

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAT BEHAR-BECHUKOSAI

Your Speech Has The Power To Change You

In this week's Parsha, Bechukosai, we read that the Jewish people will confess their iniquity and their fathers' iniquity. In the next verse, it says that Hashem will bring them into the land of their enemies. It would seem that after we admit our wrongdoings, Hashem would take us to the Promised Land.

What is the purpose of taking us to the land of our enemies, especially when, in the narrative, we are already in the land of our enemies? What good does admitting our mistakes do for us? How can we apply this to our lives?

These verses come towards the end of a section that is filled with the consequences of not keeping the Torah and mitzvahs. We refuse because of our stubbornness, and we are not willing to open our hearts to accept Hashem's Torah and mitzvahs wholeheartedly and of our own will. It is only as a result of the suffering we endure that we admit our wrongdoing. It is like saying, "I realize that it wasn't worth doing those things." It is not a wholehearted confession, with the resolve to change. This kind of confession doesn't grant forgiveness. Yet the Torah calls it a confession, so it must have some value.

Speech is powerful. The words we say have an effect on the people who hear it and on the one speaking. In the case of confession, after repenting and making

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a commitment not to do it again, it helps to say it out loud, as your words will add strength to your commitment. Also, when one recognizes that he sinned, putting what he has done to words will cause him to regret what he did. Even in our case, where his admission is half-hearted, it still has some good effect. What it does is bring you to the next step.

Hashem says, "... and I will bring them into the land of their enemies." The key words here are, "and I will bring them," meaning that now Hashem will be more involved. As Rashi explains, this is a good thing because Hashem will send his prophets to bring us closer to Him. This will bring us to true remorse and forgiveness.

This all came to pass during the Babylonian Exile, bringing us back to the land of Israel for the Second Temple Era. However, when Moshiach comes, the Rambam says that we will repent and immediately be redeemed. This is because we will return to Hashem of our own free will and not because of the pressure of the exile.

This is true in our relationships. When you do something wrong, the best thing is to admit your wrongdoing, commit to change your ways, and to ask for forgiveness. But for some, this pill may be too hard to swallow, either because of stubbornness or some other reason. This is when admitting that it wasn't worth it becomes a stepping stone to rebuilding the relationship. Working on it together, with counseling, you will only get closer and earn forgiveness.

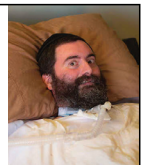
It is my hope that soon we will experience returning to Hashem of our own free will and immediately be redeemed.

"Rabbi Yitzi is an incredible person. His weekly article posted in the L'chayim magazine are always to the point and perfectly put. The column is small in size but massive in value, and I always look forward to reading it. May we only hear good news!"

- Aaron E, Brooklyn

RABBI YITZI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO:
(937) 770-4802 | TORAHFROMMYEYES@GMAIL.COM

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.



IN HONOR OF YITZY GEISINSKY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY.

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