

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

PARSHAS KI SAVO

Your Effort Is Precious to Hashem

This week's Parsha, Ki Savo, is always read on the second Shabbos before Rosh Hashanah. There must be a message here to help us in preparation for the great day.

The Parsha opens with the mitzvah of bikkurim, the first fruits.

First fruits were marked, later to be brought in a basket to the Temple and placed near the altar. The Kohanim would then enjoy the fruit.

The wealthy brought their fruits in a silver basket, while the common folk brought theirs in wicker baskets. Those who brought silver baskets would later take them home. However, those who brought wicker baskets would leave them in the Temple.

One would think that it should be the other way around. The wealthy, who could afford it, should leave their silver baskets. The poor, who struggle, should be able to take their baskets home.

For the wealthy businessman, the mitzvah of bikkurim was special. But being busy, he didn't have time. He just grabbed his silver basket, put the fruit in, and went.

**YOUR EFFORT IS
IMPORTANT AND
PRECIOUS TO
G-D.**

For the common folk, this mitzvah was so precious. The thrill inside, "I get to bring a gift to the Temple." Lovingly they handcrafted their baskets, especially for this mitzvah.

These wicker baskets were so precious to

Hashem, because of all the love, time, and effort that went into them. Therefore, He wanted them. The silver baskets, beautiful as they were, did not have the same love, time, and effort. Therefore, they take them home.

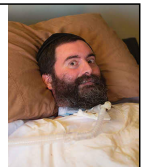
How will you prepare for Rosh Hashanah? Will you lovingly collect your fruit? Will you take the time to consider your past year's performance of mitzvahs? How you will improve in the coming year? Will you spend time preparing yourself for the holiday, or will you just show up?

Your effort is important and precious to Hashem. He wants it, He appreciates it, He loves it.

The same is true for our relationships. In our busy lives, many of our gestures are last minute. Nice as they are, they are not the same as those we put time and effort into. While both are positive, the effort, time, and love add dimension, depth, and meaning. Try it, and you will see.

Have a happy and sweet New Year.

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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