

# HASHGACHA PRATIS

Inspirational messages and contemporary stories of hashgacha  
From the Hashgacha Pratis Hotline



Parshiyos Vayishlach - Vayeishev 5781 ■ Issue 54

## HEART TO HEART

Based on shiurim in  
Duties of the Heart, Shaar Bitachon, given on the Hotline

### The Best Possible Chinuch

Har Tzion is the most sought-after place in the world. Every country lays claim to it. Although it's been the site of battles and raging controversy for millenia, it remains solid as ever. The passuk in Tehillim describes it as follows: "The mountain of Tzion **will not collapse**...Yerushalayim is surrounded by mountains, and Hashem surrounds His nation, from now until forever!"(125) We see the realization of this prophecy today, as the neighborhood of Meah Shearim is filled with frum Jews peacefully going about their day, while minutes away live thousands of Arabs who would love to destroy them...

This is Dovid Hamelech's metaphor for someone who has bitachon. "Those who trust in Hashem, are **as the mountain of Tzion**." If you have bitachon, you are as solid as Har Tzion. Even if you're not up to par in other areas of avodas Hashem, your bitachon guarantees you this promise. You live a happy, relaxed life, confident that Hashem will only bring good things your way.

Rabbeinu Bechaya tells us that the mitzvah of bitachon includes our relationships with others, especially our children. We should trust that Hashem will give us the abilities and resources to help them properly. Our intentions should be for their best, to guide them to do good. He describes chinuch as the effort to lead others to success in Torah and avodas Hashem. This is a fulfillment of the mitzvah ואהבת לרעך כמוך!

Think about it – if someone at home doesn't behave the way you want, by responding with bitachon you have

gained this mitzvah. It is also excellent chinuch for our children to see us responding to their misbehavior with faith!

Chanukah is upon us, and in many homes the children will be off from school. What does a parent do when one child wants to do one thing, but his brother wants something else, and his sister has her own ideas? These are not easy days!

Lighting the menorah can present a new set of challenges. Everyone wants to see how Abba lights, and by accident the table gets bumped. The oil spills, or maybe even a glass cup falls and shatters... And if it's not Tatty who misjudged how much oil to pour in, but Yankel, it's even harder. "I knew he was too young to light with oil!" immediately comes to mind.

With emunah and bitachon, we can weather all these scenarios. It's all from Hashem, and there's no reason to get upset! If there's a mess, clean it up, but with an atmosphere of joy and calm. And what a wonderful chinuch opportunity this is for our children!

Chanukah is an opportunity to implement the Chovos Halevavos' definition for chinuch – to lead our children along the path of Torah and avodas Hashem through bitachon, thus performing the additional mitzvah of loving your fellow. When we light candles on Chanukah, we want the very best, "*mehadrin min ha'mehadrin*"! May we merit to light up our lives with emunah and bitachon, and enjoy the beautiful days of Chanukah.

(From Shiur 125)

The shiur is aired on Mon. and Thurs. - menu 4 (Yiddish and Hebrew)

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Brand new bathtub cracked... I didn't Get Upset

"I got into the habit of listening to the hashgacha pratis line," a Yid told me, "and it has made such an impression on me! A week after we completed our renovations, the brand-new bathtub cracked. My first thought was that it's all for the best! I didn't get upset at all, and I know that this is in the merit of the hashgacha pratis line."

Another example: A man from America related how he was at a *tisch* and left his prized spot on the bleachers for a moment. When he came back, someone had taken it. "I didn't get upset," he reported happily. "I knew that Hashem caused this to happen – for my best." Afterwards the man realized what had happened, and he apologized, but it wasn't even necessary.

It's amazing what working on emunah and bitachon can do for a person! Your life can be full of tranquility and joy. It's the best life that exists!

The navi Chavakuk summed up the whole Torah in one line: צדיק באמונתו יחיה. With emunah, you *really* live. So many people have spared themselves stress, fights, and worries by strengthening their bitachon. Instead, they enjoy a bounty of blessing in every area of their lives!

Today many people face challenges. They wonder why Hashem hides His face from them.

