



Love Fights Back

Patrick Johnson

Study Guide



God is love – we sing it, preach it, and powerfully proclaim it, but for some people the question remains: ***‘Does God really love me?’***

The unequivocal answer is an emphatic ‘YES!’ answers Dr Patrick Johnson, a long-serving minister of the Gospel well-versed in Scripture, who has also been on his own faith journey and taken a long, hard look at this vital question for himself.

The question is, ‘What is God really like?’ Do the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 show Him to be an angry, vengeful God, a God to be scared of? Or do they rather portray a God we can run to, a God who longs to protect us and save us . . . a God we can trust?

This question is of crucial significance, and the correct answer to it will have eternal ramifications for your own life.

Extending Love – Trans-European Division

The first key strategic aim of the Trans-European Division is to ‘extend love to the whole person’. Why we may ask, would this ever need to be articulated as a key value, for an organisation thoroughly grounded in the teachings of scripture?

For many and varied reasons, it is sometimes the case that as the teachings of scripture are communicated, error creeps in subtly – not so much as doctrinal error, but at a deeper level, tipping people off balance on the most important matter of all - what God is really like.

“Is it possible”, asks Patrick Johnson, “that as we have communicated and shared the Three Angel’s Message of Revelation 14:6-12, we may have inadvertently, and innocently, tipped our picture of God off balance?”

In this “Love Fights Back” study guide, take a Spirit-filled journey of discovery, with a hope and prayer that a vital message given to first-century Christ-followers, has the same relevance and power for 21st century Christ-followers today, with the overwhelming and liberating message - ‘God is Love’.

Laying the foundation



- 01 | Read 1John 1:1-5. What was the message John says he heard from Jesus? If there is no darkness in God at all, how do you understand and explain many of the violent stories in the Old Testament?
- 02 | Was there a time in your spiritual journey when you were unsure or afraid of God? How did you deal with the fear?
- 03 | Revelation 12:7-9 describes a great controversy context for all that happens here on earth. What do the following texts tell you about Satan's method? Genesis 3:1-10; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11; John 8:44.
- 04 | What has been your impression of the three angels' messages?
- 05 | How often have you shared this teaching with others? What was the result?
- 06 | Do you agree that Adventists ought to read the Bible as a story? Why or why not?
- 07 | How can books like Proverbs be fitted into a storyline?
- 08 | How would you describe the storyline of the Bible? Use the diagram below to insert what you believe are the important parts of the Biblical story.