

## **LOVE**

*(Anon)*

Love is a friendship that has caught fire.

It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.

It is loyalty through good and bad.

It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances for human weakness.

Love is content with the present.

It hopes for the future and it doesn't brood over the past.

It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories, and working towards common goals.

If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things you lack.

If you don't have it, no matter what else there is, it is not enough.

So search for it, ask God for it,

And when you find it, share it!

## **SPEAK TO US OF LOVE**

*(Kahlil Gilbran)*

Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself.

Love possesses not nor would it be possessed; For love is sufficient unto love.

When you love you should not say, "God is in my heart," but rather, "I am in the heart of God." And think not you can direct the course of love, for love, if it finds you worthy, directs your course.

Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself. But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires: To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night.

To know the pain of too much tenderness.

To be wounded by your own understanding of love; and to bleed willingly and joyfully.

To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving;

To rest at the noon hour and meditate love's ecstasy;

To return home at eventide with gratitude; And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart and a song of praise upon your lips.

## **LOVE IS PATIENT**

*(1 Corinthians, 13:4-8a)*

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous nor boastful;

It is not arrogant nor rude; love does not insist on its own way;

It is not irritable nor resentful;

It does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things,

Hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

## **HOW DO I LOVE THEE?**

*(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)*

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight.  
For the ends of being and ideal grace,  
I love thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints – I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, all of my life – and, if God choose,  
I shall love thee better, after death.

## **GIVE ALL TO LOVE**

*(Ralph Waldo Emerson)*

Give all to love, obey thy heart;  
Friends, kindred days, estate, good-fame,  
Plans, credit, and the Muse, nothing refuse.  
'Tis a brave master, let it have scope;  
Follow it utterly, hope beyond hope;  
High and more high, it dives into noon;  
With wing unspent, untold intent;  
But it is a god, knows its own path, and the outlets of the sky.  
It was never for the mean, it requireth courage stout;  
Souls above doubt, valour unbending.  
It will reward, they shall return;  
More than they were, and ever ascending