

PRAYER POINTS

BLESSING EACH OTHER

A person's blessings are not "just words," but are a practical, concrete reality that has impact in the world. Blessing another person with sincere words carries the power of a prayer. The simple niceties an individual expresses to others is, in actuality, a prayer to Hashem to ease his friend's way – through his daily chores and challenges – or to grant him a successful day. In effect, he has testified to his belief that Hashem controls everything. These blessings, greetings, and encouraging words that pepper everyday conversation are actually potent prayers that Hashem hears and to which He responds.

Not only does one have the power to bless others, but it is to one's great advantage to do so, for the Torah teaches that blessing other people brings blessing upon oneself.

When the Torah states that Hashem "will bless those who bless you," it refers not only to Abraham but also to his descendants.

The return blessing that Hashem bestows is far greater than the blessing that inspires it. Thus, the Torah not only gives us the power to bless one another, but also urges and encourages us to do so. Of all the benefits that this draws into the world, the most precious of them is the *Emunah/Faith* we gain by performing this simple act. In calling Hashem to help others, we confirm our own recognition of the "hand" that guides the world.

POINTS TO PONDER

Words uttered in a blessing have real impact in the world.

When blessing another person, one is actually saying a *Tefillah/Prayer* on the other's person's behalf.

Through Hashem's promise to Abraham, the Torah promises that those who bless all of Israel will be blessed.

Among these "return blessings" is one's own increased store of *Emunah/Faith*.

Psalm 63:5 Yes, I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. (CJB)