

1 Corinthians 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Beareth all things (πάντα στέγει, *panta stegei*)—*Stegō* has two possible meanings:

1. "to cover" (as a roof covers), suggesting love protects others by covering their faults (cf. 1 Peter 4:8, "love covers a multitude of sins")
2. "to bear up under," suggesting endurance.

Both nuances fit: love both shields and endures.

Believeth all things (πάντα πιστεύει, *panta pisteuei*)—Not gullible credulity, but trusting others in the best possible light. Love doesn't assume the worst, isn't cynical or suspicious, gives the benefit of the doubt. This doesn't mean *naïveté*—Jesus "knew what was in man" (John 2:24-25)—but rather refusing to prejudge or assume malice.

Hopeth all things (πάντα ἐλπίζει, *panta elpizei*)—*Elpizō* is confident expectation, not wishful thinking. Love maintains hope for others' redemption, growth, and change. It doesn't write people off as hopeless cases. This hope rests in God's transforming power, not human potential.

Endureth all things (πάντα ὑπομένει, *panta hypomenei*)—*Hypomenō* means steadfast perseverance under trial. Love doesn't quit when relationships become difficult. The four *panta* ("all things") emphasize love's comprehensive, unwavering character. Together they present love as protective, trusting, hopeful, and

persistent—the very opposite of the Corinthians' quick divisions and broken relationships.

Historical Context

The Corinthian church exhibited the opposite of these qualities: divisions instead of covering faults (1:10-13), suspicion and judgment instead of believing the best (4:1-5), giving up on difficult brothers (5:1-5; 6:1-8), and abandoning relational endurance. Roman society quickly severed relationships when inconvenient. Paul presents Christ's love—which covered our sins, believed in our redemption, hoped for our transformation, and endured the cross—as the model.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Which of these four qualities—bearing, believing, hoping, enduring—is most difficult for you in a specific strained relationship?
2. How does Christ's endurance of the cross ('endured all things') and hope for your sanctification ('hopes all things') model this love?
3. In what ways might cynicism or suspicion ('not believing all things') be protecting you from vulnerability but also preventing genuine love?

Interlinear Text

πάντα	στέγει	πάντα	πιστεύει	πάντα	ἐλπίζει	πάντα
all things	Beareth	all things	believeth	all things	hopeth	all things
G3956	G4722	G3956	G4100	G3956	G1679	G3956
ὑπομένει						
endureth						
G5278						

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 4:8 (Parallel theme): And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

2 Timothy 2:24 (Parallel theme): And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

1 Corinthians 13:4 (Parallel theme): Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

1 Peter 2:24 (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Proverbs 10:12 (Parallel theme): Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

1 Corinthians 9:12 (Parallel theme): If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 (Parallel theme): Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:5 (Parallel theme): But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Psalms 119:66 (Faith): Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

James 1:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

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