

MaNews

Shabat Parashat Vayetzei:15

Laws & Customs

Why is it important to pray with a minyan (quorum)?

A person should make an effort to pray with a *minyan* (quorum) since G-d never rejects the prayers of a *minyan*. In addition it says that in the merit of praying with a minyan, one will make a living more easily and be blessed with the fruits of his labor. In fact, even if praying with a minyan causes one financial loss, G-d will repay him by granting him extra success. A minyan is comprised of ten Jewish men above the age of Bar Mitzvah. If there's a minyan in the room, but some of the people are unable to respond to the prayer—for example, they are praying the Amidah or they are mute—they still count for the minyan.

An elderly woman once came to Rabbi Yosi ben Chalafta and said, "I'm very old. My life has become unpleasant. I can't taste food or drink, and I would like to pass away." Rabbi Yossi said to her, "What mitzvah do you do every day?" She replied, "Every morning, I go to the synagogue to pray." Rabbi Yosi instructed her to stop attending synagogue for three days. She did this and subsequently passed away. Thus, we see that praying in a synagogue (with a minyan) is a *segulah* (spiritually propitious act) for long life.



Moving Day

Life changes are difficult to overcome. One of the biggest life changing events in a person's life is moving to a different city. When one moves they leave behind all they had built. It may be the friendships, the familiarity, or prosper that make them feel as foreigners to their new city. When Yaacov, our Patriarch, left his homeland to find a spouse, he too left all that behind.

One might think that the first step to moving is to adapt: learn the language, culture, and lifestyle of one's new neighbors. However, the first thing Yaacov did when he arrived at his new city was pray. He knew that his success in that city was not dependent on how he would adapt to his new environment, but rather how he would connect to G-d in his new environment. Therefore, the first thing he did was connect to G-d with a prayer.

We too must do the same thing just like Yaacov. As we start our day, which is like moving to a new city with new challenges, we must make an effort to connect with G-d. Before one enters into the day to day routine one needs to realize that the hand of G-d is and will be in everything that occurs that day. It is these thoughts and prayer that help us go through the day.

ה' - י"ג כסלו

Novemeber 12-13 2010

Candle Lighting

5:11

Shabbat Ends

6:05

**In Honor of the
Siegel Family**

Cutting Fish

Two Mezhebuzh citizens were involved in a bitter dispute. Once, while they were angrily having it out in the local synagogue, one shouted at the other: "I will tear you apart like a fish!"

Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, who was in the synagogue at the time, told his disciples to form a circle, each taking the hand of his neighbor, and to close their eyes. The Baal Shem Tov himself closed the circle by placing his holy hands upon the shoulders of the two disciples who stood nearest to him. Suddenly, the disciples cried out in fright: they saw the angry man actually ripping his fellow apart, just as he had threatened!

No potential ever remains unrealized. A person's every act, word, and even thought has an effect. At times, the effect is concrete and tangible; at times, is more subtle and can be discerned only a finer, more spiritual eye.

Quotable Quote

"Love a Jew and G-d will love you; do a favor to a Jew and G-d will make you favors; bring a Jew closer to G-d and G-d will approach you."

Rebi

Questions & Comments should be sent to MaNews@ymail.com