It was **“the signs of an apostle”** that set **the 12** apart as the leaders and founders of Christians thinking and doctrine.

It was the uncommon miracles that **the 12** performed that established the Scriptures as divinely inspired

prophecies

knowledge

tongues

3.

2.9.25

The Gift of Healing

The Greater Context

The main message of **1 Corinthians** is:
DOCTRINE WORKS,
but the believers's negative volition
doesn't

1 Thessalonians 5:16–19 (NKJV)
16 Rejoice always,
17 pray without ceasing,
18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
19 Do not quench the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18–20 (NKJV)
18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

When the emphasis is on gratitude in the life of the believer, it is something that is directly related to the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

We are to give thanks in everything and for all things.

1. Paul emphasizes the reality of **Positional Truth**:

   a. How are we to understand Paul's use of this concept "all things"?

“All Things” refers to everything that God has given us in Jesus Christ.

And **that's always the starting point**.

The starting point is not our circumstances. Paul is not focusing here in the first chapter of **1 Corinthians** on **circumstances** when he gives thanks in relation to the **Corinthian church**.

He's focusing on what they have in Christ.

Circumstances are a secondary.

Paul is emphasizing
positional truth,
that is; **all that we have in Christ Jesus, as a result of our adoption into the eternal family of God**

Paul is not saying that they are utilizing everything that's available to them in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:4–9 (NKJV)
4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

4022 ὅτι (hoti) cj.; = Str 3754—1. LN 90.21 that, a marker of discourse (Rev 2:4; Mk 16:11, 14 v.r.); 2. LN 89.33 because, marker of a cause or reason (Mt 2:18); 3. LN 91.15 namely, a marker for identification or explanation

5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,
hoti

These are realities that are true for every believer. But not everyone will access what God has made available to them

2 Peter 1:1–4 (NKJV)
1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**
2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

6 even as the testimony of Christ was **confirmed** in you,
7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
8 who will also **confirm** you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We've not only been given everything necessary for the spiritual life, but we have been given more than enough.

Pride keeps most believers from ever tapping into but a small fraction of what God has provided for us in terms of facing life's problems and in terms of living the spiritual life.

But for those who are willing to humble themselves and submit under the authority structure of the church, as God has designed it, Paul teaches that God has provided abundantly.

YouTubing for spiritual understanding is not God's design, it's for the itching ear.

Don't be gullible and lured by believers who have the itching ear toward religious YouTube videos. They just heap confusion on top of confusion.

But let's encourage one another to hold fast to the good word of God.

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)
3 For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth
noun, singular

and be turned aside to fables.

2. *Love* is superior to all the gifts:

Because love is directed toward the spiritual benefit of others

   a. A brief look at **apostles**:

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)
11 And **He Himself** gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**,

The **Corinthian** believers were not claiming to be apostles, or that they had the gifts that the apostles had, such as the gifts of **miracles** and of **healings**

Paul points out the real issue to the carnally minded **Corinthian** believers:

Scripture does not use the term ***love*** as defined by how we feel about the other person, it has nothing to do with the emotion of ***love***!!!

But rather Scripture defines ***love*** as **serving** one another in the same way we **serve** ourselves

In the **Corinthian** church there had been a problem of *pride* of self *exaltation* that Paul was correcting; **they were exalting the revelatory gifts** as being **more spiritual** then the common giftings of service to others.

So Paul begins to teach them the priority of ***love***; and that under this *umbrella of love*, all the other gifts are prioritized in their place.

The first and most important is ***love***

Paul is saying the **Revelatory Gifts are temporary**, but ***love*** will continue on throughout the church age

hyperbolic statements are
Exaggerated statements to emphasize a point

How does Paul define *love* ?

1 Corinthians 13:1–13 (NKJV)
1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not ***love***, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

present, active, indicative

indicative — The mood in which the action of the verb or the state of being it describes is presented by the writer as real. It is the mood of assertion, where the writer portrays something as actual **(as opposed to possible or contingent on intention)**.

Even if God had graced him with this **extreme spiritual ability**; *if he did not carry it out with love*, then he has already become as sounding brass and clanging cymbal.

It's already become of no value.

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**, but have not ***love***, I am nothing.

previously unrevealed truth

an idiom, meaning to do something that one would think to be impossible

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

Paul is not saying that he has the extreme use of all these gifts!

