NOT For A Non-Profit

written by Yehudis Golshevsky August 29, 2013



Rebbe Nachman of Breslov taught...

Lust for money means never feeling satisfied with what one has and always chasing after more. The more one has, the more he wants. But if a person wants to rectify his livelihood, he needs to keep a thought at the forefront of his mind when he is working: "I am working so that I will make a profit, so that I can give generously to charity."

(Likutei Moharan I:29)

What does this mean to me?

Even though almost all of the work that I've done in my adult life has been for non-for-profits, I really appreciate the subtle (but quite clear) fine point in Rebbe Nachman's teaching: "I am working so that I will make a profit, so that I can give generously to charity." I have to admit;

I'm one of those natural idealists who feels uncomfortable with the idea of working for profit, but the truth is that it's not possible to give really generously to charity if we haven't got the funds! Another thing to work on; I can still be a spiritual and kosher Jew even if I make a profit.

A prayer:

For forty years, dear G-d,
You gave Your holy people
Their food and needs in the desert.
So too, have mercy on us now.
Open Your Heavenly treasury
And provide for us.
Help us not worry about livelihood,
But trust in You completely.
(Between me & You, p. 80)

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