

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

PARSHAS VA'ESCHANAN

Listen, Understand, Love

In this week's Parsha, Va'eschanan, in the second verse of the Shema, we are commanded, "And you should love Hashem..."

When it comes to loving someone, you either do or don't. You cannot be commanded to love another. How then do we fulfill this commandment?

Hashem wants to be understood, He wants to be known. The more we understand about Hashem, the more we love him. Being that Hashem is infinite, there is always more to know.

To be loved is to be understood.

Most women know this naturally, as they yearn to be understood. When they are understood, they feel loved.

To understand, you must listen. To listen is to remove one's personal understanding and feelings on the subject and hear it from the other one's perspective totally.

**IF YOU WILL
LISTEN, YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND.
IF YOU
UNDERSTAND,
YOU WILL LOVE.**

To listen is not just about hearing, its about picking up on nuances such as facial expressions, body language, and hints. To experience the other.

Again, most women naturally know how to listen, and most men do

not. Hence the complaint "he doesn't listen." Good listening takes effort and could be exhausting.

Hashem is saying, "try to understand Me, from My perspective." Hints are found all over the Torah. Pick up on the hints. Listen.

Hashem is asking us to understand why He created this world. How do we fit in the scheme of

things? He wants us to understand Him, to know Him.

A hint to this is found in the first verse of the Shema.

Shema Yisrael Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad. Listen Israel, Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is one.

In the Torah, this verse has two oversized letters, ayin, and dalet. Together they make up the Hebrew word, "da," to know or understand.

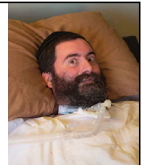
"Shema Yisrael," if you will listen. "Da," You will understand. That, "Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad," Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is One. In other words, what Hashem is all about. V'ahavta..., and then you will love Hashem...

Knowing Hashem's purpose will motivate and animate you, as you will find deep meaning in fulfilling Hashem's will. Not from a feeling of obligation but rather from love.

Listen, understand, love.

For anyone wanting a deeper understanding of Hashem. I would suggest learning Chabad Chassidus. Contact your local Chabad Rabbi for more info.

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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