



The Joy of Torah - For Life

## **Parshas Naso - To Love Hashem!**

**Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max**

**Written by Moshe Reuvein Sussman**

In this week's Torah portion the Midrash discusses Hashem's intention to dwell with Klal Yisrael even in galus. The Eitz Yosef explains that Hashem's love protects us physically, and spiritually from being tainted by the impurity of avairos, so Hashem goes with them and watches over them with Hasgocha Prutis with the added benefit that every Jew in galus will have Ruach Hakodesh thereby we will remain pure and holy even in galus. We see from here that even in galus how HaShem loves us and takes care of us.

The Orchos Tzaddikim discusses the many evils of levity and laughter - for example, the rejoicing in the stumbling of a fellow Jew. And even worse would be rejoicing in seeing someone stumble while serving Hashem. The Orchos Tzadikim offers a mashul a parable about a servant that sees someone rebelling against a king, that of course if the servant were to rejoice at that, he would not be considered faithful to the king. Rabbi Max asked that the mashul does not fit; in our case the person rejoicing over someone's lack of service to HaShem was due to some problem that the person rejoicing had in seeing the success of the person who stumbled; not because he doesn't have love or allegiance towards HaShem.

We see from here that if we truly loved Hashem then we would never be able to rejoice at another person's failings in their avodas Hashem regardless of their dislike or jealousy of others, and if we are able to rejoice it means that we are lacking in our love and allegiance to HaShem.

Rabbi Max mentioned that one of his Rabeim in the Stoliner Yeshiva where he had learned in his formative years said over in class that one of the Stoliner Rebbe said that he didn't want to change places with a big known righteous tzadik and be the one to get the great place in Olam Habba, because what does that do do Hashem, HaShem will still only have one great Tzadik; the Rebbe said I need to work on myself to become the greatest person that I can be so that HaShem will then have another great Tzadik. This is the type of concern and love for HaShem that our great people truly felt and that we should aspire towards.