

# BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת שלח תשפ"ד

## Outcomes Are Not Determined by Physical Ability, The Main Factor Is Spiritual Purity

*Rabeinu B'chayei* says that the world was created *B'derech HaTevah*, and it's normal and proper to go to work, to a doctor, and to elect spies before going to war. But *Hishtadlus* carries the danger of: אָרוּר הַגִּבֹּר אֲשֶׁר יִבְטַח אָרוּר הַגִּבֹּר אֲשֶׁר יִבְטַח the curse that comes from having Bitachon in a human. Notice how *Kalev* and *Yehoshua* said: קָרַע צִלְמָם their shade has slipped away, which means that their *Tzaddik, Iyov*, who was their: צִלְמָם shade and protection, was *Niftar*.

*Kalev* and *Yehoshua* were interested only in the *Ruchaniyus* of the situation; not in who is physically stronger. They also said: יָכוֹל נוֹכַל לָהּ יָגִיל we will surely succeed, i.e., we are capable. They were unafraid and told everyone: אַל תִּירְאוּם do not fear them. People who are fearless have *Bitachon*, and in wartime those who had fear had to go back home, because it was a sign of sinning.

*Kalev* and *Yehoshua* didn't have *Bitachon* in *Hishtadlus*, and who is stronger or weaker meant nothing to them. They were: בְּרוּךְ הַגִּבֹּר אֲשֶׁר יִבְטַח בְּה' יִרְמִיָּהוּ ז"ל people who receive a Bracha because of their Bitachon in Hashem, and they were both *Zoche* to *Bracha* and long life, etc. in contrast to the *Meraglim* who were involved in *Gashmiyus* and *Teva*, who got *K'lalos, Rachmana Litzlan*, and they even lost their *Olam HaBah*.

The question arises: Why did *Yehoshua* again send spies [*Kalev* and *Pinchos*] later. Notice that all *Kalev* and *Pinchos* heard from *Rachav HaZonah* was that the 31 *Canaani* kings were frightened, a sign of: יָרָא מַעֲבִירוֹת שְׂבָיִדוּ fear that comes from spiritual weakness. That "spy story" was entirely *Ruchaniyus*.

### When You Are Not Impressed by Humans, They Are to You Just Like Food

The *Mashgiach* R' Yerucham Levovitz *Zatzal* points out on the passuk כִּי לַחֲמוֹנוֹ how by *Kalev* and *Yehoshua*, human beings were just like mere food that we can eat up! This explains why: וַיְהִי כְּלָב וַיְהִי כְּלָב וַיְהִי כְּלָב *Kalev* hushed the nation; he

was capable of quieting down an entire belligerent nation singlehandedly, since in his eyes people didn't really count. They could be just like mere bread and can be eaten up! When *Kalev* went alone to be *Mispalel* by the *Avos*, he was looking to escape the pressures of humans; in his case it was a *Minyan* of *Gedolei Torah* who were a bad influence on him.

So, he went to the *Avos* in order that he could become part of **their** group! The *Avos* all stood up against the

### BECOME GREAT IN BEING SAMEACH B'CHELKO

The *Torah* says that all the *Meraglim* were: אֲנָשִׁים Anashim, which means distinguished men. When a person becomes distinguished, he is happy about his accomplishments and the recognition that he gets. He should remember though, that along with this comes a distinguished *Yetzer Hara*. *RSRH Zatzal* says that the *Meraglim* were prominent and popular. Everybody wants to be well-liked and popular. Remember, they all lost their *Olam HaBah*, and according to the *Magen Avraham* this is despite their doing *Teshuva*!

Every *Yid* should want to become great. **However, it's worth more becoming great in being Sameach B'chelko.** The truth about learning "*Shas*" and being *Osek* in "*Tzeddakos*" and in "*Dikduk HaMitzvos*" is that it makes you a better person, and hopefully a *Sameach B'chelko*. If it doesn't, then you must spend much more time on *Mussar* like *Shaar HaBitachon*

We can also suggest that: וַיְמַלֵּא אֶחָדֵינוּ He was "fully" after Me, is a *Remez* of the general *Derech* of *Kalev*; that he was always a: מְלֵא full type and a *Sameach B'chelko* to the extreme. And this is why he was *Zoche* to pass such a difficult *Nisayon*, that even such great *Tzaddikim* [i.e. the *Meraglim*] were not able to withstand

entire world, and stood for *Kalev* as a symbol of true *Emuna* and *Bitachon*; i.e. when you feel only Hashem, and humans are all baloney. **When a person is *Mispalel* by *Kivrei Tzaddikim*, he should beg Hashem that he himself should become like the *Tzaddik* whose *Kever* he is visiting.**

