

Elul and Excuses

Posted by neshamaincharge - 10 Sep 2024 14:22

I heard an idea in the name of R' Shmuel Brazil that "if only" is the opposite of "if not for".

"if only", "but for" or "if not for".

We spend so much of our life blaming everyone and everything. Elul is the time that we turn it all around and tell ourselves "NO excuses", period.

For people that are so used to playing the blame game this is not easy to do, but so refreshing and worthwhile to take responsibility for our lives.

????? ??????? ??????

=====
====

Re: Elul and Excuses

Posted by BenHashemBH - 13 Sep 2024 02:34

Beautiful vort (among many) that I read from last week's Parsha and hope it can be a chizuk to some. Have a wonderful Shabbos Brothers.

???????????? ???? ????????????? ???? ????????????? ???? ????????????? ???? ???? ???? ????????? ???? ?????????
?????? ????????????????? ???? ????????? ???? ????????????? ???? ?????????????

The ??? ?????? says, ????????????? isn't just a physical war, but refers to the battle with the ??? ????? - the ?????? ????????? - the ?????? ??????. The ?????? alludes to the ??? ????? having 3 specific tactics that he fights us with.

1 – The ??? ????? is a like the ?????, an animal of war, representing that he is battle hardened, fully immersed in ?????????????, and we are not.

2 – ?????????, he entices us from the things that we're made up of. It's very hard to fight when he's giving us what we want. Speaking to the part of us that is grafted to physicality, with all the nityos, pulls, and lust. It's very difficult to fight him when he gives us what we naturally crave –

at least in part.

3 – ??? ??? ????????. There is a tremendous history here. You are fighting not just the ????? here in front of you, but you are fighting your own history. You were ????? ????? and compiled ????? over the years and the ??? ??? says “look at you, look at all these things ????? you and realize that it’s insurmountable. You can’t overcome this and accomplish anything.”

The ??? ?????’s answer is: The ??? ??? is right! He’s got the upper hand, and you can’t beat him. YOU can’t beat him. ??? ????? – don’t be afraid because it’s not about you. I, Hashem, am with you. You aren’t coming with your own ?. If you try, it’s insufficient to fight the ??? ???. But if you come with the ?? of ????? ????? ???, then you can do it. Hashem helps those who come to purify themselves. The proof is because I am Hashem that took you up from ????? ??????????. We were at the ?? levels of ????? as far as we could possibly be from being the ??? ????? that we want to be, but Hashem ?????????? – he lifted us up from ????? ??????????. Just like Hashem did that, he can do that in our personal fight with our ??? ???.

????? ????? says it’s a ???. We cannot fear the struggle and the futility of it – not because we can to it, but because we can’t do it. And because we’re giving ourselves over to the ????? ?? ????? with ????? ?????, Hashem is in charge, and He can lift us up and take us out of any difficult ????? that we could be in. So, all the dreams and ????? that a Yid feels and wants to have but he feels that he can’t accomplish it, he’s right! But it’s not up to him to accomplish it, it’s up to him to want it and to try. When he does that, ????? ??– A person makes the effort and Hashem says “I’m going to help you”. We can’t do it on our own, but with ????? ????? ???, nothing is insurmountable.

The idea, this concept is ????? ???. ??? ????? ????? ???. We start off ??? ?????, we need to give our effort and ourselves up to ????? ????? ???. That’s the ????? of ?????, to say to the ????? ?? ?????: I am not in charge, I’m ????? myself to you. Not just that I’m coming towards you, recognizing that I can’t possibly do it on my own. And then takeh ????? ??.

The concept of a Yid getting up before ??? ?????, before the ??? of changing where he starts to change himself, he says to the ????? ?? ????? I am willing to do all I can, and I recognize that I can’t do it on my own. ?’ ????? says part of the ????? that a person has to have, aside from the ????? in Hashem is to believe in himself. What is that? It is not that I myself, I’m so strong, I

can do it. It's the belief that ????? ????? ??? can take me anywhere and therefore I am taka limitless. The opposite of what you would think. If a person is willing to accept that he can't do it on his own, but he recognizes with a full clarity that ????? ????? ??? promises that if he wants to do it, Hashem can do anything, He can make ????? to help me change my personality, to change my DNA that I can want to finish Shas. I could want to learn. I can have a geshmak in davening. I can change a ???. That Hashem can't do? That's ?????! When a person gives up on himself, he's ??? a ?????, says ?' ?????, because it's a ????? ????? that he's looking at life like "I'm in control, I can't do it", and then gets discouraged when he can't. It's ????? because I'm not in control, ????? ????? ??? is in control and He is ?? ?????. He can do anything. The ????? that we have to do is ????? ??????????????. We have to start the war, make the effort, go out, and submit ourselves to Hashem.

The ????? in ????? on .?? says the Kohen anointed for war goes out to war with the troops and he says to them "Shema Yisrael . . ." . He reads the ??????? of ??? ??????? ??????????? ??? ??????????? – don't be disheartened. Let your heart not be afraid and weak. Don't discourage everyone else around you. The ??? ??? says that after the Kohen calls back anyone with a new vineyard, wife, or house, there is a 4th thing – if you are afraid of the ????? ????? then you go back from the ??????????. The ??? ??? says beautifully - you think that because you have ????? ????? that ????? ????? ??? won't help you? What is he thinking? He's saying that I have ?????, so I'm not going to be able to fight. Hashem won't give me ????? ??????. Then got out of here because you are going to discourage everyone else. Because it's not true! You can have all the ????? in your hand, says the ??? ???, and ?? ?? ?? ??, ????? ????? ??? is going to help you. The belief that the fear of ????? will hold me back - that fear you have to be ?????, because it's an incorrect attitude. ????? ????? ??? will not hold back his ????? ????? because you have past history and you have ?????, as long as you believe that ????? ????? ??? can pull you out.

You try.

=====
=====

Re: Elul and Excuses
Posted by ploiny7777777 - 13 Sep 2024 21:57

on a similiar note, (of ????? and ?????) the following was said in the name of the Baal Shem Tov:

it says in the posuk "?? ????? ?????????? ?? ??? ????? ?? ??????" in addition to the simple translation, the posuk can also be explained as follows:

"?? ??? ????? ?? ??????" is talking about two types of teshuva; 1) a general Teshuvah which is done on Rosh Hashanah, when we crown Hashem as our king and accept upon ourselves .??? ????????? and 2) a more personal Teshuvah on Yom Kippur, when we verbalize and ask for forgiveness for all of our sins.

and these two Teshova's are dependant on our Cheshbon HaNefesh which we make during the month of Elul; as is mentioned in the Posuk: ?? ?????????? which???? is the same letters as???? and the Posuk is teachnig us that if we dwell and concentrate and use our Elul time wisely (?????????) then we can properly come to the second half of the Posuk, and do both Teshuva"s in the proper manner.

may hashem help that each and every one of us use this Elul time wisely and come to the month of Tishrei fully prepared.

=====
=====

Re: Elul and Excuses
Posted by frank.lee - 15 Sep 2024 00:17

Amazing pshat/drash! I wondered about the pasuk. It seems a rare example of sarcasm in the Torah.

Where else in Chumash is there sarcasm?

=====
=====

Re: Elul and Excuses
Posted by 5678 - 15 Sep 2024 05:21

Thanks

=====
=====