The Beis Halevi predicted this in his time. In Parshas Bo, he writes that the second Beis Hamikdash was destroyed because of *Cheit Ha'meraglim*, which stemmed from a lack of emunah. Therefore, before Moshiach comes, the denial of emunah will be widespread, and our nisayon will be to hold on to our trust in Hashem. This will be the *tikkun* for *Cheit Ha'meraglim*. The Beis Halevi concludes that "whoever remains with his emunah intact will merit the geulah!"

Hashem created two opposing forces – the darkness of *kefirah* battles the light of emunah. Thousands of people have strengthened their emunah through Kav Hashgacha Pratis. It is a gift from Hashem in these trying times, to help us get to Moshiach.

Good Shabbos, Pinchas Shefer

You can also join the many Jews who have changed their lives, by calling:

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• Kav Hashgacha Pratis for women  
(Yiddish and Hebrew) - Menu 4

# THE HAND OF HASHEM

Amazing stories of hashgacha pratis, as told on the hotline

## Who's the Boss?

Reb Boruch Eliezer Gross is a successful proprietor and businessman. This is his story:

Everything – *everything* – is with hashgacha pratis! I can try and do whatever I want, but only Hashem decides if the deal will work out or not. 35 years ago, they found a library of Yiddish books in some Polish town. The mayor sent them to Israel, where they sold them in a public auction. I went and bought them all for \$100. I decided I'd try my luck to sell them. I spread the word about them, spoke to everyone I knew, but nobody was interested. I was very disappointed, but I felt I had done enough hishtadlus, and if this is what was meant to be, there was nothing I could do about it. I put one last ad in the paper, and left it at that.

Suddenly, someone called about the ad, and came to look at the books. He was very impressed, and offered \$100 for each book! He bought 30 books, and then more people came and paid the same amount – I made \$70,000 off those books!

Sometime later, I read about an auction of English books. If the Yiddish books had done so well, English should be even better, no? So I bought the lot for \$10,000. What happened? I couldn't sell a single one! I stored them in a warehouse, and ultimately they were destroyed in a fire. So, who's the real Manager of my business?

(From the 5-minute Daily Bitachon, Tuesday, Parshas Vayetzey #30)

## The Blessing of Shabbos

I was renting an apartment and had to move out. I looked around for a rental, but couldn't find any, so I contacted an agent. One Friday he called up, saying he had found a suitable apartment.

It was after *chatzos* already. I told him that I didn't want to do any business at such a time and I would call him after Shabbos. After I hung up, I started getting second thoughts. I desperately needed this, I had been looking for so long – who knew what could happen? Maybe I would lose the opportunity?

But bs"di held out and didn't call him back.

On Motzei Shabbos, I checked the bulletin board of my shul and saw an ad for an apartment. I called, went to look, and liked what I saw. I told the owner I wanted it. When the agent called back and I started to tell him that I had already found a place – I discovered that he was offering the very same apartment!

I saw how one does not lose out from honoring Shabbos, and I was even spared the agent's fees!

(Motzei Shabbos Parshas Bereishis, story 3. Story 15,842)

## The Bracha and the Bag

My name is Nosson Cohen. I usually eat breakfast at work, but one day I had a bite before I left the house. I was in a rush as I got my baby daughter's things together to take her to her playgroup, and I forgot to say *Al Hamichyah*.

I was already outside when I remembered that I hadn't bentched. I started thinking that there are opinions that you don't have to go back to where you ate, and I was in a hurry, and... Baruch Hashem, I overcame my yetzer and went back to my

## The Secret of the Sefer Torah

Rabbi Tzvi Reuven Davidowitz *shlit"a* of Yerushalayim speaks:

I heard this story from a special Yid who now lives in Geulah (Rabbi Nesanel Meirson chose him to say kaddish for his *shver*, Rav Refael Soloveitchik zt"l).

It was a Shabbos morning in Cleveland. We were in the middle of davening when we heard a car pull up outside the shul. Probably an irreligious person, or maybe even a goiy who was curious to see what we were doing, we thought. A man got out of the car and stood outside a window, looking in at us. He stood there for a while, until the end of *kriyas haTorah*. Then he left.

The next week, he came again, and did the same thing. When it happened a third week, the gabbai came out and asked him to please not drive near the shul, as it disturbed our Shabbos peace. He looked surprised-obviously he knew nothing about Yiddishkeit – and apologized. The next week he walked over to the shul, and finally someone invited him in. Someone brought him a siddur and showed him what to say. He started coming to shul often and eventually became totally frum.