Paul is simply making these **hyperbolic statements** to express the fact that even if a person had been graced out to the max by God and were dripping with extreme spiritual gifts, if they're not carried out under the umbrella of ***love*** it's meaningless.

He's emphasizing the superiority of ***love*** over every spiritual gift:

Love is a fruit of the Spirit; it is not natural to man apart from God's revelation

4 *love* suffers long and is kind; ***love*** does not envy; ***love*** does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the **truth**;
7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

truth

The sin nature above everything else is *self centered*, **it's** *proud* **and** *arrogant*

So The first and primary focus of divine Revelation points directly at me.

This *love* that Paul speaks of is unique to the spiritual life, it is supernaturally produced in the believer who is walking **by means of the Holy Spirit**

Galatians 5:22 (NKJV)
22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is ***love***, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Character transformation produced by the Holy Spirit

verbs

8 *love* never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

katargeō — Verb, future, passive, indicative, third person, plural — the gift of — the gift of — katargeō — Be abolished — pauō come to a stop

What Paul is saying is that at some time in the future something will happen and these gifts, knowledge and prophecy, will be superseded. They will receive the action of some event that supersedes them.

13.162 καταργέομαι[b]; καταργέω (**katargeō**): vb.: to cease to happen or abolished, to supersede. —'to no longer take place, to cease.' εἴτε δὲ προφητεῖαι, καταργηθήσονται 'if there are prophecies, they shall cease' 1 Cor 13:8.

a **quantity** idea, not quality

The gift of prophecy and knowledge was given on a temporary basis to get early church by until all revelation is revealed

9 For we **know** in **part** and we **prophesy** in **part**.
gar

present, active, indicative

At that time, all New Testament revelation had not yet been revealed

indicative — The mood in which the action of the verb or the state of being it describes is presented by the writer as real. It is the mood of assertion, where the writer portrays something as actual **(as opposed to possible or contingent on intention)**.

The Greek word *gar* means that he is now explaining the previous statement

10 But when that which is **perfect** has come, **then** that which is in **part** will be **done away**.
teleios — katargeō abolished

a **quantity** idea, **not quality**

5455 τέλειος (teleios), α (a), ον (on): adj.; = DBLHebr 9448; Str 5046; **4.** LN 68.23 **complete, finished**

tote at that time

11 When I was a **child**, I spoke as a **child**, I understood as a **child**, I thought as a **child**; but when I **became a man**, I put **away childish things**.
immature — in part — in part — matured — katargeō abolished — that which was incomplete/in part

2 word pictures to further illustrate his point in verse 10

no Greek article
In English I would read "the childish"

As part of but in contrast to the whole

Synonymous parallelism

785 ἄρτι (arti): adv.; = Str 737; TDNT 4.1106—1. LN 67.38 **now**, a point of time simultaneous (1Co 13:12); 2. LN 67.39 just now, a time just before or after the time of discourse

12 For now we **see** in a **mirror**, dimly, but **then** face to face. **Now** I **know** in **part**, but **then** I shall know just as I also am known.
gar — arti

See what?
Answer: ourselves in the mirror, although it is an **indistinct image**

with great clarity

tote at that time

present, active, indicative

I will see myself in **entirety** with the completion of revelation

24.7 βλέπω[a]: to **see**, frequently in the sense of becoming aware of or taking notice of something—'to see, to become aware of, to notice, to glance at'

These two words are synonymous until they're used in the same context

In this church age

13 And **now** abide **faith**, **hope**, ***love***, **these three**; but the greatest of these is ***love***.
nyni

present, active, indicative

a summary statement

Presently at this time, Faith, Hope, and Love are in operation

In contrast to the partial when all revelation has been given, then the temporary gifts will cease, they will no longer be needed.

3815 νυνί (nyni): adv. of time [see also 3814]; = Str 3570—LN 91.4 νυνὶ δέ (nyni de), a marker of a summary statement—'and so, accordingly, meanwhile'

Paul summarizes, or concludes his discourse, by pointing to three characteristics that are of a **higher priority** for believers at the initiation of this new age than the revelatory gifts

3.
4.
5. It's very evident by the context that
6. the carnally minded **Corinthian**
7. **Church** did not attempt to practice
8. what they knew to be the apostles

gifting alone.

But they had arrogantly decided that certain revelatory gifts made them more spiritual than the service gifts