### We Can All Connect with The Avos

A person should constantly give himself a lofty “shtempel” [“The best in Lakewood”] and it can save you from great *Nisyonos* like the *Meraglim*. *Kalev* was also involved in thinking big when he went to *Kivrei Avraham*, *Yitzchok*, and *Yaakov*. “I’m one of them!”

*Kalev* and *Yehoshua* had to fight “public opinion”, and the only way to do this is to realize “their” foolishness and “your” superiority. We can all connect with the *Avos*. In fact, *Chazal* say: חַיִּיב אָדָם לומר מְתִי יִגְיעוּ מַעֲשֵׂי לְמַעֲשֵׂה אֲבוֹתַי. A person is expected to ask himself: When will my deeds reach the lofty heights of the *Avos*? The *Novardokers* were very involved in previous *Doros*, almost as if they actually knew those people.

So, when *Kalev* feels as if *Avraham Avinu* is right next to him, his *Nisayon* isn’t so great. *Avraham* was called “the *Ivri*” since the whole world was on one side, and he was “*Ever*”, i.e., on the other side, and he went against them. So did *Kalev* go against the *Meraglim*, and he learned from *Avraham Avinu* not to *Chap Hispa’alus* from the multitudes.

*Kalev* didn’t have *Moshe* like *Yehoshua* did, and that’s a big *Ma’ala*. When you have only Hashem, you actually come out on top; and only *Kalev* was called: וְעַבְדִּי קָלֵב My servant, *Kalev* by Hashem. Pulling yourself away from the populous and preferring Hashem is a phenomenal *Zechus*; Hashem appreciates it and rewards for it.

## Novardok

They say that the *Hanahala* of *Yeshivas Bais Yosef* in *Bialystok* spent loads of time making sure that when they gave out the *Aliyos* to the *Torah*, they were done with lots of respect for their *Talmidim*. Here we have the same *Shita* that makes such ridicule of *Kavod*, and at the same time they were so ultra-careful not to hurt the *Kavod* of others.

I once met an 85-year-old *Novardoker*. He was a prominent *Rav* and *Talmid Chochom*, and he learned literally 12-15 hours a day virtually nonstop. Yet, he had his daily pack of 10 freeze-pops that he enjoyed while he learned. A person has to realize what he needs; and a *Hanhaga* conduct like this was 100% permitted and even encouraged, depending on the situation.

R’ *Henoch Leibowitz Zatzal* told me that every person has to do “his thing” that’s needed for his situation. Like R’ *Chaim Ozer Grozovsky Zatzal* who was full of humor, and similarly, I heard that *Rav Hutner Zatzal* was full of humor. Sometimes the difficult *Nisyonos* in your life compel a person to be this way “for survival”.

*Novardok* put lots of *Kochos* in understanding each individual’s needs, and every six months they reassessed the situation and adjusted it when needed. The way you learn, how much you learn, how much *Torah*, *Mussar*, *Tzedaka*, *Zikkui HaRabbim*, and *Dikduk HaMitzvos*; each person needs to be monitored, or else he may be hurting his individual needs, and his growth can be stunted.

Or else, you’re busy “imitating” [which can be “suicide”] or trying to fit into a “box”, which can hurt you more than it helps you. Yet, often a “box” and being similar to the people around you can be just perfect; this teaches a person a most important and desirable trait, i.e., of being *Mach’nia* to the system. There are no rules. You always need a *Rebbe* [who understands you] to guide you with Hashem’s help.

I know a person who was criticized overtime in his younger years, and his head is always spinning with reminders of how he’s no good. I suggested for him to write down all these negative thoughts about himself, and to laugh at them, since it’s ridiculous to consider yourself a total zero. This has helped him to stop taking his *Chesronos* seriously, and he is encouraged to go to the other extreme [“I am the epitome of perfection!”] since this is the *Rambam’s* recipe for *Shviras HaMiddos*. He loads himself with only positivism, including plenty of positive lies, and he has become a happy and productive person. This *Derech* is true *Daas Torah*.