



“Pray and Believe”

April 2025

We all go through daily challenges. Some at home, some at work, some physical, some emotional. We are always told, “say a prayer, keep your faith and plough forward”. So, the question is always asked “Does G-d really listen to all our prayers?” The answer is yes, but sometimes he answers the prayer with what is good for us, even though to us it might not seem so, or we might not understand the answer, or perhaps the answer is beyond our comprehension.

Let me explain with the following story.... “Pray and Believe” ...

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades.

Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed.

As he waited, he prayed, “Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen.”

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, “Well, I guess the L-rd is not going to help me out of this one.”

Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave. As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave. He thought, “What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. G-d does have a sense of humor.”

As the enemy drew closer, he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while.

“Lord, forgive me,” prayed the young man. “I had forgotten that in You a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall.” End of story.

We all face times of great trouble and challenges that look insurmountable. When we do, it is so easy to forget the victories that G-d has worked and works in our lives, sometimes in the most surprising ways.

Remember: Whatever is happening in your life, with G-d, a mere spider's web can become a brick wall of protection. Believe He is with you always and He loves his children.

Let’s take a moment to reflect.

We woke up early today, excited over all the things we get to do before the day ends. We have responsibilities to fulfill today. We are important. Our job is to choose what kind of day we are going to have.

Today we can complain because the weather is rainy or ...

we can be thankful that the grass is getting watered and greener...

Today we can feel sad that money is tight or...

we can be glad that our finances encourage us to plan our spending and purchases wisely.

Today we can grumble about our health or...

we can rejoice that we are alive.

Today we can lament over all what our parents didn't give us when we were growing up or...

we can feel grateful that they allowed us to be born.

Today we can cry because roses have thorns or...

we can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today we can whine because we have to go to work or...

we can shout for joy because we have a job.

Today we can murmur dejectedly because we have to do work around the house or...

we can feel honored because Life has provided shelter for our mind, body and soul.

Today stretches ahead of us, waiting to be shaped. And here we are, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping. So, we pause to thank G-d for what we have and pray for guidance as we look forward to a new bright day.

And before we close a little humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling...

BRAINS vs. BRAWL

The strong young man at the construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen. After several minutes, the older man had finally had enough.

“Why don’t you put your money where your mouth is?” the older man said. “I will bet a week’s wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won’t be able to wheel back?”

“You’re on, old man”, the braggart replied. “Let’s see what you’ve got.”

The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then, nodding to the young man, he said with a smile,

“All right. Get in” Moral of the Story: Don’t Mess with an Old Timer.

One more short one:

"The Speeding Driver": A man is speeding down a highway at 1:00 A.M. when he gets pulled over by a cop. The officer comes up to the car and says, “Do you have any idea how fast you were going?” The man replies, “I’m sorry officer, I was rushing to a lecture about the negative impacts of alcohol abuse and the importance of staying within the law.” Intrigued, the officer asks, “Really? Who’s giving that lecture at this time of night?” The man smirks and says, “My wife”.... lol...

On behalf of all your Chaplains, May G-d bless you, keep you safe and always help you in His loving care. Amen.

Should need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give is a call.

Chaplains Website: www.chicagopcm.org

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf

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