

# WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

## PARSHAS VAYIKRA

### Change Yourself Change the World

In this week's Parsha, Vayikra, we read how if a person transgressed against Hashem, by being dishonest to another person, "When he realizes that he sinned and that he is guilty," first he must correct the wrong, and only after can he go through the process to receive atonement.

Here one person is being dishonest to another, so why does the Torah call it a transgression against Hashem? What does "when he realizes that he sinned" mean? Doesn't he know that he is being dishonest?

When two people make a business deal without a contract and without witnesses, one may be dishonest and swindle his partner. He feels confident doing so because no one else was there. But in truth, there was a third one there, Hashem! His dishonesty is not only against his friend, but, even more, it is a denial of Hashem's existence.

There is a deeper level of dishonesty, being dishonest with yourself. This is when you knowingly underestimate your potential. You know what abilities Hashem has given you. Are you using all your abilities? Are you maximizing your potential? You have the ability to make a difference, to change the world for the better. Hashem has given you these gifts just for this purpose. And not using them for this is an affront to Hashem.

**BE HONEST  
WITH YOURSELF  
AND WITH G-D.  
RECOGNIZE THE  
TALENTS HE'S  
GIVEN YOU AND  
MAXIMIZE THEIR  
POTENTIAL  
TO CREATE A  
BETTER WORLD.**

Dishonesty finds its roots in selfishness, not being able to see anyone but yourself. When everything is about "me," it is impossible to use your potential for Hashem, because your abilities are busy satisfying your selfishness. Whether

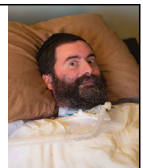
your dishonesty is against a friend or yourself, it is very difficult to correct the situation because being selfish means I am right. Being selfish means I deserve it, and everyone owes me, me me me.

The only way out of this situation is for the person to realize on his own, to acknowledge that he sinned, and to admit his guilt. Only then can he begin to make amends, first to his friends and then to Hashem.

For many of us, it is so difficult to admit that "I was wrong." On the other hand, doing so and apologizing is freeing and endearing. When one partner is selfish, there is no relationship. When you make room for the other to exist, the relationship begins, first with the other and then with Hashem.

We are now at the end of this dark exile that was brought on because of senseless hatred for one another. This hatred is also rooted in selfishness. If we can find a way to overcome selfishness, make room for another, and recognize Hashem, then we will be well on our way to friendship, closeness to Hashem, filling our potential, and bringing Moshiach.

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



"Dear Rabbi Yitzi,

Thank you for your words of inspiration and effort to inspire others.  
May we see moshiach very soon!"

- Yakov S., Los Angeles, CA

RABBI YITZI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO:  
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