

Pursuit of Purpose

INSPIRING A LIFE OF MEANING AND CONNECTION

פרשת
תזריע-מצורע

VOL 121

Developing Hope In Hashem

Based on the weekly Shmuess given by HaRav Shaya Cohen, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Zichron Aryeh

לעילוי נשמת גיטל בת הרב אליעזר מנוח | הרב יוסף חיים בן מאיר | רפאל חיים דוב בן-ציון שלום | ר' ברוך בן ר' יהודה | שרה בת ר' יחזקאל | ראובן יוסף בן יהושע | דב בעריש בן פסח צבי
לרפואה שלמה יוסף בן מלכה מטל | יעקב אליעזר בן חנה נשא

The Medrash Rabbah in Parshas Vayechi says, “Rebbi Yitzchak says everything is dependent on hope.” The Eitz Yosef explains this Medrash, “As if to say, that even if a person is not worthy, he merits all of the gifts in the merit of hope. Like it is explained, in the merit of Emunah and Bitachon.” The Chofetz Chaim echoes the words of this Medrash in his commentary on the Torah (Devarim 30:3). He writes, “Every person should wait for Mashiach every day, because Hashem’s salvation will come in the blink of an eye. This is what we say in Shemoneh Esrei, ‘Because for your salvation we wait every day.’ The Seforim write that this is not only referring to the final redemption, rather it also refers to a prayer that every type of suffering should not come upon a person, and a person needs to wait for Hashem’s salvation...this helps to be saved. Hashem should merit us to be part of those constantly hoping in Hashem’s salvation, and in this merit we should merit the true salvation immediately in our days.”

It is clear from the above that the power of hoping in Hashem is the secret to getting everything we want. It is therefore critical that we gain a better understanding of the dynamics of how this hope works. We can use the famous Mechilta found in the Haggadah to help us gain a deeper insight into the workings of our hearts, which can then be used to understand the dynamics of hope.

The Haggadah states, “If Hashem did not take out our fathers from Mitzrayim, we, our children, and our grandchildren would still be enslaved to Pharaoh in Mitzrayim.” This statement is perplexing, as it implies that for us to feel fully free from Pharaoh, Hashem had to be the One that freed our fathers. Meaning, if our fathers’ freedom would have been caused by the collapse of Mitzrayim, or by our escape, we would still feel

like slaves on some level. This is mind boggling. Why should the nature of how our fathers were freed impact our feelings of servitude to Pharaoh, either way we have been free for generations? We can learn from here a fascinating insight into human psychology. If Hashem did not free Klal Yisrael and communicate to them that they are free men, no longer under Pharaoh’s control, they would still view themselves, to some slight extent, as slaves. This would have created an identity that would be transmitted to all generations. Only through Hashem signing their document of freedom, so to speak, were they able to totally disconnect from this identity and fully serve Hashem. We see from here that the heart is so delicate that any remnants of servitude, despite a person having total free will, negatively impacts his Avodas Hashem. Only a heart that is totally pure can serve Hashem properly.

We can extrapolate from here that hope works the same way. If there is any feeling of giving up, even if this feeling is faint and indiscernible it can impact our feeling of hope, as the heart has to be so pure and totally engaged without any deficiencies. It is therefore incumbent upon us, as hope is the key to everything, to work on ensuring that our hearts are full of hope in Hashem’s salvation.

One simple piece of advice that a person can use to achieve full hope in Hashem is to focus and reflect on these words when saying in Shemoneh Esrei, “The One who is good, because His compassion never runs out. The One who is compassionate, because His kindness never ceases. We will always put our hope in Him.” This statement is telling us the key to developing hope in Hashem. Focusing on Hashem’s continued compassion and kindness will result in a person being able to put his hope in Hashem.



Shir HaShirim Insights

In loving memory of Mr. Marvin Halpern

The pain and longing in her eyes could not be witnessed through dry eyes. People would avoid passing their house just to avoid the dreadful scene of the wife sitting by the window with tears in her eyes hoping longingly for her lost husband's return. Many years had already passed but her tearful face never left the window. Maybe - just maybe - today he would come and the constant, torturous loneliness would come to an end. She imagined the scene in her mind each day. Suddenly, she thinks she sees a familiar face from afar. She holds her breath scared to believe it's finally happened. She runs outside and it's true! It's him! Life can begin! But that day never arrived and the only thing that kept her alive was the thought that one day, one day it would!

Who can hold back a tear at the thought?!

Yet Eliyahu HaNavi swears to us: "The heavens and earth are my witnesses that Hashem sits and awaits longingly for Klal Yisroel, more than a father waits for his son, and a wife for her husband, for them to do Teshuva in order that He may redeem them and rebuild for them the Beis Hamikdash which will never be destroyed." (*Tana D'Bei Eliyahu Rabah 31*)

(Hashem says to Klal Yisroel - *Metzudos*) **Turn back, turn back, O maid of Shulem! Turn back, turn back, that we may gaze upon you.** (*Shir HaShirim 7:1*)

Let's imagine His pain! By doing so before we Daven each day it will help us realize the monumental meeting that's about to take place! He's waiting for you!



ELIEZER INSTITUTE **Emunah Highlights**

A Westwood Realty Initiative

"Dad," said the son with desperation in his voice, "life is so complicated. I'm worried how will I succeed in business, raising my family, my health, and most importantly in the spiritual aspects of my life so that I eventually have true success forever in Olam Haba? You've taught me so many ways to succeed in each and every area but it's very hard to work on so many different things. Is there any way you could give me one focused thing I can work on in my life that alone will ensure my success in all of the above areas that will take care of me in this world, and the next world, ensuring my success in all areas forever?"

How lucky we are! Our "Dad" did give us one way! As Chazal tell us:

For Your salvation I await, Hashem! (*Bereishis 49:18*)
Rav Yitzchok said: Everything is attained through Kivuy (awaiting)! [This means that even if one isn't worthy, he merits all the gifts in the merit of Kivuy which means Emunah and Bitachon - Eitz Yosef in the name of Nezer HaKodesh.] ***Afflictions are removed through Kivuy! Kiddush Hashem is through Kivuy! Zechus Avos is through Kivuy! Olam Haba is through Kivuy!*** (*Bereishis Raba ibid*)