

HASHEM CAN BE FELT ONLY THROUGH THE SOUL

We have explained that there is *emunah* in the mind and *emunah* in the heart. The mind can know about Hashem, while the heart can sense Him, with a sense no less real than seeing and hearing.

Seven sources from this chapter are included along with their highlights. Choose a daily source of strength & renewal from among these selected practical suggestions:

1 The only way in which one can sense a connection to the divine and feel inherently attached to Hashem is through the soul.

SOURCE There is no way to feel Hashem with the physical senses. ... When *Chazal* told us that “Hashem, the Torah, and Yisrael are one unity,” they referred to the soul’s bond with Hashem, for it is called “*cheilek Eloka mimaal*, a portion of Hashem from above.” (Iyov 31:2) ... **The only way in which one can sense a connection to the divine and feel inherently attached to Hashem is through the soul.**

2 Anyone can perceive Hashem’s Providence but only we [Jews] can relate to Hashem as a Reality that can be felt.

SOURCE Anyone can possess intellectual faith, but we can achieve more than that: *emunah* of the heart. We have a *neshamah* that is inseparable from G-d, as it says, “Hashem, the Torah, and Yisrael are one unity.” (Zohar III, 73a) **Anyone can perceive Hashem’s Providence**, and acknowledge that He is the ultimate Lord and Master, **but only we [Jews] can relate to Hashem as a Reality that can be felt.** As long as your faith is only in the intellect ... you are not using your Jewish soul.

3 The original connection of body & soul created within man the power of speech.

SOURCE “The *passuk* (Bereishis 2:7) says “Hashem formed man from dust of the earth, and breathed into him a soul of life and man became a living soul.” This *passuk* contains the key for awakening the power of the human soul. It teaches us an awesome secret: **the original connection of body and soul created within man the power of speech.** When a person merits to use this power [of speech] to awaken and uncover the soul, he will naturally be privileged to recognize the soul’s counterpart – Hashem.

4 If we only use the body, without involving the soul, it is no wonder that we do not cleave to Hashem and sense Him through all our Torah and *mitzvos*.

SOURCE If one learns Torah and fulfills *mitzvos* without involving the living soul that Hashem gave us, he cannot attain a palpable closeness to the Creator. A person has a tool, the body, which contains an inner source of life – the soul. **If we only use the body, without involving the soul, it is no wonder that we do not cleave to Hashem and sense Him through all our Torah and *mitzvos*.**

5 How can we expose the soul? We must use ... the power of speech.

SOURCE Our *avodah* is to choose life, which is closeness to Hashem. Without a soul, we cannot hope to do so. We cannot hope to reach Hashem! The soul is present in the body, but the body conceals it. **How can we expose the soul? We must use** (the faculty that results from and enhances the bond of body and soul), **the power of speech.** When we use it, we connect the soul to the body, and then the soul can become revealed to us.

6 Speech is the faculty through which one can truly serve Hashem. If we overlook it, we cannot reach Hashem!

SOURCE King Shlomo taught us an important principle: “*kol amal ha’adam lepihu*, all a person’s effort is for his mouth.” (Kohelles 6:7) This *passuk* contains a fundamental lesson about how to serve Hashem. “All a person’s effort is for his mouth” means that **speech is the faculty through which one can truly serve Hashem. If we overlook it, we cannot reach Hashem!**

7 Without proper speech in our mouths, we have no real *emunah*. We must learn how to use our speech to become close to the Creator.

SOURCE A person can, *chas veshalom*, take the power of speech, lower it from its proper level, and speak with only the body. ... a person might learn Torah and speak, perform *mitzvos* and speak, but one kind of speech awakens the soul, while the other is just noise and chatter. He may lack a real connection to Torah and his inner divine soul which can awaken the connection to Hashem. ... **Without proper speech in our mouths, we have no real *emunah*. We must learn how to use our speech to become close to the Creator.**

- ♦ Hashem can be felt only through the soul
- ♦ *Emunah* in the heart
- ♦ “Man became a living soul” – a speaking spirit
- ♦ Speech bonds the body with the life-force of the soul
- ♦ Two kinds of speech