

# WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

## PARSHAS CHUKAS

### Simply G-dly

In this week's Parsha, Chukas, we are taught the law of the Red Heifer. If someone comes in contact with a dead body, they have to be purified by being sprinkled with water mixed with the ashes of the red heifer. About this Mitzvah, the Torah says, "Zos chukas HaTorah, This is the decree of the Torah." Meaning, there is something about this Mitzvah which is central to Torah and its observance.

This Mitzvah is a "choke," a Mitzvah whose rationale is beyond human comprehension and is done just because it is Hashem's will.

What are some lessons that we can take from this Mitzvah that affect Jewish life and observance?

The first lesson is that we must be alive. Our attitude, outlook, and focus must be positive and alive. Some see Torah as a bunch of rules telling them what they can't do. To them, Torah

becomes a miserable ball and chain which they lug around. Some even take pride in this form of misery "look at how miserable I am for Hashem." This is not living. The Torah wants us to purify ourselves

### LIFE IS ABOUT FINDING G-D IN THE MOST MUNDANE OF ACTIONS.

from even contact with death. To live with Torah is to see the positive purpose and mission that Hashem has given to us. Instead of a ball and chain, Torah becomes wings with which you can soar. Mitzvahs become a joy to do. Even the negative commandments are kept out of joy and positivity. You get to

be Hashem's messenger to do these things.

Another thing we can learn from the red heifer is that its reason is beyond human comprehension. We only do it because it is Hashem's will. The same could be true about all the Mitzvahs, even the ones that we do understand. We can and should do them for a higher purpose, because it is Hashem's will. This makes our seemingly mundane actions meaningful too.

Being unable to do anything for myself, I see more than ever how simple actions can be meaningful and G-dly. Just sitting, keeping me company, is so precious to me.

This perhaps is the most important lesson of all. It is easy to see prayer, Torah study, tefillin, Shabbos candles, etc. as G-dly. But to Hashem, our most mundane act can be G-dly. This is especially true when we show kindness to one another. What is more G-dly than that?

*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.*



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