



Left to Cleft to Cleave

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Eternally Speaking Now*

During the past few months, I've been compiling a weekly women's Bible study, centered on Scriptures about rocks and stones. It's been a powerful and fruitful experience.

One of my (many) favorite verses about rocks is this one in Song of Solomon:

**“Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret places of the cliff,
let me see your face, let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”**

Chapter 2, verses 13b-14

Song of Solomon is a literal account of the beautiful, loving relationship between a man and the object of his affection, his wife. It's also, equally, a picture of the beautiful, loving, *spiritual*, relationship—to be literally lived out in our lives—between Jesus and His Bride, the Body of Christ, His believers... *you and me.*

Yes, the Lord is calling you to
rise up,
come away,
let Him see your face and
let Him hear your voice.
*In the secret places of the cliff.
In the clefts of the rock.*

What exactly does that mean?
What is the cleft of the rock?

I searched for that answer and found it.
May this insight deepen and widen your
view of and experience with Jesus, as it did for me.

First, what is the definition of a cleft?

**Cleft = a hollow, a hole, a rift in rocks;
a space or opening made by a splitting;
a place of concealment, retreat, abode of doves, refuge.**

Second, notice how these definitions are for the *noun*, cleft. If a cleft is the result of a cleaving, then what is the meaning of the *verb*, to cleave?

This is where things get intriguing.

The definitions for the verb *to cleave* are similar
in both Webster's Dictionary and in Strong's Bible Concordance.

Here is the exciting part:

**there are TWO opposite meanings
for this ONE verb, to cleave.**

Here are all the definitions from both sources combined.

The verb to cleave, means:

**Cutting or splitting something apart with a sharp instrument;
to divide as if cutting a blow.
To rend, break through, breach, burst,
break forth, tear, cut, shred, strike.**

That sounds harsh, doesn't it? *Brutal*. Even *painful*.
I guess it would take an aggressive act to rip open a rock, right?

But, wait- *to cleave* ALSO means:

**To adhere to closely, loyally, unwaveringly; to cling to.
To follow hard, overtake, stick, keep fast, keep together,
abide, close, join together, pursue, continue in.**

What? How can one word have two drastically opposite definitions?

On the one hand, *to cleave* is to violently rip open,
creating a hole or separation.

On the other hand, *to cleave* is to adhere
so closely together *that there is no* separation.

What does all this mean? How does it apply to our lives?

Here it is-- I hope you catch this:

Jesus is our Rock.

On the cross,

as He took upon Himself the punishment for our sins,

He was *cleft*.

He was split open.

He was rent, torn, broken apart.

It was a violent, brutal death that He willingly endured for us.

He was cut, and His blood burst out, broke forth.

That's what our sin caused.

Yet, in His splitting,

in His tearing,

in His shed blood,

we find **refuge**.

We are **hidden**.

He is our **safe place**.

We now **faithfully adhere** to Him and

unwaveringly cling to Him,

so **tightly linked together**,

that nothing can separate us.

**"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor height nor depth,
nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Romans 8:38-39

We hide ourselves in our Rock, Jesus, who was *cleft for us*.

The old hymn, "Rock of Ages" comes to mind.

Here are the lyrics of the first verse:

**"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save me from its guilt and power."**

Amen.

CHALLENGE

In the midst of studying this topic, I was reminded of the verse in Genesis about **leaving, cleaving, and marriage**.

**"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones,
and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.**

**Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother,
and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."**

Genesis 2:23-24

Jesus Himself echoes this in Matthew 19:4-6.

And He answered and said to them,
“Have you not read that
He who made them at the beginning
‘made them male and female,’ and said,
‘For this reason a man shall
leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh’?
So then, they are no longer two but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together,
let not man separate.”

This principle of **leaving and cleaving** has two applications, one physical and the other spiritual.

The way we live this truth on a physical, earthly level is apparent:

Regarding marriage,
the son **leaves** his parents
and **cleaves** to his wife.
He **leaves** his old life
and embraces the new.

I used to think the spiritual application of these verses had to do with us leaving the world behind and clinging to Jesus. While that is a very clear calling for all Christians, written on almost every page of the Bible, I realize now that I had things flipped backwards with these specific verses.

If these verses are instructions about literal marriage (which they are), then the spiritual application needs to be parallel to that instruction, correct? Therefore I propose they guide us in the following way-
- please don't miss this:

Regarding our relationship with God,
the Son (Jesus, the Son of God, Messiah, our Bridegroom)
left His 'parent' (the Heavenly Father),
so that **He may now cleave to us** (His Bride).

This changes everything.

Yes, on the Cross, Jesus was cleft so that we may cleave to Him.
But He first **left** heaven **so that He may cleave to us**.
Our relationship with the Lord is not one-sided.

Does that mean we too must be cleft,
that Jesus may boundlessly cleave to us?
I believe so.
How?

Break away and split apart from the world's ways.
Radically sever all ties with the lies of the enemy.
Determine to violently strike down sin and temptation!
Cut off and separate from the lust of the flesh,
creating a hole,
a space,
a cleft that only Jesus can fill.
Leave the old sin nature, and
embrace new life in Christ.

Let Him **follow hard** after you, **overtake** you, and **keep** you.
And then do the same for Him.

What God has joined together, let not man separate.

So I say,

*Rise up, beloved bride of God!
Come away with Him!*

*Leave the worldly stuff behind,
crawl up into Jesus' side,
cleave to Him,
and let Him cleave to you.*

*Let Him see your face and hear your voice,
for He says to you,
"Your voice is sweet and your face is lovely."*

Find refuge, safety, and salvation in the cleft of the Rock.

All praise and glory be unto Jesus Christ our Lord!

**He left to be cleft that we may cleave.
Now we leave and are cleft that He may cleave.**

The link below is a short sermon a friend sent me. It goes wonderfully with this teaching. I can honestly say it's one of the top ten most memorable and impacting messages I've heard. That says a lot. I hope you watch it.

**Eric Ludy: The Position of Victory. Scroll Down
and Watch Part 1, "Getting Inside"**



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