



GOD'S Message:

Cursed is the strong one
who depends on mere humans,
Who thinks he can make it on muscle alone
and sets GOD aside as dead weight.
He's like a tumbleweed on the prairie,
out of touch with the good earth.
He lives rootless and aimless
in a land where nothing grows.

But blessed is the man who trusts me, GOD,
the woman who sticks with GOD.
They're like trees replanted in Eden,
putting down roots near the rivers—
Never a worry through the hottest of summers,
never dropping a leaf,
Serene and calm through droughts,
bearing fresh fruit every season.
(Jeremiah 17:5–8 MESSAGE)

I am the Vine, you are the branches.
When you're joined with me and I with you,
the relation intimate and organic,
the harvest is sure to be abundant.
Separated, you can't produce a thing."
(John 15:5 MESSAGE)

And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love,
you'll be able to take in with all Christians
the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.
Reach out and experience the breadth!
Test its length!
Plumb the depths!
Rise to the heights!
Live full lives, full in the fullness of God."
(Ephesians 3:17–19 MESSAGE)

Hindrances to a God-Centered Life

- Duty vs. desire
- A fragile and fleeting identity
- A skewed image of God
- Self-focused either positively or negatively
- Disordered attachments/disordered loves
- Distracted with preoccupations, worries, and anxieties