

There are many who draw near to God, but only in terms of their own agenda. Their lives may have been somewhat entwined with God's, but they have never allowed themselves to actually be joined! They fly around God like some kind of bird or moth, but never establish a firm connection with Him by landing.

The prophet Isaiah commented on such behavior when he wrote:

*The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."*²

Great love, such as shown in through the sacrifice of Christ, has the power to draw us near to God. It can inspire us to pursue intimacy with Him, and to cling to Him with all of our might³. For this there must be agreement between us, for dissimilar materials are not always able to stick together⁴.

We must have a thirst, an enormous desire for God and His Goodness. When David was seeking refuge in the desert, he spoke about this thirst:

*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ... I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.*⁵

We all know how vines twist around anything they can in their effort to climb. The sad thing is that many in the fellowship suffer the same problem; they "circle" around Christ, but they never actually make contact. In our communion we find a time to "join" the vine (which is Christ⁶), and thus have a complete intimate relationship that nourishes us for all time.

When the Teacher referred to our connection to the vine, I also thought about His parable about the soils, and the fact that good soil promotes the growth of deep roots. These roots cling to the soil and become healthy enough to thrive in it, holding fast to it to maintain life⁷.

God intended for our relationship with others, most especially our marriage partner, to help us understand the value of our relationship with Him. In marriage we must hold fast to our husbands or wives⁸. And in our spiritual lives we must have an even stronger bond to God⁹.

1. "Our destinies have been entwined Elizabeth, but never joined." The character James Norrington, in the movie [Pirates of the Caribbean – At World's End](#)
2. Isaiah 29:13; the KJV offers the translation "draw near" rather than "come near", indicating a stronger idea of attraction.
3. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." Romans 12:9
4. Consider the quote from Daniel about the great statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream: "And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay." Daniel 2:43 [remain united: not merged into one entity]
5. Psalm 63:1-3,8
6. John 15:1-8, The Vine and the Branches; especially "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."
7. "... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love ..." Ephesians 3:17; and "... rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Colossians 2:7
8. See Genesis 2:24, quoted in Matthew 19:5; "For this reason a man will leave father and mother and be united to his wife: and the two will be one flesh" and similarly in Mark 10:7.
9. See Deuteronomy 10:20 (worship, serve, honor); Deuteronomy 11:22 (obey, love, follow); Deuteronomy 13:4 (follow, obey, serve); Deuteronomy 30:20 (love, obey, receive life); Joshua 22:5 (obey, love, follow); Acts 11:23 (respond to grace)