

Study Guide: *The Greatest, Strongest, Deepest Thing*, Part 1

1. “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow \_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 24:12, NIV)
2. In sharp contrast to the people of the world whose love is growing cold, God’s people today are to be known by our \_\_\_\_\_ (see John 13:34-35).
3. Agape: “the higher concept of love revealed in the gospel” (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary* (p. 682). It’s love based upon \_\_\_\_\_. It’s a choice.
4. “This ‘love’ (*agapē*) must not be confused with that which is sometimes called love, a quality composed largely of feeling and emotion that has the center in self and the desires of self. *Agapē* centers the interest and concern in \_\_\_\_\_ and leads to appropriate \_\_\_\_\_” (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 6, p. 778).
5. It’s not just the actions that matter—but it’s also the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the \_\_\_\_\_ of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).
7. “This beautiful prose poem has been called the ‘greatest, strongest, \_\_\_\_\_ thing Paul ever wrote’ (Harnack)” (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 6, p. 778).
8. The clear reality is that God inspired a whole chapter in the Bible (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13) dedicated to explaining the importance of love and \_\_\_\_\_ what true love really is.
9. Another key point that comes out of 1 Corinthians is this: Not everyone has the same spiritual gift. But \_\_\_\_\_ can have love.
10. We can take away several key points from 1 John 4:7-11:
  - a. God loves us so much, as evidenced by sending Jesus so we might live eternally.
  - b. Love comes from God, and He fills us with love as we surrender to Him.
  - c. Being born of God and knowing God is describing the conversion experience, being transformed—which \_\_\_\_\_ (comes before) us being able to truly love others.
  - d. Since God has demonstrated such amazing and sacrificial love for us, we also ought to love others.
11. “But instructing people to love without telling them they are loved is like telling them to write check [or use their debit card or ACH withdrawal] without making a deposit in their accounts. No wonder so many relationships are overdrawn. Hearts have insufficient love. The apostle John models the right sequence. He makes a deposit before he tells us to write the check....Many people tell us to love. \_\_\_\_\_ God gives us the power to do so” (Max Lucado, *A Love Worth Giving*, pgs. 8-9). The deposit is God’s amazing and sacrificial love for us, and the check we’re called to write is to love others.
12. Only God can give us the power to love others as He calls us to, and only you and I can \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Answers: cold, love, principle, others, action, motives,  
greatest, deepest, defining, all, precedes, Only, let