**Pack of Cards the Two of Hearts**

For those who know how to play the card game Bridge, or Whist, you will know that any of the suits (spades, hearts, diamonds or clubs) can be trumps. If hearts are trumps, then the least in the hearts is greater than even the greatest in the other suits.

The two of hearts is greater than the ace of clubs. Clubs represents power. To club one’s way is to force one’s way through. The greater the club one wields, the greater power one is wielding. Thus, the least act of love out performs the most powerful of authorities.

The two of hearts is greater than the ace of spades. Spades represents toil and labour. One uses one’s energy to dig up the ground. The farm labourer uses the spade to control the land. This represents the work we do. Thus the smallest of acts of love from the heart is greater than even a life time of labour, toiling away to live.

The two of hearts is greater than even the ace of diamonds. Diamonds represent wealth and no matter how much wealth we might have, even a humble act of love will out do all the riches of this world.

Why should this be? Well, at one level, whatever we do from love has a reward, a profit, c.f. 1Cor13.3 - if doing it without love does not profit me, then doing it with love will profit me! A profit / reward from heaven in the context of giving one’s life as a sacrifice can only exist in the next life i.e. in eternity. Wealth in heaven will be for eternity. A reward that lasts for an eternity is greater than even the greatest worldly reward that only lasts for a short time.

Let me put it this way; to have three cooked meals a day (each one of a five star quality) for a week and then having absolutely nothing after that (resulting in starvation and death) does not compare with having one plain, simple meal a day for the whole of your life.

Love from the heart outdoes everything else.

God tells us in ICor14.1 that we need to pursue love and earnestly desire spiritual gifts. It is not an either or but a both. It is not spiritual gifts with love tagging along but firstly love and secondly gifts. The gifts need (have to be) worked out in the context of love; of genuine love. We need to chase after love, to actively go after love; to pursue it, to chase it down until we capture it. It is not a matter of sitting back and letting love come our way. The Greek word translated as ‘pursue’ has the concept of putting all ones efforts into going after it. There is the need to make the effort to achieve it.

Bill Hunter 2013