One day someone asked what had brought him to the shul in the first place. He smiled and began his mysterious story:

"I grew up without any Yiddishkeit; only my grandmother was religious. I went to public school and would have continued like that the rest of my life, if not for the trip I made to Israel. The company I worked for organized trips for us once a year, and once it was to the Middle East. One Shabbos we stayed in a hotel in Yerushalayim."

"In the morning, I wanted to go out, but everything was closed. I asked someone what everyone was doing, and he told me they're all in *beit kneset*. So I looked for a shul, and went upstairs to see what was going on. They had read the Torah,

and were in middle of *hagbah*. At that moment, when I looked at the Sefer Torah, something ignited inside of me. I felt a powerful attraction to it, as if an angel was pulling me towards it. It was this incredible feeling of love, like I had never felt before.”

“When we came back to Cleveland, I felt an urge to see the Torah scroll again. So I found out where there’s a shul, and stood outside until they got up to *hagbah*. I just couldn’t get enough of it. Baruch Hashem, I returned to my roots.”

The people in the shul were amazed. “All this happened because of a *hagbah*?”

“That’s right,” he responded.

They asked him which shul it was in Yerushalayim, and he described the shul’s location and appearance. They looked into it, and discovered it was the shul belonging to Rav Sher of Rechavya. The man who heard the story later moved to Eretz Yisrael and told Rav Sher about the man who had returned to his roots because of a *hagbah*. He felt there was something deeper involved, and asked the Rav if there was anything special about the Sefer Torah.

“I used to be a Rav in Cleveland, and we desperately needed a new Sefer Torah,” Rav Sher related. “It cost \$6000 then, but I didn’t have the money. We called together the board and I asked them to raise money. One of the members said he knew an elderly lady who had a good Jewish heart, and would go around with a pushka collecting tzedaka for Yeshivas Telz. He approached her and asked if she had any money for us. She agreed to give us the money, but added that she needed a yeshuah for her grandson who was in critical condition in the NICU ward. We told her we’d make a *misheberach* for him, and she gave the entire amount! Baruch Hashem, her grandson recovered. I brought the Sefer Torah with me here,” Rav Sher concluded, “and that must have been the one that the man saw that Shabbos.”

And who was the man? None other than the grandson of that lady – 40 years after his grandmother’s donation, he saw “his” Sefer Torah and it brought him back to the Giver of the Torah!

(Wednesday night, Parshas Toldos, Yiddish story #1. Story 18,300)

apartment.

When I opened the door, I was surprised to see – my daughter’s bag! I couldn’t believe I had forgotten it. It had all the things she needed for the next 8 hours, *materna*, diapers, bottles. I realized that if I hadn’t gone back to *bentch*, I probably would have discovered it was missing only when I got to the daycare center, and then I would have had to come all the way back to get it.

I thanked Hashem for both things – that I triumphed over my *yetzer horah*, and for His *hashgachah* which showed him how no one loses out from listening to Him!

(Motzei Shabbos Parshas Vayera, story #11. Story 16,176)

## Hashem Marries them Off

I live in Beitar. My son was engaged to be married, and learned in a yeshiva in Yerushalayim. I traveled to Yerushalayim where we had planned to meet in order to pick up his *kaftan* together. We made up to meet in the Har Tzvi *shteiblach*, *daven minchah*, and then go to the store. The only thing was, I had no money to pay for the *kaftan*...

When I got to the shul and met him, I heard them starting a *minyan* next to us. “*Ashrei yoshvei veisecha*.” Great, I said to my son, let’s *daven*. But he didn’t want to – “I have to say *karbonos* first,” he protested. What could I say, he was right! I was ready to skip *karbanos*, but he held firm. So we sat down and started *karbonos*, waiting for the next *minyan*, when a friend of mine walked in. He gave me a big *mazal tov*, shook my hand – and left 1000 shekels in it! We got the *kaftan*.

The next day, I once again had to buy things for my *chosson*. He needed a few other things: shoes, *tzitzis*, a *kippah* – it all adds up. How would I pay? On the way to Yerushalayim, my father called me.

“Oh, you’re going to Yerushalayim? Listen, I have a friend who wants to give you something for the *chasunah*.” He told me where I could meet him. He gave me 650 shekels, exactly what I needed!

