

# Parshat Vayakhel: Zoom-In On Your Good Points

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In Parshat Vayakhel, Moshe Rabbeinu assembles the entire Jewish people and talks to them. He reminds them to observe Shabbat and tells them that Hashem wants them to help build the Mishkan. We can see how Moshe Rabbeinu cared for the Jewish people. He was with them every step of the way in the desert. He not only led them and guided them, but he also successfully prayed for them. He begged Hashem to forgive their transgressions (for building the golden calf, etc.)

How could Moshe pray so successfully on behalf of every Jew?

Moshe was the *tzaddik*. The *tzaddik* has the unique capacity to zoom in on each person's good point, *nekudah tova*. He looks away from flaws and mistakes that people make, willful

transgressions, and so on. The *tzaddik* has tremendous love for Hashem and tremendous love for Hashem's children, which is why he yearns to offer up only the goodness in them when he prays to God.

This is why each of us needs a relationship with the true *tzaddik*. True *tzaddikim* have so much to teach us. In the true *tzaddik* Rebbe Nachman's teachings, you can find yourself. He really understands the deepest yearnings and fears, the turbulent confusion, and great potential you are going through.

The ultimate thing that he teaches us is that we are a portion of Hashem, and very precious to Him. We are His beloved. Rebbe Nachman teaches that you should focus on the good point that you have inside. When you do, that will become a self-fulfilling prophecy – in a good way. When you appreciate the *mitzvot* you do, you'll find yourself doing more *mitzvot*. When you notice your good character traits, you'll build on them. When you pay attention to your acts of kindness, your positive commitments, and your good thoughts, those things will increase, and the negative will diminish and fall away over time.

Focus on the goodness you are capable of. Focus on your own *nikudot tovot*, just like the true *tzaddikim* do.

*May you have a day in which you embrace and celebrate your good points and may you build on them.*

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