

HASHGACHA PRATIS

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



Parshiyos Mishpatim - Terumah 5781 ■ Issue 59

HEART TO HEART

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

Bitachon in Hashem: The True Measure of Success

Rabbeinu Bechaye teaches (Chovos Halevavos 4,3): "When you ask something of someone, it should be the same to you whether you're asking a weak or strong person, and trust in Hashem for its fulfillment."

What do people consider success? Usually, it's if they manage to do what they wanted to do. If not, they feel disappointed. This is the wrong mindset! How could we know what's really the best for us? Only Hashem knows all the *cheshbonos* and the overall plan for our life. Only He could know if it is preferable that one accomplishes what he is trying to, or not.

Some people think that you can get ahead only if you have the right connections or know the right people. But many times we see that the opposite is true. Specifically the "nobodies" manage to do very well, or help you with something that the "big shots" couldn't. Hashem knows who will be the right messenger.

We all know Hashem runs the world. The question is, do we live with this realization in our daily activities, or do we remember it only now and then? The litmus test for this lies in how we react when our plans don't work out. If one increases his attempts, even doing extreme things in desperation, this may indicate an imperfection in bitachon. You want to get Maftir Yonah on Yom Kippur, so you call up your friend from grade school and ask him to see if he can bump into his neighbor who's a brother-in-law of the gabbai in his shul, who's a cousin of the gabbai in your shul's mechutan's father-in-law's shadchan's boss...

It's sad, how much effort people make to accomplish their desires, even though the results might not be good for

them! Instead, they should put in small, reasonable amount of hishtadlus, and leave the rest up to Hashem. If you think a certain job is appropriate for you, send in your resume, maybe speak to a couple of people who might be good references – and that's it! Daven to Hashem to lead you to what is best for you, and to a kosher and honest means of parnassah. Someone who learns about bitachon knows to say to Hashem, "I know I'm not worthy of a miracle, so I did some hishtadlus. But I know that my efforts are not what leads to results; it's all You! Please help me as You see fit."

The Baal Hatanya wrote a letter which many people reread in times of distress and it gave them tremendous chizuk. (See chapter 11 of the Igeres Hakodesh, beginning with 'להשכיר בינה'.) He wrote that one should not take yissurim too much to heart, since we don't know what's truly good for us. The truth is that Hashem does only good for us; it's just that we don't always see it. The main point of descending to this world is in order to pass the test and continue trusting in Him when things seem bad! A believing Jew knows that Hakodosh Boruch Hu "creates the world in His goodness, every day – always." Every moment is a new chance to see Hashem's goodness becoming revealed to us, so even when things seem bleak, he doesn't lose heart. No matter what happens, Hashem is making everything happen, and it's all part of His master plan for the world and for each one of us – for the absolute best.

May we see Hashem's kindnesses, and as Adar is entering, we should "increase our joy!"

(from shiur 132 on Shaar Habitachon)

FROM THE EDITOR

Undeniable!

I want to share with you a *hisorerus* I experienced.

We were standing around talking about current events. There's no shortage of what to talk about! Every person has an opinion about the lockdowns, vaccines, the latest mutations, and whether or not hospitals are of help to anyone... A gentle young man listened quietly on the side. Suddenly, he spoke up.

"Rabbosai! What's the point of all this discussion? Who cares who's in charge of decisions? We're Yidden, and we believe with perfect faith that Hashem is the One Who decides everything! 'הוא' 'הוא' – בורא ומנהיג לכל הברואים, 'הוא' לבדו עשה ועושה ויעשה לכל המעשים. This is nothing to argue about on that end."

"What should each person do, practically? For that, we have our leaders and Rabbonim!" "We know that Hashem is making all this happen. He wants something from us - some more chizuk in emunah, tefillah, and Torah. We have to think about what we can improve."

"I have a friend. When he heard about all the suffering that people are enduring, he took upon himself to refrain from eating fleishigs for a week! That's just an example. Think what you can do for Klal Yisroel."

His words touched me deeply. Words that come from the heart go into the heart. He spoke the truth. Indeed, what difference do all these details make? We all know that Klal Yisroel is suffering, each person in his own way. We trust with complete emunah that Hashem did, does, and will always do everything that happens. Hashem is calling out to each and every one of us. It's up to us to do something as a spiritual hishtadlus.

May Hashem show us His mercy, and may we see tremendous yeshuos, refuos v'nechamos.

