



לזכות
החיילים בצבאות ה'
ישראל זאב שיחי' ניו
אפרים פישל שיחי' בראפמאן
לרגל ה'אפשרעניש'

נדפס ע"י
הרה"ת ר' איסר וזוגתו מרת חי' מושקא
ומשפחתם שיחיו
ניו



Be Grateful!



B”H. 4 Shevat, 5716*.

...In reply to your letter dated in the month of Kislev, the month of *geula*, in which you write about your present situation, and that throughout your entire life you’ve never experienced any goodness, and you ask for a *bracha* for yourself, your wife and your children:

It seems that you don’t realize the contradiction inherent in your letter.

That a man who Hashem has brought together with his wife, and blessed them with children—may they live and be well—should say that he has never experienced goodness in his life: this is the height of ingratitude.

Certainly these words will not negatively impact—G-d forbid—the *brachos* that Hashem has given you until now. But that Hashem is continuing to give you *brachos*—and increasing them—is no reason to continue being an ingrate.

Hundreds and thousands of people *daven* every day to be blessed with children, and they would give everything they have for just one son or daughter; and yet, they have not yet merited to have one—may Hashem bless them with the fulfillment of their hearts’ desires for good, speedily—and you, who have received this *bracha*, and apparently without any extra *davening* for it—don’t recognize the fortune and joy inherent in this, since you write [otherwise] twice in your letter! What’s more, you conclude by saying that you don’t believe that Hashem will help you, for it has been decreed that you will be destitute and downtrodden your entire life.

Obviously, my intention is not to say that your *parnassah* must be minimal and your health poor. Instead, I am bringing to your attention that perhaps the reason for your poverty and ill health is because you don’t recognize at all Hashem’s *bracha* in something much more essential than health or wealth¹: the *bracha* of children that follow in the ways of Hashem. When you don’t appreciate the open and revealed good that Hashem gave you, especially when the ingratitude is to such a shocking extent—to the point where you use the sharp expressions that you wrote in your letter—why is it surprising that Hashem isn’t giving you *brachos* in other areas?

I hope that these few lines of mine will be enough to open your eyes to perceive the situation for what it truly is. When you begin to serve Hashem with true, internal joy, Hashem’s *bracha* will also increase in the areas of health and *parnassah*, as is clear from many sources in Torah, including Zohar, part 2, page 184b.

You certainly have a set time to learn Torah—both *nigleh* and Chassidus. In any case, you should do so going forward. It would also be proper to check your tefillin and the mezuzos in your home. Every weekday, you should give some money to tzedakah.²

[Signed] on behalf of the Rebbe shlita,
Secretary

1. See Hayom Yom 9 Nissan. See also “*How to Plan a Family*,” Derher Kislev 5780, sections “Why Should We Have Children” and “Olam Haba In Your Lifetime.”

2. Igros Kodesh vol. 12 no. 4090. Likkutei Sichos vol. 11 p. 523.