

# FAITHFULNESS

**“I am sure many of you have had this experience — it’s late at night and you start browsing Netflix looking for something to watch. You scroll through different titles — you even read a few reviews — but you just can’t commit to watching any given movie. Suddenly it’s been 30 minutes and you’re still stuck in Infinite Browsing Mode, so you just give up — you’re too tired to watch anything now, so you cut your losses and fall asleep.**

**I have come to believe that this is the defining characteristic of our generation: Keeping our options open. There's this philosopher, Zygmunt Bauman — he called it “liquid modernity” — we never want to commit to any one identity or place or community... so we remain, like liquid, in a state that can adapt to fit any future shape. Liquid modernity is Infinite Browsing Mode... but for everything in our lives.**

**“Pete Davis”**

**1. Definition of Faithfulness: Steadfast in affection or allegiance, firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty, true to the facts, Loyal.**

**2. Definition of Faithlessness: not true to allegiance or duty, not to be relied upon. Disloyal.**

## The Fruits of Faithlessness

**Self-Love = Loneliness**

**Self-Interest = Shame**

**Self-Preoccupation = Indifference**

**“And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’**

**For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.**

**And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.**

**And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.**

**I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.**



**God is a Faithful Lover**  
**God is a Faithful Warrior**  
**God is a Faithful Gardener**

## **Faithful Lover (v.16, 17,19-23)**

**Isaiah 54:10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.**

## LOVERS ARE

- 1) **Compelled by love not duty**
- 2) **Pursues intimacy/closeness**
- 3) **Singleminded and devoted**
- 4) **Sacrifice themselves- no cost is too high**

# Faithful Warrior (v.17-18)

## WARRIORS ARE

- 1) Disciplined and skilled
- 2) Unwavering in their mission
- 3) Sacrifices life willingly
- 4) Strength creates safety

**Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”**

## GARDENERS ARE

- 1. Hard working to prepare the soil.**
- 2. Diligent to know their plants and their needs.**
- 3. Skillfully/tenderly prunes and protects**
- 4. Proactive as they nourishes and fertilizing their plants**



**John 15 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.**

- 1. Steep yourself in the right love**
- 2. Be a Lover/Gardener/Warrior**
- 3. Yield to the Spirit**

**““It’s like the great stories, Mr. Frodo, the ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger they were, and sometimes you didn’t want to know the end because how could the end be happy? How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad has happened? But in the end, it’s only a passing thing this shadow, even darkness must pass. A new day will come, and when the sun shines, it’ll shine out the clearer.**

**I know now folks in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn't. They kept going because they were holding on to something. That there's some good in this world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for.””**

**Samwise the Brave**