



“My soul **followeth hard after Thee**: Thy right hand upholdeth me” (Psalm 63:8). Blood-bought children of God desire to follow the LORD fully (1 Kings 11:6; John 10:27), so a verse about following hard after God is of great interest. The Hebrew verb “followeth hard after” [*dabaq*] means to cling, to cleave, to keep close. It is used of a man being joined to his wife (Gen. 2:24). It is used of a belt clinging to one’s waist (Jer. 13:11) and of a tongue stuck to the roof of the mouth when one is intensely thirsty (Lam. 4:4). The same verb is used of the great sea dinosaur Leviathan whose scales are tightly joined together (Job 41:17) and of a disease clinging to a person (Deut. 28:21). It describes a soldier whose hand is clinging tightly to his sword (2 Sam. 23:10). It is used of Ruth who was clinging to her mother-in-law, attaching herself to Naomi and to Naomi’s God. It is used to describe King Jehoram who did some good things, but who still clung to the idolatrous sins of Jeroboam.

If we were to use the word in a modern context, we might think of those today who **cling** to their smart phones. Also, if you were walking in the pitch-black woods without a flashlight, you would want to cling to the person in front of you. The LORD wants us to cling to Himself, and to follow Him with unquestioned loyalty and affection (Deut. 11:22-23; 13:4; Josh. 23:8).

King Hezekiah was a man who followed hard after God: “For he **clave** (clung) to the LORD, and departed not from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses” (2 Kings 18:6). “Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou **cleave**” (Deut. 10:20).

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