

lives and our possessions to ourselves.

AGAPE love is not an option; it is a commandment. It is both our joyous privilege and our sacred obligation to love other human beings. Love is not simply a feeling – it is a choice, an expression of the will.

Not only are we to express AGAPE love to others; we are to increase and grow in our love. In 1 Thessalonians 3:12 Paul writes: "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

Here then we have seven qualities that we are to add to our faith.

- a. moral excellence or virtue
- b. knowledge of truth
- c. self-control
- d. patient endurance
- e. godliness
- f. brotherly love
- g. AGAPE love

What will happen if we do not add these qualities? What will happen if we are quite satisfied to remain as we are? Then Paul wants us to understand that failure to add godlike qualities in our character and conduct will result in spiritual nearsightedness, spiritual blindness, and loss of spiritual awareness.

In our twelfth lesson we will pick up the thread at this point, and conclude our study of salvation. In the meanwhile, let us exert ourselves toward spiritual maturity!