בס"ד

BILVAVI

BUILDING A SANCTUARY IN THE HEART

LIVING THE PARSHA לחיות את הפרשה

LECH LECHA #472

לֶךְ לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךָּ

"Go forth from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you"

ALWAYS GO FOR THE GOOD

It states (Tehillim 34:15), סוּר מֵרָע וַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב, "Go away from bad and do good." A key word here is וַעֲשֵׂה , "do". A person should leave bad and do good with his actions. But it can be explained on a deeper level:

Behold it states מִדְּבַר שָׁקֶר תִּרְחָק, "Distance yourself from falsehood" (Shmos 23:7), with an emphasis on the word תִּרְחָק, "distance yourself". So, too, סוּר מֵרָע וַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב, can mean to distance yourself from bad, and to bring yourself nearer to performing good.

Therefore, Hashem said to Avraham, לֶךְ לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךָּ, "Go away from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you" לֶךְ לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ..., "Go away from your land" means סוּר מֵרָע, "Go away from bad." Distance yourself from bad. Distance yourself מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ , from your land, birthplace, and from your father's home. וַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב, come nearer to good, אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךָּ, "the land that I will show you."

IN PRACTICE

Chazal say, ימשמש אדם במעשיו, ויפשפש במעשיו, a person should check his deeds, to see whether they are according to *halachah*. Additionally, one should check his ways, and to consider: what will distance them from bad and direct their ways closer to performing good. Always seeking the correct path in life.

EXPANDED BASED ON EDITORS UNDERSTANDING

ALWAYS GO FOR THE GOOD

It states (Tehillim 34:15), סוּר מֵרָע וַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב, "Go away from bad and do good." On its simple level, the *pasuk* is discussing actions, as it states וַעֲשֵׂה , "do". The *pasuk* is encouraging us to perform *mitzvos* and to be cautious from *aveiros*.

But the *pasuk* can be explained on a deeper level. In addition to performing good and avoiding bad, the *pasuk* adds that you should live a path that will lead you to keeping mitzvos and to avoiding *aveiros*. For example, live in a G-d fearing environment, where it will be easier for you to do Hashem's will. Don't linger around your past tests and challenges, if you can avoid them. Prepare your path beforehand, so you will succeed.

This is as it states מִדְּבַר שָׁקֶר תִּרְחָק, "Distance yourself from falsehoods" (Shmos 23:7), with an emphasis on the word תִּרְחָק, "distance yourself". So, too, סוּר מֵרָע וַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב, can mean distance yourself from bad and bring yourself nearer to performing good. Keep yourself far away from bad, and near to performing good.

Hashem said to Avraham, לֶךְ לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ, "Go away from your land, from your birthplace and from your father's house." Distance yourself from even coming in contact with bad. Go, אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךָּ, "to the land that I will show you." Go to a land where there are good influences because that will help you avoid bad and to perform good.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

When there is a deep pit, people don't walk right up, next to its edge. They keep a distance. So, too, one should distance himself from tests and challenges.

One example is a person who has a tendency to steal, *r'l*. When he does *teshuvah*, part of the *teshuvah* should be that he won't carry other people's money, even for good purpsoses (such as to guard it, or to invest it, etc.). He knows his weakness, and he should distance himself from sin.

Also, he should bring himself closer to performing good. For example, when a person desires to improve his *davening*, he should begin *davening* in a place where people *daven* well. He shouldn't *daven* in his house or in a *beis medresh* that doesn't honor *tefillah* sufficiently.

Chazal say, ימשמש אדם במעשיו, ויפשפש במעשיו, a person should check his deeds, to see whether they are according to *halachah*. Additionally, one should check his ways, and to consider: what will distance me from bad and what will bring me closer to performing good.

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