

MEANINGFUL BLESSINGS, PART 2

Shalom – peace – is the vessel that contains all other blessings. One can readily see the common sense in this statement, for no benefit that Hashem bestows can be enjoyed without peace, both within a person and in his surroundings. For example, a rich man in an angry, hostile home does not enjoy his money. A brilliant man with a confused heart cannot access his full intelligence. Therefore, ***shalom*** is the most potent blessing of greeting one can give and receive.

A Jewish sage explains that when one says “*Shalom Aleichem*” to another, he is “*doing Hashem’s will*” as it is stated in the Psalms: *Seek peace and pursue it*. The greeting “*Shalom Aleichem*” fulfills another purpose as well. It enables us to greet one another with the Name of God, since “*Shalom*” is one of the Names by which Hashem is known. Thus, the greeting of “*Shalom Aleichem*” can make one aware of Hashem’s presence.

Regardless of the planning and skill that go into an endeavor, its outcome is determined by Heaven alone. Remember to wish the people involved in the endeavor peace and success.

If one visualizes the spiritual power of a sincere blessing as a visible streak of Divine light, one can imagine the Heaven’s-eye view of millions of blessings radiating from Hashem’s people each day, and then redoubling in brilliance as Hashem blesses those who bless His children. Something this powerful and precious is on the tips of our tongues and in the depths of our hearts all day, every day.

POINTS TO PONDER

“*Shalom Aleichem*” is a form of prayer for another person’s peace, thereby protecting him.

“*Shalom Aleichem*” can help make one aware of Hashem’s presence.

Wishing someone blessings and success reminds both parties that success is determined by Heaven.

Job 22:21 "Agree with God, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. (ESV)