



## Entwined

*Therefore, return to your God, observe kindness and justice, and wait for your God continually.*

*Hosea 12:6*

I love a list of things to do. It's so concrete and actionable, it's easily understood, and I can check things off as I complete them. As I read the feature verse above, I automatically picked out the action words in it and formulated a new checklist: Return, observe, wait.

It seems, at first, to be very simple. Return to God, be kind and just, and wait for God. Pretty straightforward prescription for a God-honoring life. But in all my reading and studying of God's word, I have learned that He doesn't give us a list of tasks to complete so that we can, more or less, earn our way into Heaven. So there must be more to it than that. And, of course, there is.

Looking deeper into the original Hebrew words I uncovered a wealth of meaning. The word translated "observe" means *to hedge about, to guard, to protect, to keep*. The word translated "kindness" is my favorite, *chesed*, and it is more than just lovingkindness, it is giving oneself fully in love. The word translated "justice" is referring to divine law. The word "wait" is another of my favorites, the Hebrew word *qavah*, and it means *to bind together by twisting; to collect, expect, gather, patiently tarry*.

When I bring this new understanding into this verse again, I have a sense of the deeper truth in it. After I have returned to my God, I must protect my commitment to Him and His ways. I must guard my heart and mind and live out of a heart fully surrendered to Jehovah God. I must also search out and adopt His laws to govern my daily life. His precepts are God-centered and other-centered. They are absolute truth, unalterable and unavoidable. When this is my heartset towards Creator God, the kindness and justice towards those around me flow out. First upward, then outward.

Lastly, I must be entwined with my Redeemer. This truly spoke to my heart. I typically read "wait on the Lord" and think of sitting still, not acting until He gives leave or acts Himself. But it is more than that. It is being bound together with Him. It is falling so deeply in love with Him that I consistently live in His presence. It's not necessarily waiting for Him to act, it is expecting Him, entwining myself with Him so that He becomes all I see, all I want, all I need.

Oh what God Almighty would do with such a one who is wholly centered and expectantly entwined with Him. Oh that I may fully surrender myself to Him so that I step out of the way and He lives through me.

*Father, we thank You for the truth of Your word. We thank You for the opportunity to search and learn and uncover the pure beauty of You. Help us to fully surrender to You, heart, mind, body, and soul, and allow You to act through us while we are thoroughly entwined with You.*