

Third Day of Christmas, 12/27 – Three French Hens



Scripture: If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing....And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 and 13**

Faith, Hope and Love these are the bedrock of our Christian life. We believe something that cannot always be proved through logic...that God loves us and has partnered with us to create a world full of life and love. This is faith. And because of faith, we have hope that things will be good. That the people around us are good. And that we can make the world a better place. We have hope that God is always working for good in the world. And finally, that love is real. That we are loved, first by God and by other trusted people, and that we are capable of loving others. Which takes us back to faith.

This trio is one of the interpretations of the three French Hens in the 12 Days of Christmas. The Apostle Paul wrote the words, “faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love,” to a church that he had founded in Corinth, Greece. They were struggling personally and within the community. They had eloquence but not much humility. They understood things that were mysteries but kept it to themselves as a secret power. They had great faith in God, but did not love those around them. And they were wonderful at helping the poor but then boasted about it. Paul wanted them to understand that when love is the basis and root of what we do, there is no arrogance or secret knowledge, there is enough love to go around and humility is the way to connect with others and share the hope that they had.

It is the right message to us also. The greatest thing we can learn and share about our Christian life is love. How are you sharing that love in these days? What spiritual disciplines do you have

in place to learn about love...worship? Bible study? Prayer? Share Christian love today in your world.