

CHALLENGING THE ARCHER

Imagine an army that possesses the ultimate military weapon that can result in victory – *Tefillah*/Prayer. Imagine further that every word of prayer said by one of this army's soldiers flies through the air like a heat-guided missile and lands precisely on its target, completely neutralizing the enemy's power.

The personal prayers that come from one's heart throughout the day are these guided missiles – or more precisely, they are perfectly aimed arrows that are uniquely suited to our battle with the enemy.

Personal prayer is compared to a bow and arrow, which, unlike the sword, have minimal power of their own. The arrow must be grasped firmly in hand and placed in the bow, which must be drawn close to the heart and released with precise aim. Likewise, personal prayer has little impact without *kavannah*, which propels it from the heart and aims it at its goal.

Personal prayer works not only on an individual level to build *Emunah*/faith, but also as a uniquely potent weapon against the enemy. As we meet our challenges, Hashem sees our struggle and takes pity on us, like a father watching his child struggle under a burden too heavy to bear. As we call out to Him with prayers propelled from our hearts, we arouse His mercy, and He responds by reaching into our lives lightening our load. As we struggle through the last chapter of the "end times," wielding our power of prayer with the strength of full *Emunah*, Hashem will take up our battle and speedily usher in the Final Redemption.

POINTS TO PONDER

Prayers are comparable to a sword, which always has impact.

Personal supplications said with kavannah are compared to a bow and arrow, which are aimed to have an impact.

It is personal prayers that arouse Hashem's compassion and bring about His help. They are suitable weapons with which to fight the enemy.

Psalm 6:10 The LORD heeds my plea, the LORD accepts my prayer. (TNK)