Good Shabbos
Pinchas Shefer

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

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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

Hashavas Aveida

My name is Aharon, and I live in Beitar. One day I traveled to Yerushalayim on a bus rented by our regular bus company. Unfortunately, after I got off the bus I realized I must have dropped my wallet on the bus. I had several credit cards in it, too. Since it wasn't a bus from the company, I couldn't contact them about getting it back. Plus, the driver was an Arab, so he would certainly just take it.

I kept checking my bank accounts in the coming days to see if anyone was spending large amounts of money with my credit cards. Nothing showed up. On the other hand, I had no idea how to get my wallet back! After two weeks, I came to the conclusion that I would have to cancel my credit cards.

I was about to call the company when the thought hit me: Had I davened to Hashem about this? Had I given some tzedakah as a merit to find it?

I was embarrassed to admit it, but the answer was no. So I said some Tehillim and took out some coins to give to tzadaka *l'ilui nishmas* Rabbi Meir Baal Haness. This is a famous segulah for finding lost things – give tzedaka in his name and say a tefillah “*amar* Rabbi Binyamin,” plus “*Elaka d'Meir aneini*.”

A few minutes later my phone rang. It was Reb Chaim from Beit Shemesh, who I know a bit.

“Aharon, did you lose your wallet? I'm on a bus and the person next to me found it on the floor.”

I was overwhelmed. Right after I asked Hashem, the wallet was found! It's as if Hashem was saving it on the floor of the bus for *two weeks*, waiting for me to just ask Him for it! Thank You, Hashem.

(Thursday night Parshas Bo, story 2 #17585)

The Power of Candles

I own a makolet (general store) in Ashdod. One day a man without a kippah walked into the store and brought a whole bunch of boxes of candles to the checkout counter. I couldn't help but ask him why he needed so many candles!

The man smiled and said, “They're for Shabbat. My wife lights many candles every week for Shabbat.” He must have seen my expression, so he continued, “Yeah, I know what you're thinking. I'm a *chiloni*, so why should we light? But that's our mitzvah, and I have a son who was chozer b'teshuvah. His family is as chareidi as you!”

I was amazed. The Gemara says that whoever is careful with lighting Shabbos candles will merit children who are talmidei chachamim. Here was a living fulfillment of it!

(Thursday morning Parshas Vaera, story 4 #17444)

Hashem will Pay

My son came home one day from cheder excited. They were going to go on a trip to a fun place in a different part of Israel. When I asked how they were going to get there, he said they were going to use public transportation. This worried me, since the long distance and switching buses would put them in situations compromising their *shemiras einayim*. We try to live on a higher standard than that.

I called up his principal and told him my concern. He agreed that renting a bus would be better, but it was too expensive. It would cost 1000 shekels. Without a second thought, I told him to do it. I'll pay for it, I assured him. How could I afford it? I learn in kollel, and barely make ends meet. But I knew that since I'm doing it *l'shem shamayim*, Hashem would work it out.

So they arranged for a private bus, and the plans proceeded for the trip. On the day of the trip – 21 Sivan – a man came over to me.

“We raised money over Purim, and some of it was supposed to go to you. Sorry for the delay.” It was 800 shekels!

Suddenly, after three months, they remembered to give it to me. I came home and called out to my son, “You see, Hashem sent us the money! You never lose from doing mitzvos!”

One Perek of Tehillim...

I heard this story from a grandson of the Chief Rabbi of Mexico, Rav Michael Peretz shlit"a.

A month ago I got a phone call from a Jew in town. I vaguely recognized his voice but I didn't really know him. He introduced himself and invited me to a *seudas hoda'ah* he was making. For what? For recovering from corona. He was in a very serious condition, anesthetized and on oxygen, and he has recovered completely. Baruch Hashem! I was happy for him and told him I would be glad to attend, but I didn't know why he had called me of all people.

I came to his house at the appointed time and found another 17 Yidden sitting around the table. Some were his friends, but several were not at all close to the fellow, either. This made it even more mysterious! We sat down and he began speaking.

“Thank you all for coming. Even though not all of you know me, you are very much connected to my refuah sheleimah.”

“I was lying there in the hospital, and suddenly I felt like I was floating up to heaven. I saw my mother *a"h*, and she scolded me, “What are you doing here? Go back down!” I said, “I want to, but I can't.” “Look down and you'll see that you *could*,” she said. I looked down, and what did I see? I saw all of you! You were each saying Tehillim for me, and that made such a force, it pulled me down back to the world!” he concluded his amazing tale.

I felt a chill come over me. I remembered vaguely that they put up a name to daven for, and I took out a Tehillim and said *one perek* for him! That's it – one perek! And now he's telling me that my one perek of Tehillim helped bring him back to life!!

