

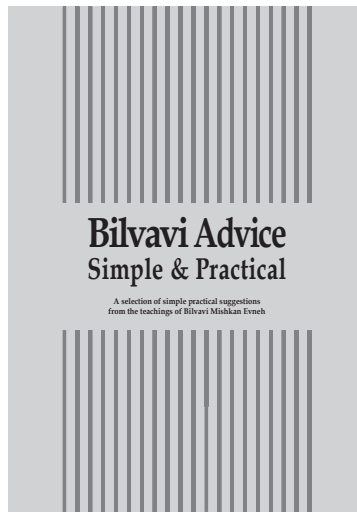
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Bilvavi Advice

Simple & Practical

A selection of simple practical suggestions
from the teachings of Bilvavi Mishkan Evneh

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Simple Practical Advice from Bilvavi Mishkan Evneh

Bilvavi Part One Chapter Two ♦ Belief in the Creator

The author of the Bilvavi Mishkan Evneh series has written extensively on a vast range of subjects in all areas of serving Hashem.

The approach is to reach the inner wisdom which is the deep root of each subject and then to explain the myriad details that enhance that inner wisdom.

This booklet focuses on small and specific portions from the Bilvavi sefarim which, over time, will help the learner build the broader picture which is the heart of the matter.

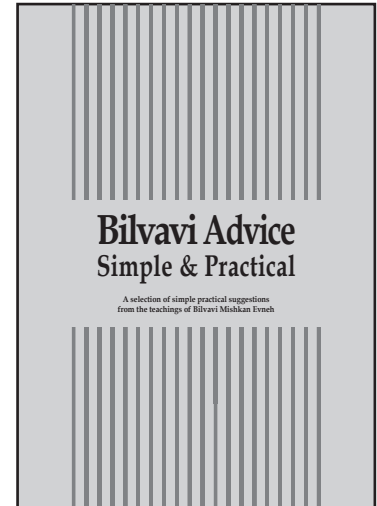
Choose a daily source of strength and renewal from among these selected practical suggestions:

1 A person knows that he must keep the 613 mitzvos, service of Hashem the secret of the inner life is simplicity of the soul, as it says, "My G-d, the soul you have placed in me is pure." Just as a child who is still innocent understands things in a simple way, so too the inner soul of a person, the pure element inside him, requires simple ideas. To awaken the element of truth in the soul, the pure element, one must employ the power of simplicity. This is the key point of the entire path with which we will progress, with the help of Hashem. (#44)

2 What is the starting point of all *avodas* Hashem? It is the clear and simple awareness that there is a Creator! It would seem to most people that this fact needs to be impressed only on someone who has not yet merited to enter the threshold of Judaism. ... But people raised in a home with a long-standing tradition of *emunah*, who observe the Torah meticulously and are always immersed in Torah and *mitzvos*, would seemingly not need to be informed about the Creator. Don't they already know about Him? The basic assumption is that the fact that the Creator exists is not a point that requires work or effort, because it is simple and clear. They believe that one's *avodah* begins at a much higher point. However, this is an error. The fact is that **every person must work on this simple point, the almost obvious fact - that the world has a Creator!** (#45)

3 All of life must be filled with thoughts of the Creator. To achieve this, **one does not need to be a genius or especially gifted.** All that is needed is a small measure of sincerity in the heart with which to seek truth and to seek Hashem. This is the purpose of life. (#51)

4 There are no words to express the value of the wondrous treasure of thinking about the Creator. All the silver and gold in the world do not equal the value of this knowledge. It is a precious and wondrous treasure with no equal. It is a treasure through which one can reach perfection, closeness to Hashem, and *deveikus* to Him. (#52)



בלבבי-א 002 מה נקרא קרבת ה' יתברך
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*Building a Sanctuary
in the Heart
Part One Chapter Two
Belief in the Creator*

5 One can learn Torah most of the day, pursue many acts of kindness, and keep the *mitzvos* – the “minor” ones as carefully as the “major” ones – and yet, almost never think of Hashem and not realize with Whom he is involved. The Chazon Ish wrote at the end of a private letter of instruction that “**the main thing is to remember before Whom you toil.**” (#54)

6 “**The righteous man lives with his emunah.**” (*Chavakuk* 2:4)
He receives vitality from his very *emunah* in the Creator. When the knowledge is only intellectual, it provides very little energy, but when it is in the heart, a person can draw vitality from the basic knowledge that there is a Creator. (#55)

7 Throughout the day, a person must go around with the thought that there is a Creator. This is the simplest of thoughts, without any deep analysis. ... One must live with this simple thought in his mind, and gradually bring it to life in his heart. It is the simplest non-complicated thought, the very clear knowledge that there is a Creator. This is the beginning of *avodah* for anyone who wishes to build a solid inner world. (#63)

*remember
every
moment,
that there is a
Creator in the
world –
feel it
in your heart,
live with it
always*

LIVING THE PARSHA – NOACH
(Written by the Rav especially for this publication)

A UNIQUE ARK OF NOACH

Surrounding Noach’s Ark was the flood. In order to protect Noach, his family, and all who entered the Ark, it was necessary to have a *teivah* (ark) to shield them from the waters of the flood. This was the outer reason for the need of an ark in the generation of the Flood. Similarly, in our generation, one must build a personal ark to protect oneself from the spiritual flood that surrounds us.

However, on an inner level, “Therefore man was created alone” (*Yalkut Shimoni, Bereishis* §15). For this reason, a person must build an inner world for himself. To do so, he must, at least metaphorically, spend a year like Noach in the Ark – or something similar – to construct his own inner world: his personal domain, pure and unmixed with others’ influences. Only afterward should his mind and spirit engage with others – and from time to time he must return to his ark, so as not to lose his private, inner world.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Each day, withdraw for a few minutes from everything around you—enter your own private ark—and sense your true self.

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' לְנֹחַ
בָּא-אֶתְּךָ וְכָל-
בֵּיתְךָ אֵלַי-
הַתֵּבָה...
(בראשית ז, א)