(Erev Shabbos Vayeirah, Yiddish story #3. Story 18,076)

## We all Gain

When I bought my apartment, I had no idea about what was to come. Everyone in the building took turns adding on to their apartment! The place was constantly a work zone. Dust everywhere, Arab workers all over, construction materials in the parking lot... Believe me, it was very annoying. I could have complained, but decided to be happy for them instead. I knew they weren’t trying to bother me. They just needed more room, and I could be happy that they were getting what they wanted.

One day, between the deafening drilling and the whole building vibrating, I met the neighbor who was doing the latest project. I went out of my way to be nice to him, and asked him how it was going, and gave him a *bracha* for *hatzlacha* in it. He smiled in return, and asked me if I could use kitchen cabinets – they were replacing everything. I had actually wanted to get some for a long time, but couldn’t really afford them. I took them, and they fit my kitchen perfectly, as if they were custom-made for me!

Later, a downstairs neighbor extended his home so much that they could see right into our living room. It was not comfortable, and I could have demanded that they at least buy us some curtains to afford us a bit of privacy. But I held back, and felt happy for them and their newfound space.

A few weeks ago my brother called up and asked if I use – a curtain! He had done renovations and didn’t need it anymore. It’s a beautiful curtain, and makes the whole room look nicer!

So Hashem gave me everything I need. I have a good relationship with the neighbors and didn’t lose anything. All this was a result of *emunah*!

(From the 5-minute Daily Bitachon, Erev Shabbos Toldos, #27)

# Q's & A's

Q's & A's about emunah and bitachon

When I work on bitachon I feel calm and at peace. But sometimes when I see other people suffering, it's hard to be strong in my bitachon. What can I do about this?

Q #10

Y. K., Beit Shemesh

## Monitor your Emotional Involvement

**Reb Yehuda Gewertzman from Beit Shemesh:**

When you see your friend suffering, you should daven for him and try to help him. But don't get too emotionally involved, because this could break you. Don't live what he's living through. Hold on to your own bitachon. We're responsible for each other, but it isn't healthy or beneficial to become overly emotionally involved.

## Hashem's Ways are Hidden

**Reb Yaakov Katz from Yerushalayim:** Each person has challenges tailor-made for him. Some people fall apart from every little thing, and others are strong as steel in the face of huge nisyonos. You shouldn't imagine yourself having his *tzarah*, because it's not meant for you. **Reb Shmuel Davidovitz from Beit Shemesh, adds a parable:** It's like you see your neighbor getting a warning notice from the electric company. Does it make you feel nervous? No. You should just feel for him.

**Reb Chaim Meir Daskal from Elad:** Emunah means to trust. We have to trust that Hashem knows what He's doing. Rav Shlomo Karliner used to say that if we are commanded to judge people favorably, how much more so are we obligated to speak - judge Hashem for the good. We can't know why people suffer.

**Reb Dovid Leifer from Yerushalayim:** It's wonderful that you're working on bitachon! I'm sure you learned that Hashem does only good to everyone. It's just that we don't see the entire picture.

## It's a Test

**Reb Nachman Cohen from Yerushalayim:** The yetzer horah rises up against us every day, and without Hashem's help, we are powerless against him. Nisyonos in bitachon are no different. Daven to Hashem to help you!

**Reb Aharon Rosenfeld from Ashdod:** The sefarim say that big miracles teach us about little ones. Now you may be having a weaker moment in your bitachon, but you should remember those stronger times and strengthen your bitachon.

**Reb Dovid Levi from Ofakim:** Don't worry about

those with less bitachon than you. If you're trying to daven properly and others come late, does that affect you? So too, don't look around. Keep strong in your own bitachon!

## Take it to Heart

**Reb Meir Yehoshua Mendis from Yerushalayim:** You are on the right track. On the one hand a person should be happy and have bitachon. On the other hand, he should feel other people's pain. Rav Nachman MiBreslov said that he davened a lot to be able to feel the pain of others. Once his house burnt down, and he was very happy. He said, "If it would happen to someone else, I would be sad for him, but for myself, I can be happy!" It says in Sichos Haran that if you see yourself falling in emunah, you should see what you need to do teshuvah on.

**Reb Moshe Davidovitz from Yerushalayim:** Why are you so busy thinking about other people's *tzaros*? You think you can figure out Hashem's *cheshbonos*? All you can do is try to take mussar from it.