What an awesome lesson in the power of our tefillos.

(Bitachon Yomi, Monday, Parshas Yisro, #79)

Car Service

My name is Avraham Wallis. About ten years ago, I worked as a Rabbi in Neve Yaakov, some distance from my home in Meah Shearim. One day

To listen to stories press

Tens of thousands of people from all over the world can tell you:

I was able to hitch a ride with a Yid. I got in the car and saw a few other people there, too. The man started giving me rides every day, and I could see he was very happy to do it. It was almost as if he had nothing else to do but drive around giving people rides. After a while like this, I decided to ask him why he does it.

"I got a message from heaven."

Whoa – I wasn't expecting that! "What kind of message?"

And he began his story: A few years ago, I was driving by a park and saw an old man lying on a bench. I felt terrible for him. Why should we let fellow Yidden be homeless, in Yerushalayim of all places? Baruch Hashem, I'm a contractor and have a spacious home, with a small apartment on the side. I told the man he could come home with me. I gave him food, clothes, he stayed in the apartment, and I adopted him as our uncle of honor. I helped him with medical needs also.

One day, after a few months in our home, he turned to me and said that he feels very deep appreciation to me. He said he really wants to give me something, but he is penniless. What else could he give me?

I was struck by a wild idea. I asked him to promise me that after he leaves the world he should come and tell me what's going on up there. He agreed. Sometime later he passed away. I took care of his levaya and went on with life. I wondered now and then about our deal...

And then he came to me in a dream! "I came because I feel a lot of hakaras hatov to you, and I promised. It's very difficult for neshamos to return to the world. It's hard to get permission, and it's so pleasant up here that coming down is really painful. I cannot tell you what goes on here, but one thing I can tell you is that the Beis Din *shel Ma'alah* weighs every mitzvah very, very carefully. If someone learns Torah, davens, or wears tzitzis with personal motives, it takes away from the reward for the mitzvah. Chessed, however, is different. Even if you do it for other reasons, the reward for the mitzvah remains. Chessed is very important on High!"

That was the message. I took it to heart and decided to devote an hour of my day to doing chessed. So I drive around, giving rides.

That was the story of the man in the car - and I'm passing on the message: There's nothing like chessed!

(Interview with Rav Wallis – Hebrew 66, Yiddish 67.

Press 5 then 6 after language preference)

He pointed out that I still needed another 200.

"Don't worry, it will come!"

And that's exactly what happened. Later that day, a fellow who sometimes distributes money to avreichim approached me. He handed me 300 shekels!

Hashem didn't disappoint me, and even gave me some extra!

(Tuesday morning, Parshas Va'eira story 3 #17404)

The Envelope

We live in Afula. We moved into a new apartment, but it needed some renovations. It cost \$12,000, which we didn't have, but a relative in America mailed us a check with the full amount.

We waited impatiently for it to arrive. Every day, we checked our mailbox, hoping to see the envelope peeking out. We were getting more and more anxious and nervous as the days passed. Perhaps it had gotten lost? Maybe we should have had it sent by courier service? In the meantime, our construction plans remained on hold.

One day we heard about a family in the neighborhood in *bidud* (quarantine). We imagined how difficult it must be for them, a big family all stuck at home for two weeks. My wife wanted to make it easier for them, so she bought a CD with material for kids and activity books, and went to bring it over to them. It happened to be a rainy day. She went out on her chessed mission and hurried back to get out of the rain. As she turned onto the path to our building, she saw an envelope on the ground. She bent down, and saw that it was from America, with our name on it! Yes, the long-awaited envelope had arrived!

It must have fallen out of the mailman's bag, and had just started to get wet from the rain. Imagine if she hadn't gone out to that mitzvah – it probably would have gotten soaked through, and we wouldn't have been able to use the check! What hashgacha pratis!

(Motzei Shabbos Parshas Va'eira, story 6 #17488)

Get the Envelopes Ready

This past winter we made a wedding, baruch Hashem. As anyone who made a wedding knows, it costs plenty of money. I didn't have it. I decided to trust in Hashem and not take out big loans that I wouldn't be able to pay back anyway. My family was nervous.

"Get envelopes ready," I told them. "Write on each one what it's for, and how much money we need for it. Hashem will fill them!"

