Lord.**

## **Micah Chapter 6**

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God