**Rav Michael Greenfeld from Bnei Brak:** Thank Hashem that you don't have such problems! It says in Tehillim that people like to make a big deal about the "awe-inspiring" things Hashem does - ועזוז נוראותיך יאמר. David Hamelech adds, "but I am different, I like to tell over Hashem's chassadim - וגודלתך אספרנה" No Bad Comes from Hashem

**Reb Mordechai Meir Yudelman from Yerushalayim; Reb Chaim Shapiro from Elad; Reb Yehoshua Levi from Netanya:** You shouldn't say that "other people have it bad." Hashem never does anything bad. Many times things that happen seem bad, but in the end they work out for the good. So why should it make you feel weak in your emunah?

## Question for next week

I had a good job for many years, and was able to set aside time to learn regularly. I lost the job, and my new job doesn't pay much so I have a lot of debts. Should I work more, although it would take away from my learning time, or just trust in Hashem?

A. N., Bnei Brak

To send in questions or answers: Leave a message on the Hotline at 02-301-1300 menu 3 ext. 5 (Yiddish or Hebrew) | Email: s023011300@gmail.com | Fax: 02-659-9109 - Until Sunday Parashat Vayitza.

Replies must include your full name and city Names of questioners are printed with initials and city

## A Thought on Bitachon

From the shiurim on Kav Hashgacha Pratis

Elisha Hanavi told the penniless woman, the wife of Ovadiah, to gather a lot of "empty vessels" and pour oil into them. Why did he specify "empty" ones? This hints to the fact that the first step a person must take to receive Hashem's blessing is to realize that he is an "empty vessel." On his own, he has no power to do anything. If he still believes he can take care of things on his own, it is a sign of the fact that he is not fully prepared for Hashem's blessing.

To trust in Hashem means to know that He is the One doing everything. This knowledge opens up the gates of heaven and brings bountiful blessing and hatzlacha. Even though you do hishtadlus, you know this is only in fulfillment of your obligation; it has nothing to do with the outcome.

Many stories show that once a person gets to this level of trusting only in Hakadosh Boruch Hu, he sees tremendous siyatta dishmaya! Here is just one: A man I know was looking for a bigger apartment. He found an apartment for sale which wasn't big enough, but the owners were in the process of getting the building permits to expand. All the neighbors had already given their approval, so it seemed that it was just a matter of time.

He bought the apartment. Then, the downstairs neighbor suddenly started complaining about the plans for expansion. He demanded all kinds of

Excerpts from the popular shiur by Harav Hatzaddik R' Beirish Shneebeal shlit"a

## Who do you trust in - Hashem, or Yourself?

compensation, and when my friend refused, he filed against him in the license bureau. In the end the building permit was denied!

What was my friend to do? Take the neighbor to din Torah? Retract on the sale of the apartment - it was a transaction made under a mistaken assumption? Meanwhile, that same neighbor started expanding his own apartment! What chutzpah!

My friend knew he could really have his revenge now. The neighbor who had prevented his own building permit was building himself without a permit. Nonetheless, he chose the high road, and put all his trust only in Hashem. Hashem had arranged everything that happened. It wasn't the previous owner, the neighbor, or city hall - it was all from Hashem.

A short while later, he found another apartment for sale, larger than the one he had bought, and cheaper, too!

If a person knows and believes that nobody can take away what Hashem wants him to have, he will have a calm and happy life, and merit Hashem's blessings. This is the basis of all good middos - being generous, happy for others, avoiding arguments. If it wasn't that person who did it, there's no reason to get upset at him.

The shiurim of Harav Shneebeal are delivered weekly in Yiddish and Hebrew alternatively. Dial 2 then 3 (after language preference)

## Effects on Two Ends

On the receiving end

I always had a predisposition to anger, and nothing I tried helped. Since I started listening to the hotline, however, I'm a new man! My friends are amazed by the transformation.

A. R., Ashdod

I waited many years to have children. I pledged to sponsor the distribution of the pamphlets in 400 shuls - and I had a yeshuah! Baruch Hashem!

Message left at the office

On the giving end

You, too, can be a partner in spreading emunah throughout the world, and merit the Zohar's promise of "children and grandchildren who are G-d-fearing and upright!"

Call now to the sponsorship hotline (9722) 631-3742 or donate by:

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