And that's what they did. One envelope for clothing - 4000[₪]. Another, furniture - 80,000[₪]. The hall, rent, everything. Then I davened to Hashem – I prepared the vessels for bracha; please, Hashem fill them up for us! And I said Tehillim. Just then the phone rang. It was the downstairs neighbor. Eight years ago, I expanded my apartment and built a new floor sticking out above him. We made up that if he would ever want to build out, using my floor as a ceiling, he would pay me for half of how much it cost me to build it.

He said he had decided to build now, and calculated how much it comes to. He said he would send the money now, already – so much that it filled up all the envelopes, plus more!!

(Thursday morning, Parshas Va'eira story 2)

The Exact Same Amount!

I live in New Square. One of the people who comes to my shiur came in one night and called out, "Rabbosai! Listen to this story!" He began:

I just finalized buying a house. Someone told me that it's a segula, before laying out the money, to give tzedaka *l'ilui nishmas* Rav Mordechai mi'Kizmir, son of the Maggid mi'Trisk. So I called up a friend who's about to travel to Eretz Yisroel and told him to give \$300 to poor people there for me; I'll pay him back. Then I went to the lawyer.

At the beginning of the process I had given him money that would cover all the fees involved, like for the real-estate agent, professionals who inspected it, and so on. Now, after we signed the contract, the lawyer added up all the costs for everybody.

"You get some back," he told me. I was surprised. I thought I had made precise calculations. Nu, nu. So he wrote me out a check and handed it to me – for \$300! I was stunned. The exact same amount I had just pledged to tzedaka was now being returned to me!

The man held up the check for us to see – clear proof that when you give, you really get!

(Wednesday night, Parshas Va'eira, story 3 #19344)

Q's & A's

Q's & A's about emunah and bitachon

I wanted to ask a fundamental question about bitachon. When a person needs something, for example, if he doesn't have an apartment, does he have to trust that Hashem will actually give it to him, or does he have to trust that Hashem is capable of giving it to him?

Q #13

Y.Y.Z., Bnei Brak

It's a Machlokes

Reb Shlomo Shimon Rothman from Beit Shemesh: There are disparate opinions about this. The Chazon Ish held that bitachon means to trust that everything that happens is orchestrated by Hashem, but not that you'll get exactly what you want. Many Rebbes, on the other hand, explained that bitachon accords you the power to actualize anything.

Reb Moshe Shachar from Bnei Brak, quotes the Chazon Ish from his sefer *Emunah u'Bitachon*: "There's an old error entrenched in many people's hearts about the nature of bitachon... Bitachon is banded about as the obligation to believe, when two options are open to you, one apparently good and the other not, that Hashem will certainly carry out the good one, and if one doubts this, he is lacking bitachon. But this is not correct. **The core of Bitachon is to believe that that there is no happenstance in the world, and everything that happens beneath the sun has been decreed by Hashem.**" (Chapter 2). What emerges from the Chazon Ish's words is that we can never know if we'll get what we want. However, the Chazon Ish concludes that, "A ruach kodesh rests on person who has bitachon, and a strength of spirit accompanies him, telling him that Hashem will indeed help him."

Not a Contradiction

Reb Yosef Sheziri from New York: It's not a contradiction; both aspects hold true. Hashem can give us everything, and we should trust that He'll give us whatever we need.

Reb Michael Ulman from Bnei Brak: There are valid sources for both ways of thinking. We can say that they are two levels of bitachon. First, one should trust that nothing happens by chance. The next stage is to trust that Hashem will provide for all his needs.

Reb Chaim Refoel Friedman from Yerushalayim: Emunah is to trust that Hashem can give you everything; bitachon is that He will give you. It's *roshei teivos* of aleph-beis: אמונה וביטחון. If you have enough of it,

you can get the next part, a גרויסע דירה (a big apartment)!

What's good for You, I Accept

Reb Chaim Tzvi Gelender from Bnei Brak: My grandfather, Rav Eliezer Lowinger *shlit"a*, went through the Holocaust. Whenever people ask him how he's doing, he answers, "The best it could be!" He explains that if he would need anything more, Hashem would give it to him. For us, too, only Hashem can give us anything, and what He gives is the absolutely perfect amount. If I don't get something, it means it's not good for me. The possuk says, רבים מאובים לרשע והבוטח רבים מאובים לרשע והבוטח. בה' חסד יסובבנו. This can be explained as implying that the person with bitachon, like the wicked man, also had "a lot of pain." The difference between them is that the person with bitachon knows that in actuality, he is surrounded by chessed!

Reb Chaim Schwartz from Bnei Brak: The Chovos Halevavos lists seven things that one should believe about Hashem's providence. They include: Hashem can give me, He knows what I need, and He will give me all my needs. This is bitachon. There's a mashal about a father who refused to give his son a candy even though he was crying and screaming for it, because the father knew it was harmful for him. If Hashem doesn't give us something we ask for, it's because it wouldn't be for our good to receive it.

