

וַיִּבְטְחוּ בְּךָ יוֹדְעֵי שְׁמֶךָ כִּי לֹא עֲזַבְתָּ דֹרְשֶׁיךָ ה'

And they will trust in You, those who know Your name, for you have not forsaken those who seek you, Hashem.

(Tehilim 9:11)

There is a common saying, “It's not what you know, it's who you know.” If you want a chance to really make it in life, you need to know the right people, those that can take you places. If we begin to know Hashem, we have the opportunity to get ahead in ways we could never imagine. The first step is to know His name, i.e. His essence. We can never fully grasp His essence, but we can rely on what the Chazal has passed down to us as a start.

There are two aspects we can focus on to strengthen our trust in Him. Firstly, we say in *Shmoneh Esrei*, הטוב שמך, “The One Who does good is Your name.” So we see that Hashem’s name refers to His compassion and his desire to bestow His good on us. The *Chovos Halevovos* spells out how this compassion applies to us in his *Shaar Habitachon*: Hashem loves us and wants things to be good for us. We say in Davening, at Maariv, אוהב עמו ישראל, “He loves His nation Yisroel.” Since that doesn't exclude anyone, that love must be unconditional, like a father loves his child. A child who isn't deserving will still ask his father for a candy because he knows how much his father loves him and wants him to be happy. So too, we can rely on Hashem's love for us to achieve our hearts desires and to save us in perilous situations. The *Sefer Ha'ikarim* says in no uncertain terms that Hashem wants to give us our hearts desires, it's just that our own doubts weaken our trust in Him, and so we prevent ourselves from receiving His kindness.

The second aspect of the name Hashem, refers to him as the אדון הכל, the Master of All. That means that everything is in Hashem’s hands. That being the case, if He is running the show anyway, then He can do anything He desires, even if it doesn’t conform to the normal way, known as nature. If we don’t see a solution to a difficulty, Hashem can do whatever it takes to answer us in the time of need.

Now that we know Him, recognizing the mercy and power that His name represents, we can put our trust in Him, knowing that He will not let us down.

It's not what you know. It's Who you know.

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