

BILVAVI

BUILDING A SANCTUARY IN THE HEART

לחיות את הפרשה

RE'EH 461

ראה בענינו – We ask Hashem to “see our suffering.”

Whenever we daven for something in Shemoneh Esrei, we need to ask for it truthfully. “The mouth and heart must be equal.” It is not enough to know the meaning of what we are saying and to concentrate. The point is that when we ask for something, we need to really want it – our heart should want what we are saying with our mouth.

For example, when one asks Hashem for understanding, but he doesn't seek to understand things, his prayer is not truthful. His heart and mouth are not equal with each other, because his mouth is requesting something that his own heart is not in touch with.

If one davens that Hashem should return us to do teshuvah, yet he himself makes no effort to help others do teshuvah, his prayer is not truthful; his heart is not in line with what he says in with his mouth. The same is true for when someone asks Hashem to be forgiven for his sins, yet he himself is not forgiving of others.

We ask Hashem in this blessing of Shemoneh Esrei that He should see all our suffering, and in particular, the financial suffering that is going on in Creation - all of the oni\poverty. In particular, the Jewish people suffer from poverty.

But first, we need to see how others are suffering, and then we are able to ask Hashem from a more truthful place in ourselves, that He should see our suffering.

It is written, “And purify our hearts to serve You in truth.” If a person doesn't reveal emes\truth in himself, he can't recognize what's going on, so things don't bother him. When he davens, it is if he is saying a lie, because he does not feel for anything he davens for. His behavior contradicts what he says in his Tefillos.

We are supposed to feel the pain of others. We learn this from Moshe Rabbeinu, who went out from the palace to see the suffering of the people. Chazal say that “he placed his mind and heart to worry about them.”

The world is full of so many, many kinds of suffering. People often do not think about what others are going through. A person never thinks about it; he begins to realize it when a collector comes to his door and he sees that there is a family with a widow and 19 orphans, and that the family is full of all kinds of terrible suffering as well...

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