Bitachon is Preparing the Vessel

Reb Nesanel Yosef Luzen from Bnei Brak: The Kli Yakar on Parshas Beshalach explains that Hashem rewards bitachon as He sees appropriate. Our wishes can only be fulfilled in a place where there is Shechina, which is found in the heart of the Jew who has bitachon!

Question for issue 61

It's well-known that giving maaser money brings blessing in parnassah. There are disparate opinions about this, though. Can we still see the bracha today when we give maaser?

A.M., Petach Tikva

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: 02-659-9189 - Until Sunday Parashat Titzaveh

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

People who want to catch monkeys use a very interesting technique. They drill a hole in a tree, wider at its mouth and narrow deeper inside. Then they fill the end of the hole with nuts. A monkey comes along, reaches inside and grabs a fistful of nuts – and can't get his hand back out. He stays stuck like that until the hunter takes him away. He could have just let go of the nuts and escaped... So too, the Ribono Shel Olam wants to help us, but we can't "let go" of our preconceived notions.

The Sefer Yagdil Torah explains in the name of the Chiddushei Harim that "על מצות ומוריס איננה" implies that the marror is also a commemoration of the geulah from Mitzrayim. How so? The first step of the redemption was when we felt the bitterness of the galus! As it says "ויאנחו" "בני ישראל - ותעל שונעתם". Only once they started sighing and crying out did their prayers rise up to Hashem. If they hadn't felt that things were bad and could be better, they could not have been redeemed.

Rav Nochum MiChernobyl zt"l once stayed over in a Jewish-owned inn. At midnight he got up to say Tikkun Chatzos, and began weeping and wailing so loudly that it woke the innkeeper and his family. The innkeeper asked the tzaddik what was wrong, and Rav Nochum explained that he was mourning the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash. The fellow was so ignorant that he didn't even know what that was. Rav Nochum described the tremendous beauty and holiness that Klal Yisroel once enjoyed, and how all Yidden will go to Eretz Yisroel when the Beis Hamikdash will be rebuilt. "Don't you also want to go?" he asked the man.

The innkeeper responded that he had to consult with his wife. He left the tzaddik's room and returned a few minutes later.

"She said it isn't a good idea," he responded. "Who will take care of our chickens and cows? How can we just leave them all?"

Rav Nochum tried to convince him that the situation in

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

How to Catch a Monkey

galus was not good at all, surrounded by gentiles who robbed and plundered their things at will.

The innkeeper spoke to his wife once again, and returned with her response: "Tell the tzaddik to daven that the *goyim* go away to Yerushalayim..."

As they say, it's easier to take Klal Yisroel out of galus than to take the galus out of Klal Yisroel!

What does this have to do us? Many people who stopped the vicious cycle of borrowing money have seen miraculous yeshuos. Hashem has no shortage of money and means to save those who rely on Him solely and fully.

However, many people are unable to make a change in their way of dealing with money. They are like the monkey who can't let go of the nuts. The transformation from their personal galus to geulah lies in making the decision to change. "No more will I turn to gemachim to pay the bills; from now on I will turn only to Hashem." This is very difficult, but I have never met anyone who regretted the decision.

The Chovos Halevavos (Bitachon Ch. 4) presents a powerful mashal about those who are impulsive and don't rely on Hashem. Imagine a man who is wandering in the desert, suffering from intense thirst, and then he finds a jug of water. The water is not good, but it's better than nothing, and he drinks and drinks until he quenches his thirst. Then he walks a little more, and finds a plentiful supply of pure, sweet water! How foolish he feels for drinking his fill from the sullied water in the jug. So too, he says, some people pursue forms of parnassah that are not suitable for them, because they don't see any other option and go for it.

We can expand this to include those who run to gemachim to cover their bills, even though it's clearly not the best idea.

Get out of your galus! Trust in Hashem, and stop with the gemachim!

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

Effects on Two Ends

On the receiving end

Since I started listening to the hotline and reading the pamphlet, whatever I do in life – in Kollel, at home and elsewhere – my first thought is: Is this really what Hashem wants from me? Will this make Hashem happy? Thank you for the transformation in my thinking!

I made a steady contribution with a name for a zivug. Baruch Hashem the request was accepted in Heaven, and the wedding is in another week! We're about to make the final contribution. Yasher koach!!

Y. G., Bnei Brak

On the giving end

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