



By Rabbi Moshe Wolf

A new year, new resolutions, new hopes, wishes for a bright future. You ask yourself "so what does the future bring?".

We have all made mistakes in the past, we all have "if's" in our lives. But let us remember the famous saying, you can't turn the clock back and make a new beginning, but we can all start today and make a better ending". It reminds me of the short story....

"Burnt Toast, Deal or Deal Braker?"....

When I was a teenager, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner, every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made one of those meals after a long, hard day at work.

On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, hash browns, and extremely burned toast in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his toast, smile at my mom, and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that toast and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the toast. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burnt toast."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy goodnight and I asked him if he really liked his toast burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Son, your Mother put in a hard day at work today and she was really tired. And besides, a little burnt toast never hurt anyone!".....end of story.

Let us remember, life is full of imperfect things . . . and imperfect people. There are many of us that are not the best at keeping a home in order or the best cooks, or the

best at reconciling our checkbooks. What we can teach ourselves is to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences as we are. That is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship at home and at work.

That's our prayer for us today; that we will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of our lives and lay them at the feet of G-D. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give us a livelihood or a relationship where "burnt toast" isn't a deal-breaker!

Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket but into your own, and don't take yourself too seriously. Don't let a day go by without laughter, it's balm for the heart and soul.

A "New Year's Prayer"

May G-d make our year a happy one! Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes. Not by making our path easy, but by making us sturdy to travel any path. Not by taking hardships from us, but by taking fear from our hearts. Not by granting us unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows. Not by making our life always pleasant, but by showing us when people and their causes need us most, and by making us anxious to be there to help. G-d's love, peace, hope and joy to all, for the year ahead.

On behalf of Fr. Dan Brandt and ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. The work you do is Holy and noble and for that we are most grateful.

If we can ever be of assistance or should you wish company for a ride along, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf 773-230-7872 or e-mail [moshewolf@hotmail.com](mailto:moshewolf@hotmail.com)