



# POWERFUL PRAYER

Dear Parents,

As the war in Gaza continues, our focus remains on *Tefila*; the prayers of each individual and the *Klal* together are of paramount importance. Davening is a challenge for adults and children alike and maintaining enthusiasm week after week is not an easy task. With a greater appreciation for the power of *Tefila*, we may actually be able to capitalize on the current tragic and frightening circumstance to propel our and our children's *Tefila* to a much higher level.

In the beginning of our *Parsha*, the Torah tells us that *Yitzchak Avinu's* impassioned and relentless prayers for himself and *Rivka Imeinu* to have a child were answered. (*Bereishis 25:21, Rashi*). It apparently took passion and constant *Tefila* to achieve the desired result. **One doesn't stop davening as long as his goal remains possible yet elusive.**

An additional insight into *Tefila* can be gleaned from an incident brought in *Melachim Beis* (6:15-17). The *Navi* recounts an incident where the king of *Aram* was attacking *Klal Yisrael* with the intent of kidnapping the *Navi Elisha*. The *pesukim* describe how *Elisha's* attendant saw the vast army surrounding their city, and did not perceive that there was much of a defense on the side of the *Bnei Yisrael*. When he expressed his great concern to *Elisha*, the response from *Elisha* was not to worry - we have many more soldiers and armaments than our enemy.

The next *pasuk* describes how *Elisha* davened that his attendant's eyes would be opened to see what he was talking about. The servant then saw the mountainside filled with Jewish soldiers and chariots, surrounding and protecting *Elisha*. The soldiers were actually angels! The *Malbim* and other *Meforshim* explain that the soldiers and the armaments were created by *Elisha's Tefilos* - **they were spiritual creations that emerged as real soldiers and weapons on the battlefield.**

*Rabbi Yisrael Reisman, Shlita*, elaborates on this idea to show even more vividly how angels are created by our *Tefilos* and in accordance with the quality of our *Tefilos*. At *Akeidas Yitzchak*, In the *pasuk* where the *Malach* tells Avraham not to sacrifice *Yitzchak* (*Bereishis 22:12*), the *Malach* continues to tell Avraham that now he, the

*Malach*, knows that Avraham is G-d fearing; *because you Avraham did not withhold (sacrificing) your son from me. The Vilna Gaon, as quoted by Rabbi Reisman, questions why the Malach says "from me." It should say "from Hashem."*

The *Gra (Vilna Gaon)* explains that a *Malach* is created from every prayer, every good deed. However, not all *Malachim* are the same. Some are strong, robust, enthusiastic. Others are lethargic, weak, incomplete. What causes the difference? The enthusiasm and passion with which we davened, performed *mitzvos* and did *chasodim*. Focused, passionate prayer will create a strong, robust *Malach*. Distracted, rushed and mindless davening will create an incomplete, ineffective *Malach*.

This explains why *Avraham's Malach* said - "*you did not withhold from me.*" The *Malach* knew he was complete, strong and whole. He therefore knew that what created him was a level of *Yiras Shomayim* that was extremely lofty.

As we struggle to help our children make davening meaningful, this message can be very powerful. Each word of *Tefila* recited correctly and with sincerity creates a *Malach*, another soldier in the Army of *Klal Yisrael*. How we do with our davening yields direct results on the battlefield, on all battlefields and confrontations. **We have the power to create additional soldiers, greater firepower to defend Klal Yisrael.** What greater motivation do we need to work on improving our davening!

May we all, parents and children, work hard on our davening and *mitzvos*, which is the greatest contribution we can make to ensure the safety and well-being of *Acheinu Bnei Yisrael* and help bring the *Geulah Shelaima*.

Have a prayerful, angelic Shabbos,



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