

BLESSINGS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

As we have seen, giving a greeting or blessing without thought to what one is saying is a blatant waste of potential, like an untapped oil well that sits ready and waiting. On the other hand, with a few seconds of forethought, the words people already speak many times throughout the day can become an immense source of spiritual riches for Hashem's people.

Here are a few more ways to access this treasure during specific times in another person's life.

1. L'Chaim (To Life)
2. Mazal Tov
3. Blessing Said to Mourners

Conclusion

In celebration and in mourning, in sickness and in health, setting out upon everyday affairs or for congregation on Shabbat, a prayer is always on the lips of Hashem's people. Through these words of prayer, a person is constantly turning to the One Above, acknowledging and instilling in his own heart the recognition that Hashem is the Master of the universe. As one sage said: "The foundation of the eminence and love of prayer is because through prayer, one reaches the depth of the recognition that there is none besides Him."

POINTS TO PONDER

The custom of saying "l'chaim" is found in the Gemara, and is considered a prayer for the other person's continued long life.

"Mazal tov" is a prayer that the auspicious occasion of the other person should help him fulfill his tafkid – his purpose in life.

Deuteronomy 28:2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. (ESV)