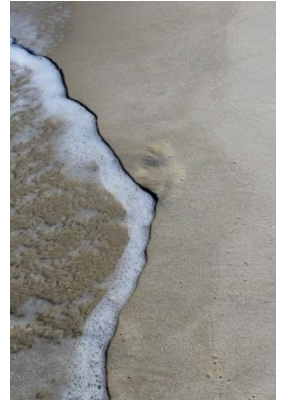


## Footprints Easily Washed Away



The stroll along the Gulf Shore coastline was breathtaking. The cloudless sky is a deep pure blue. Gentle waves gently washed ashore creating a narrow lane of moist sand between the ocean and the deep, white sand. Joggers and walkers chose the moist lane, leaving deep imprints of their footsteps. Seconds later the footprints are smoothed over by the incoming surf. Two waves later and it is as if no one had ever walked there before.



Sometimes we think we make a big splash in life, perhaps earning a hefty salary, or public recognition. Whatever tasks we skillfully accomplish can make a great initial impression – at least for the moment. No matter what we acquire or accomplish, time rushes on. The next wave comes ashore. Material things can be obliterated over time, leaving nothing left. The cliché "You can't take it with you" is an accurate statement.

So what is permanent? It may not seem to be tangible but, if we are lucky, we have all experienced it to some degree: *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13).*

How can we say this? Why will love last? The answer is God is love. *We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19).* Scripture says, *Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16)*

In our earthly lifetime if we share God's love with those around us, we prepare others to receive and, in turn, share God's love. We give access to the hope for God's eternal life, if it is done through faith. The multiplying of God's love becomes a lasting legacy, while the material things are long gone.

The legacy starts with our faith in our God who gives us hope for eternal life. Years from now the house of our dreams will be a vacant field or rebuilt to someone else's taste. Your hard-earned financial fortune may be spent and the business we worked so hard to develop will be forgotten in a changing world. None of these will go with you as you pass from this world.

But, our faith gives us and others hope for a future with the God of love. That is eternal.

**Question:** How can you seek the eternal - faith, hope and love, rather than the material things of this world?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. We sometimes become obsessed with a quest for fame and fortune, things of this world that are short-lived and earthly. Help us to focus more on you as we seek an eternal life with you.