Rosh Hashanah: Do Small Changes Really Matter? Posted by everchange - 07 Sep 2018 21:27

With Rosh Hashanah around the corner there is a very important

question to be addressed: How do we merit a good judgement?

The first step to earning a good judgement is to realize that one

is being judged! With this realization one then needs to act.

One needs to contemplate which areas of his life, his midot,

his Torah observance, etc. require improvement and are truly

within his means to improve. This does not mean to become

the Rebbe overnight. Every individual is judged based on their own

level, life circumstances, and abilities. In order to make a true and lasting

commitment to change one needs to realize what he needs to change and

why, how he can change it, and there needs to be a motivation that will

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carry him through to completion. One needs to consider these three points

so that his commitment does not end up like any other new years resolution.

But is such change truly enough to merit a good judgement

when each person has so much to fix? The Gemara (San Hedrin 108a)

states that Noach did not deserve to survive the flood and he only did

so because he found favor in God's eyes. The Midrash (Beresh*t Rabbah 32, 6)

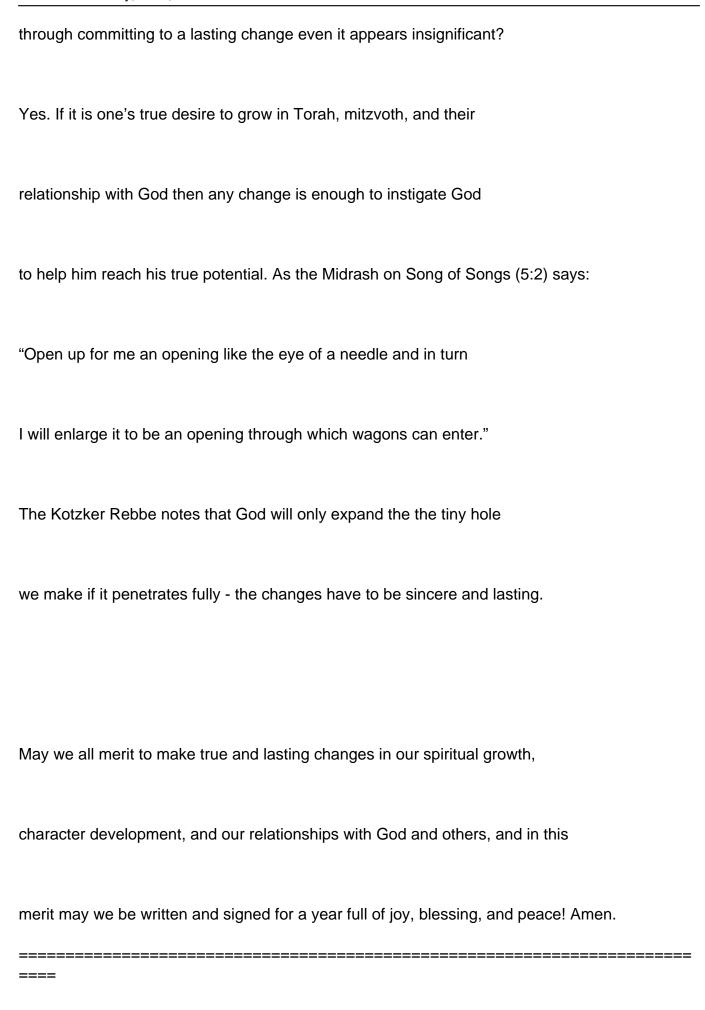
states that Noach did not enter the ark until the waters reached his knees.

Rashi (Beresh*t 7:7) comments that Noach too was a person of little faith

because he was in doubt whether God will truly bring a flood to the world

or not so he did not enter the ark until the waters forced him to do so.

Yet, despite this, God viewed Noach as the most righteous individual of his generation (Beresh*t 6:9). Why? Because God judges each individual's growth and development based on their circumstances and abilities which are tailor-made by God in accordance with that person's purpose in the world. Noach was able to overcome the influences and standards imposed by society and he was able to grow and come closer to God in accordance with his level. In God's eyes, Noach was the most righteous of his generation, not because he was not lacking in his character development and growth, but because he made the most out of the situation that God placed him in. He recognized his potential and made it into a reality. Back to our question. Is it possible for one to merit a good judgement



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