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Prayer 2: Positive Energy in the Air!

Take, as an example, the computer you are looking at right now. Perhaps it's a tablet or a smartphone, it doesn't matter in principle. Smart people worked for several years and made a number of components out of various natural resources – a bit of metal, some plastic and some glass, and here it is: an amazing device which can be used to communicate with any corner of the globe.

Is it necessary for the person who invented the machine to be the one to operate it? Of course not, it was manufactured in such a way that any one of us can run the device. Is it necessary for the inventor of the device to do the work of assembling it? Not at all.

Here is what happened. Somebody took some existing materials, processed them according to the laws of physics, and changed their physical form so that they would work according to basic assumptions with which we are all familiar today.

And the device works – it does what it is supposed to do.

However, in essence the inventor who puts elements together and the object that he makes do not have the same identity. For the Creator of the World, such a statement would not be true. As we discussed in the first series of lectures, the Creator made the world ... after starting with nothing!

This is the understanding that the nation of Israel has been teaching others for thousands of years, from the time of the Patriarch Abraham. Every scientist and philosopher, and all the religions that grew up after the arrival of the nation of Israel, took over this idea from Israel!

What does this mean, that God created the world out of nothing? It means that He continues to support this creation every single moment! There is no other way that the concept of creation can be understood. The Creator made the object, and ever since then He continues to infuse it with what He gave it in the beginning of Creation, so that it continues to exist.

If the Creator would "take back" what He "put into" the creation – it would disappear immediately, and return to nothingness! To put it another way, in essence there is a constant link between the Creator and the Creation.

What does this mean to us?

The same principle applies to people. For us, the matter is even stronger, since we encounter a "status" of death. What happens? The body is the same body, but the

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Creator has taken away the part that gives the body life, the soul. [Note as an aside: If He would take everything He put into man, the body too would have returned to nothingness...]

The meaning of all we have said up to now is that there is a unique link between the Creator and us, human beings. Following the Jewish tradition, we can put it this way: "Man (note that this refers to all mankind, everybody who has descended from Noah) has found special favor in that he was created in the image of God." [The Ethics of the Fathers]. This, for example, is the foundation for the rule that murder is prohibited, and for the requirement that every human being must be treated with respect.

However, the continuation of the above passage is even more important. "Man knows about this special favor, in that he was created in the Divine image." [Ibid]. This happens when a man knows that he has been favored, accepts this truth, and therefore lives in accordance with the understanding that he contains "a Divine Image" within himself.

Now combine the two principles which we have discussed until now:

- (1) The Creator is constantly linked to His creation, and gives him life.
- (2) Mankind is capable of becoming aware of this fact.

This gives us the empowering significance of prayer!

During prayer, when a man stands before the Creator, he is connecting to his own source of energy. This can be thought of as renewing the charge in his batteries!

Prayer is not merely a request for many different things that a person lacks. Of course it is that too, but prayer in depth is something that links you directly to the Creator of the World, and creates full identification and correspondence between your own desires and the desire of the Creator.

The closer we are to understanding these foundations, the more alive our prayer will become! We will become filled with various types of energy, we will be exhilarated and feel empowered because of the living link to the One who Created the World. We will feel that our load becomes lighter and that our basic understanding of the world is enhanced. What a joy it is for us to discover that we have the ability to pray!

How does this issue grow to encompass the whole world? To include all the parts of Creation? Exactly what is the meaning of the concept that my desires and the Will of God are one and the same?

More on this and other ideas in the next message...

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