## APPROACHING GOD

## Wrestling with God

If you've never run away from God, I wonder who your God is?

Paul Tillich

Those who believe they believe in God, but without passion in the heart, without anguish of the mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, or even, at times, without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself.

Miguel Unanumo

Can you revisit your "struggles" with God?

Can you look at them now in a different light, engage with them without so much fear or anxiety, with more acceptance?

Can you stay with the realization that at heart you resist God?

Instead of using this as a weapon to pout yourself down, can you live with who you are/ who God is more gently, more openly, more generously?

Kevin Hart, the Australian poet, ends one of his poems with the line: "I come to wound you and to heal the wound". Being vulnerable is about the way we carry our wounds (vulnus is the Latin for wound).

When Jesus said that the "poor in spirit" are blessed, he was saying that the place of our vulnerability, our wounds, our incompleteness and utter dependence as human beings, our "not-knowing", is in fact the place of grace, our treasure.

This is not easy for us: it calls out from us patience, living in the present moment, and discovering that "The meaning is in the waiting".

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

Contact: juliancentre@gmail.com