

MAKE YOUR PRAYERS SUPPLICATIONS

One who comes to Elohim in prayer with the sense that he has somehow “earned” Elohim’s assistance is missing the point. There is nothing a human being can do for Elohim and there is nothing Elohim owes man in compensation for man’s efforts. Rabbinic teaching states: The *miztvot* or commandments are for man’s betterment, not Elohim’s benefit. Therefore, one stands before Elohim utterly bereft, yearning for nothing more than His Divine love.

Rav Elyashiv answered, “One of the meanings of ‘praying in a supplicatory manner’ is to recite the words of prayer with the tone of one pleading – ‘like a poor man begging at the entrance’ for a donation...By doing this one shows Elohim his absolute dependence on Him and demonstrates that he relies only on Elohim. Then he stands a much greater chance that his prayers will be heard.

For most people, most the time, this sense of impoverishment may not match their perceived status in life. It would take a considerable amount of introspection for a happy, healthy, successful individual to come to Elohim feeling bereft. He can find a true spirit of supplication within himself only if he recognizes that, even a wealthy person must ask for his sustenance every day. A rabbinic teaching cautions that even those who appear to “have it all” – health, wealth, children and even spiritual stature – live in a precarious ledge, *For there is no man so wholly righteous on earth that he [always] does good and never sins.*

Prayers that emanate from Elohim are prayers that are saturated with true humility. When we come as poor people knocking on Elohim’s door, one sage writes, He will not send us away empty-handed. Bringing one’s prayers before Elohim is one of mankind’s choicest achievements on this earth.

POINTS TO PONDER

Man’s achievements and good deeds are negligible in comparison to the good Elohim does for us.

A person should come to Elohim in prayer with awareness that essentially, he has nothing and is nothing without Elohim’s kindness toward him.

Thinking of oneself as a pauper coming to beg will help stir the correct sense of humility.

Prayers said with a humble heart, supplicating the Creator, have the power to be accepted in Heaven.

Proverbs 3:33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the abode of the righteous. ³⁴ At scoffers He scoffs, but to the lowly He

shows grace. ³⁵ The wise shall obtain honor, but dullards get disgrace as their portion. (TNK)