

# BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת האזינו-סוכות תשפ"ו

## We Work on Bitachon, It Is as If We Make Hashem Stronger

The Pasuk says צור ילדך תשי Hashem is so strong [like a strong rock], but through our *Aveiros*, we made Him weak. If a person does not have *Bitachon* in Hashem, it is as if he makes Hashem weak.

Hashem is endlessly strong, and is ready to do wonders and miracles for us; but He awaits our *Bitachon*. The more we work on *Bitachon*, it becomes as if we make Hashem stronger. [Human mentality is similar; when you have confidence in someone, the more they are empowered and can do more for you].

### Hashem Is Our Loving Father

The *Passuk* says: How can you forget Hashem is your father? The *Torah* doesn't just remind us that Hashem is our father.

It **asks** us: *Don't you realize this?* Are you O.K? Are you "with it"? We are expected to *chap* grasp this reality.

I know a *Tzaddik* who worked on this concept all his life. He really felt that Hashem was his beloved father, so much so that he felt comfortable being alone with Hashem; Hashem was his company and his friend.

This person had a life full of fascinating miracles, and he withstood the most unbelievable *Nisyonos* during the Holocaust; all with *Simcha*, *Bitachon*, and without any fear, since he really felt that Hashem was his loving father.

## חג הסוכות

### The More a Person Has Bitachon, The More Hashem Helps Him

All the *Meforshim* say that the *Yom Tov* of *Sukkos* represents *Bitachon*. We leave our strong protective homes for a shaky *Sukkah*, in order to be under Hashem's protection [*S'chach*].

*S'chach* means to have more shade [צל] than sun. *Chazal* say: ה' צלך Hashem is [like] your shadow. If you give it a finger, the shadow gives you back a finger. If you give it a full hand, it gives you back a full hand. The more a person has *Bitachon*, the more Hashem helps him.

### Make A Joke Out of Your Problems, And with Time You'll Grow in Bitachon and Simcha

Several children, older and younger, have called me up complaining that their father/mother yells at them, and they can get inappropriately vicious; like: "I hate you", and: "I wish you would leave my house". I told them to laugh off all the yelling (internally) and keep saying to yourself: "I love all that yelling". "Keep it up and yell some more; it's good for your lungs!"

Don't verbalize this, but in your mind keep pumping yourself with all this *Leitzanus*. Make a joke of it, and with time you'll grow in *Bitachon* and *Menucha* and in not-being sensitive. *Ashreichem!* This piece of advice gave them tremendous *Simcha*.

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A 20-year-old girl from Argentina was extremely depressed and angry and without hope since all her friends were married and she was going nowhere and from bad to worse. I told the parents to stop discussing *Shiduchim* with her, and instead of arguing and getting upset at each other, they should shower her with only love and warmth.

And they should also picture a beautiful big *Chasuna*. Right away, they got to work. They got a video camera, and they got ideas about a beautiful and big *Chasuna*. Both parents were heavily involved in their positive imaginations. The road wasn't easy; indeed, there were plenty of "bumps" and disappointments. But they were: ה'עקשן יצליח (the stubborn will be *Matzliach*) and continued with their imaginations.

After a full year the girl became a *Kalla*, and she had an unusually big *Chasuna*, just like the parents were always imagining. The girl is a new person!

We devote time to make a *Sukkah* and buy the *Arba Minim*. If we invest time for erasing our worries and fears by learning and talking about *Bitachon*, our *Yom Tov* will be complete.

The main part and the *Neshama* of the entire *Yom Tov* is *Bitachon*. That's why it is *Zman Simchaseinu*, since the real and best *Simcha* comes from working on *Bitachon* in Hashem. The *Gr"a* said that the hardest *Mitzva* of *Sukkos* is not to have any worries at all throughout the *Yom Tov*. Whether you "feel it" or not is irrelevant; just working on it already gives the utmost reward.

A woman was told by doctors that her husband was terminally ill, and it was impossible to save him. Rav Elyashiv *Zatzal* ruled that she may not take a plane to the US on Shabbos, since it's hopeless. But the woman came back again and told Rav Elyashiv that one day she wants to be able to tell her children that she had tried everything she could to save her husband. So, Rav Elyashiv told her to get on a plane to America immediately, although it was Shabbos. They flew to America, and the doctor's saved her husband's life.

Later, they asked Rav Chaim Kanievsky *Shlita* why Rav Elyashiv changed his mind. He replied that the first time he thought he was speaking to an ordinary woman, and it's forbidden to be *M'chalel Shabbos* when there's no hope anyway. But the second time she came, he realized he was dealing with a real *Ba'al Bitachon*, who doesn't give up hope. We see from this that a *Baal Bitachon* has different Halachos than regular people.

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## שמחת תורה

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### Our Main Request from Hashem Should Be to Have a *Geshmak* in Learning

On *Rosh Hashanah* we dip the apple in honey and say: שְׁתַּחֲדֵשׁ עָלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה Hashem please grant us a sweet new year. [We continue dipping *Challah* in honey throughout all the Days of *Din*]. What does "sweet" mean? Lots of money? A new house and many friends? Good health? None of the above are known to be called "sweet". Even doing *Mitzvos* are usually not called "sweet".

The one thing that is known as being sweet is **learning Torah**! In fact, we say every day in *Birchos HaTorah*: וְהַעֲרֵב נָא Make it sweet! And the *Passuk* says: וּמְתוּקִים מִדְּבַשׁ תִּהְיוּ יָאֵי Torah is sweeter than honey.

So the next time you dip the *Challah* in honey, remember it's a *Siman* for a year of *Geshmak* in learning! Besides dipping in honey, we also say in these days of *Din* and *Rachamim*: לְדוֹד ה' אֹרִי. And what does *Dovid* say in this prayer? אַחַת שְׁאֵלָתִי מֵאֵת ה' שְׁבִתִּי בְּבֵית ה' He has but **one** request: Learning *Torah*. Why? לְחַזֵּק בְּנוֹעָם ה' to see the **sweetness** of Hashem, by learning *Torah*!

We have a major message from all this! A person should have one request from Hashem [or at least his major request] *Geshmak* in learning!

R' Gershon is an American *Rosh Yeshiva* who is very successful. He is known to be a big *Masmid* [besides being a massive *Talmid Chochom* and a big *Anav*].

I once sat in his office, and we had a talk together. He told me one fascinating *Bitachon* story after another. And guess what he does to make money for his *Yeshiva*? Nothing [or next to nothing]. He just sits and learns, and the money comes **to him**.

I asked him about his secrets. This much he told me: He davens every day especially for having a *Geshmak* in learning!

Perhaps we can say this is the reason why we end the Days of *Din* and *Rachamim* with *Simchas Torah*. The *Ikar* of everything is *Simcha* in learning *Torah*, and all the *Brachos* in the world come to a person who learns *Geshmak*!