



Love believes all things

1 Corinthians 13:7

Breaking the Ice:

Have you had some experiences in life that have made you not want to trust people? Can you share some?

For Reflection:

Love "believeth all things." That does not mean that love is foolishly credulous. It does mean that love does not regard people with suspicion. – McGee

It tries to put the best possible construction on actions and events. –MacDonald

Unsuspectingly believes all that is not palpably false, all that it can with a good conscience believe to the credit of another - Jamieson, Fausett & Brown

Definition: believes all things

Παντα πιστευει *panta pisteuei*

to believe to the extent of complete trust and reliance—'to believe in, to have confidence in, to have faith in, to trust, faith, trust¹

¹Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 375). New York: United Bible Societies.

The description that “love believes all things” seems odd when we know from experience that we cannot always trust the words or actions of others. While it does not mean that we blindly accept everything as truth we should as a general rule not be suspicious all the time. We must believe the possibility of change and improvement of others. It does believe that we give the benefit of the doubt and remain open to believe the words and intentions of others. A look at the opposite may also help us understand this part of the definition of love. If we dislike someone we will not trust or believe anything about them. Even if they are telling the truth we assume an ulterior motive. If we love someone we allow for the assumption that they indeed are acting in an acceptable manner. -JPW

Do you consider most people as trusting or skeptical? Which are you? Why?

Read [Luke 22:31-34, 54-62](#), [John 21:15-19](#); think about Peter’s failings and describe Jesus’ loving approach to Peter.

Do you give people as many “chances” as Peter seemed to get from Jesus? How can His example help us put the “love believes all things” value into action in our lives?

Response:

As we love others we must allow our hearts to remain open to accept the words and actions of others as authentic.

Bottom Line:

Seek to be less suspicious and more believing.