

The kingdom was in an uproar. Not because three people had been caught the previous night engaged in capital crimes — that was a common occurrence — rather, it was the fact that one of the perpetrators was the king’s own son. Later that day, they were all to be brought before the king who, alone, would determine their fate. As the three waited in the king’s antechamber, the king’s son turned to his fellow perpetrators and asked: “Why are you guys so down? Look at me, I’m facing the same fate as you and I’m not worried at all, in fact I am sure the king will forgive me.” “Of course,” they responded, “That’s because you’re the king’s beloved son, but we are just commoners with no reason to assume we will be spared from the full penalty for our crime.” Whereupon the king’s son responded, “If it was the fact that I am the king’s son that makes me sure of the king’s forgiveness, then you’d be correct to distinguish between yourselves and I, however, my relation to the king is not the reason I am positive he will have mercy upon me. What really makes me sure is my knowledge of his nature. I know that if you throw yourself at his feet and trust completely in his kindness, no matter who you are, he will never let you down. Therefore, since in regards to the greatest reason for my confidence—greater than the fact that I’m the king’s son—we are equal, there is no reason why you shouldn’t be as confident as I am in the king’s mercy.

Sometimes, when facing hard times, we think: I know Hashem runs the world, but what do I have going in my favor already? If I was a big *tzadik* or *talmid chochom* then I wouldn’t be worried, but I am but a simple Jew. However, when we hear the reason why Dovid HaMelech, despite all the merits he had, was sure of Hashem’s salvation, we are comforted by his words: ***There are those who rely on their good deeds and there are those who rely on the deeds of their ancestors. However, I, trust in you even if I don’t have good deeds, rather, solely because I have called out to You, answer me!*** (*Medrash Socher Tov Tehillim 141*)

We must always keep in mind, at whatever spiritual level we may be, that we still possess the ability to secure for ourselves a better reason to be sure of Hashem’s salvation than even possessing the merit of all the Torah and mitzvos of the greatest king of *Klal Yisroel*, Dovid HaMelech, and that is: ***I trust in you even if I don’t have good deeds, rather, solely because I have called out to You, answer me!***

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