



**Hill Cliffe Study Guide**  
**Sunday 28 Jan 2024**  
**#4 Abounding in Love and Faithfulness**

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

**Please read Exodus 34.5-6; Nehemiah 9.7-33; Acts 3.24-26; 2 Corinth 1.18-22; 2 Timothy 2.13**

*Love (Hebrew, Hesed) – meaning steadfast love / unfailing love / covenant loyalty.*

*Faithfulness (Hebrew, Emet) – being true; true to His word / true to his promises / true to his character*

*Hendiadys – a literary device where 2 words are used together to help define each other. So...*

*God's love is understood by his faithfulness.*

*God's faithfulness is understood by his love.*

*God's love and faithfulness are all about his covenant love & loyalty. God is faithful to those he covenants with - to the bitter end, no matter the cost. He never abandons them.*

*This is what God is like – it's what he's always been like – It's what He will always be like.*

2. How does this help you better understand and appreciate who God is, and what God's like?
3. How does this make you feel about your covenant relationship with God (**John 14.23-27**)?

Sometimes it helps to understand God by way of contrasting God's character with ours...

John Mark Comer, 43-year-old author of *God Has a Name*, writes...

*"When life gets hard, so many of us just bail. When it's no longer easy or fun or novel or beneficial – when things gets difficult or uncomfortable or boring or unpleasant, we just leave. We leave people, places, marriages, friendships. We just cut ties and move on.*

*My generation is a generation raised on instant gratification and disposable everything.*

*God's NOT like that!" God's love is reflected in **1 Corinthians 13.4-8 (note the 'always' and 'never')***

4. How might this understanding of God's abundant love and faithfulness influence how you might relate to God more maturely, and how you might reflect God's character in your life and relationships more authentically?

**Please read again 2 Timothy 2.13**

5. Does this inspire you to be faithless towards God, or to be faithful?

*You might be tempted to think that God isn't faithful to you if bad things happen to you.*

*As we can see from the story of Israel in the OT – bad things happened to them for all kinds of different reasons. However, in ALL these circumstances, like Nehemiah said, God remained faithful to them, active for them and present with them – EVEN when they were unfaithful. The religious equation that God's faithfulness to us = a pleasant and 'blessed' life free from troubles is a misreading of scripture. In fact, Jesus says something quite different...*

**Please read John 16.33, then read Paul's words in Romans 8. 28-31**

6. In the midst of the troubles of your life, as a follower of Jesus - how can you be sure that God's abundant love and faithfulness remains with you?