



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Vayakhel

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The Pasuk (35,21) tells us “וַיִּבְּאוּ כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-נִשְׂאוֹ לִבּוֹ” - that every man whose heart picked them up donated to the Mishkan. The Ramban says that we don't generally find by givers a lifting of their heart but here it mentions that because they didn't have anyone to teach them or anyone who knew the work at all. But they found in their nature that they know how to do it, and “They lifted their hearts in the way of Hashem (Divrei Hayamim 2:17,6)”, to go before Moshe to say they are able to do it!

It seems that the whole thing is a miracle to do this complex, intricate work, but first they had to strengthen themselves and say - “I can do it!” Why was this necessary? If they couldn't do it then how is this confidence appropriate, and if they can so what does “I can do it!” accomplish?

What we see from here is that even if there is potential inside us for miracles, we need to believe in ourselves first. Too often we sell ourselves short, and tell ourselves we can't do something. We need to pump ourselves up and have confidence in ourselves otherwise the Mishkan cannot have been built!

In this vein, the Chovos Halvavos says that people think being humble means thinking you are worthless. This is foolishness. A real humble person understands that he is higher than an animal and he recognizes his abilities and character traits, and that gives him appropriate confidence, and the truth is only after a person realizes their innate greatness can they ever truly be humble!