

וְהָיָה עֲקֵב תִּשְׁמְעוּן אֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים הָאֵלֶּה וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם וְעָשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם וְשָׁמַר ה' אֶלְקֵיךָ לְךָ אֶת הַבְּרִית וְאֵת הַחֶסֶד אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְתָּיִךְ: דברים פרק ז' פי"ב

This shall be the reward when you hearken to these ordinances, and you observe and perform them; Hashem your G-D will safeguard for you the covenant and the kindness that He swore to your forefathers. [Devorim 7:12]

As this week's Parsha is filled with Psukim of the Brochos of Hashem, we must be knowledgeable how to acquire and attain these Brochos. It is interesting to note that a lot of Psukim in this week's Parsha are said in "Viyiten lechoh" on Motzei Shabbos, as a Seguloh (omen) to start the week on a good note. One may ask, how do I attain and retain these great Brochos and their benefits? The answer is in the question. Tzadikim ZY"A expounded, that the beginning Possuk of the Parsha is "Vihoyoh - it shall be", a language of Simchoh - Happiness. Furthermore, Tzadikim interpreted, Eikev - in the end, "Tzum soif" you shall listen, if so, listen now. Then we shall immediately reap all the Brochos, so why wait. as Rav Bunim of Parshischa said "Hayom - today, im BiKolo tishmohuh - if you shall listen to His command.

A Chossid (follower) of Rav Dovid of Kotzk had not traveled to him for a long time. When they finally met Rav Dovid asked him where has he been until now? The Chossid answered that the Rebbe had recently visited his town. To this answered the Rebbe, don't you know that the purification of Mikva is only accomplished by immersing in the water, in contrast to pouring water on one.

On a similar note, a Chossid travelled to his Rebbe for Shabbos. The Rebbe said at Torah by Tish, "This Shabbos is the "Grester (greatest) Shabbos - greater than last Shabbos, or any previous Shabbos, it is the greatest Shabbos of the year". This repeated itself the next Shabbos and the Shabbos thereafter. The Chossid concluded, if so, he can stay at home and exclaimed the greatness of the Shabbos, as his Rebbe did and so he concluded. Upon meeting his Rebbe, the next time, he was questioned about his conduct of first coming for Shabbosim and then his absence. Upon answering his behavior, the Rebbe answered "But one must come to hear it". As we are now entering the week of the Histalkus (passing of great Rebbes in recent years on the American soil, the Satmar Rebbe ZY"A (26 Av), the Spinka Rebbe ZY"A (27 Av), The Tosher Rebbe ZY"A (27 Av) the Skulener Rebbe (29 Av), we must instill in ourselves their ways and follow the Tzadikim who are presently with us and Daven for their wellbeing.

לימוד אור החיים הק' בחבורה ליל ששי 8:30 pm

וְהָיָה עֲקֵב תִּשְׁמְעוּן אֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים הָאֵלֶּה וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם וְעָשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם וְשָׁמַר ה' אֶלְקֵיךָ לְךָ אֶת הַבְּרִית וְאֵת הַחֶסֶד אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְתָּיִךְ: דברים פ"ב פי"ב

תניא: שלש מתנות טובות נתן הקב"ה לישראל: רחמנים, ביישנים, וגומלי חסדים. גומלי חסדים מניין? דכתיב: "ושמר ה' אלקיך לך את הברית ואת החסד".

Hashem granted three gifts to the Jewish people: to be merciful, modest, and to do acts of kindness. How do we know that Klall Yisroel do acts of kindness? It is written: "and Hashem your G-D will keep for you the treaty and the kindness." - Talmud Yerushalmi

Rashi famously comments on the words, "Eikev Tishmi'un; If you keep the Mitzvos that a person tramples with his heel." This refers to the seemingly trivial less important Mitzvos that we think are not really worth our time or effort. Only when we keep these Mitzvos as well, is it a sign of true dedication to the Mitzvos and to our Father above whose commandments we heed whether big or small. The Sefas Emes further illuminates this saying that the Remach or 248 Mitzvos Aseh each correspond to one of our 248 limbs, doing these Mitzvos gives life to its corresponding limb in this world and the next. In our body we have a head and heart which are surely very important above all the others. And just like the body has a heel, while although trivial, if it lacks strength, the entire body collapses, head, heart, and all, similarly if we ignore the trivial Mitzvos, all our hard work and devotion on the big ones will be for naught as the entire structure will collapse.

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Ah Guttin Shabbos Kodesh - Rabbi Naftali H. Ganzweig