The Greatness of Emunah

written by Yehudis Golshevsky July 10, 2012



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Rebbe Nachman of Breslov taught...

"...In the world at large, faith is considered to be a small matter. But, by me, faith is a very great thing."

(Rebbe Nachman's Wisdom, #33)

What does this mean to me?

When people talk about cultivating simple and straightforward faith, most make light of it—as if it is too minor a thing to take seriously or respect, or aspire to. Yet Rebbe Nachman placed a very great emphasis throughout his writings and teachings on the importance of building within ourselves a strong faith that is unburdened by the trappings of pseudo-intellectualism and philosophical speculation.

Avoiding what Rebbe Nachman called chochmos—intellectual constructs that are artificial and place us at a distance from G-d—is an important part of his pathway. This doesn't mean that we abandon asking questions or that we do not exercise our minds; what it does is remove the taint of doubt from the question so that it becomes a simple expression of our longing to understand G-d's truth.

A prayer:

Help me, merciful One, so that I will be able to clear all pseudo-intellectualism from my mind.

Then my mind and heart
will be open to experiencing
the joy that comes
from simple faith and trust
in You.

(Based on Likutei Tefillos I:5)
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