

“תקעו בחדש שופר בכסה ליום חגנו”

(תהלים פא:ד)

Faith Is the Essence

THE TEACHING

The essence is faith (הַעֲקָר הוּא הָאֱמוּנָה), and each person must search himself and strengthen it. Some illnesses, wondrous blows (מַכּוֹת מְפֹלְאוֹת), come from fallen faith; then no remedy, no prayer, not even the merit of the fathers (זְכוּת אֲבוֹת) helps, for all of them stand on faith.

The cure is a cry from the depth of the heart, without a sound. It reveals counsel (עֲצוֹת), the deep waters from which faith grows. Then pride becomes tefillin (תְּפִלִּין), a pure mind; joy strengthens the angel of dreams, binding the Chariot repairs judgment, and simple service crowns it all.

MAIN POINTS

- Remedies come from herbs and rain, and rain comes through faith: “אֱמוּנָה זֶה סֵדֶר זְרָעִים” (שבת לא). Prayer is faith too: “וַיְהִי יָדָיו אֱמוּנָה” (שמות יז:יב).
- When even a groan does not help, the heart cries alone: “צָעַק לָבָם אֶל ה'” (איכה ב:יח). That reveals counsel, “וְאֱמוּנָתְךָ בְּלִילוֹת” (תהלים צב:ג), and as darkness gives way to light faith grows: “מִמֶּם עֲמָקִים עֲצָה בָּלָב אִישׁ” (משלי כ:כה).
- A man of understanding (אִישׁ תְּבוּנוֹת) draws them up. He draws holiness into limits, the Name ש-ד-ו, which said to its world דִּי, enough; his soul is polished and his livelihood (פְּרִנָּסָה) grows.
- Raised faith brings converts (גֵּרִים), and with them a pride that self-made leaders seize: “קָשִׁים גֵּרִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל כְּסַפְּחָת” (קידושין ע:). The true shields of the land, “מִגְנֵי אֶרֶץ”, subdue it, and the mind is purified into tefillin, kept within its bounds: “וְשִׁמְתִּיךָ בְּנִקְרַת הַצּוּר” (שמות לג:כב).
- A pure mind speaks pure words, and in sleep brings a dream through an angel (מַלְאָךְ), not a demon. Food can weaken the angel; joy strengthens it, so a bad dream is mended by a fast or by eating with joy. Crooked judgment is cooled by binding the Chariot (קֶשֶׁר הַמְּרֻכָּבָה) before sleep.
- The shofar holds it all: תְּקִיעָה, תְּרוּעָה, שְׂכָרִים, so do Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkos (מְלֶאךָ equals סֶכָה in gematria) and Shemini Atzeres, and a true Rebbe with his students.
- At the peak is simplicity (פְּשִׁיטוּת): the son who loves his Father so much that he does a servant's work, “בְּנוֹ הָעֶלֶבֶד אֹתוֹ” (מלאכי ג:יז). To him is shown even “צִדִּיק וְרַע לוֹ, רָשָׁע וְטוֹב לוֹ”, which Moshe did not grasp in his lifetime.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

When you are lost, cry out from the heart. Eat your bread with joy. And serve Hashem simply, without being clever about it.

In the full shiur: 1. Faith Is the Essence, and the Wondrous Blows · 2. The Deep Waters of Advice, and Darkness Before Light · 3. The Man of Understanding, Shakai, and Livelihood · 4. Fallen Faith, Converts, and the Sword of Pride · 5. The Shields of the Land, and Tefillin · 6. Pure Words, and a Dream Through an Angel · 7. Food, the Seven Climates, and the Strength of the Angel · 8. Joy, the Fast, and the Month of Nissan · 9. Crooked Judgment, and Binding the Chariot · 10. Tekiah, Teruah, Shevarim, and the Five Senses of Rosh Hashanah · 11. The Ten Days, Yom Kippur, Sukkos and Shemini Atzeres · 12. The Yeshivah's Five Senses, and Rav Huna's Students · 13. Simplicity: The Son Who Serves Like a Servant · 14. The Lung: Cool and Moist · 15. A Journey in the Desert: The Meat, the Grass and the Coals · 16. The Verse Decoded, and Simple Service Raises Judgment

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