

Parenting Class 11: The Power of a Parents' Prayer:

1. **Rav Zvi Meir Silberberg:** G-d Himself gave His approval on me that I should raise these holy souls for a certain period of time. Not only did He give His approval, but He appointed me as his special agent to raise these souls. Not only did He agree that I should take the assignment, but He also chose me from every parent in the universe to be the only one who can successfully raise these children for this period of time.
2. **Rav Zvi Meir Silberberg:** Hashem gives us renewed strength every day for our holy mission / service. To the degree that we remember and engrave this idea in the beginning of the day, it will be drawn out through the day. Every morning we should remember that Hashem has given me all the strength I need to raise my children/students properly, so that my charges will receive the full benefit of my energies..... Much of the success of parenting depends a lot on the level of the parent.
3. **Rav Zvi Meir Silberberg:** The first aspect of our prayers regarding our children is that we thank and praise Hashem for all the ability He gives us to perform our labor of love in teaching Torah to others....It is worthwhile to reflect upon and thank Hashem for these daily new energies that he gives us; thereby He will bestow more off it upon us daily. To the degree that one remembers that our children are a deposit from G-d that has come to us, and that He gives us new strengths to take care of them, we will continue to receive more strength....We should thank Hashem for every child we have when we say the 'Modim' prayer, as we say the words, 'We give thanks to You for everything.'
4. **Rav Zvi Meir Silberberg:** The second aspect of prayer is that we should request from Hashem that we succeed in our holy work. Especially in the beginning of the day, we should have this in mind when we say the Torah blessings....Concentration during the Torah blessings is a wondrous *Segula* for holy illuminating generations of children....During the recitation of the Torah blessings, Hashem bestows all the portions of Torah that are designated for that day....when a parent says, 'Veha'arev Na Hashem Elokeinu Es Divrei Soroscha Befinu' we should ask that the holy Torah should be sweet in my mouth and in my children's mouth, and that it should be mixed into us...these holy words have the power to bring these blessings for wondrous things for all their days.
5. **Rav Zvi Meir Silberberg:** It is a very important idea to merit to learn Torah every day with your children, even if only a little bit....as we say in the *Shema*: '*And these words which I have commanded you **today** upon your hearts, and you should teach it to your children..*' - every day there is a new gift of Torah that you can share with your children.
6. **Genesis 7:1:** Hashem said to Noach, "Come into the ark [Teiva], you and your household..."
7. **Ba'al Shem Tov:** Hashem wants us and our entire household to enter every word [Teiva] of prayer that we request from Him.
8. **To Heal the Soul, Essay 7:** As a torrent river surges forth, sweeping with it all that lies in its path, penetrating into deep recesses and washing away all buried things, so does the torrent of public opinion sweep along the individual mind. You may not know it, you may even deny it, but you have been brainwashed by common belief...Who can vouch that your wife or children will not be swept along with the flow?...who can abstain from breathing the air that carries the germ of public opinion?...you must actively swim against the flow. You may not be successful in swimming upstream, but at least you will not be swept down by the flow...
9. **Bnei Yisachar:** The main gift that parents/educators can give their children is the power of their prayers. Every request that you make for your children in prayer, escorts the child for the rest of his life...a mother's prayer is the greatest treasure that can be bequeathed to a child – more than the blessing of a prophet of G-d...
10. **Rav Zvi Meir Silberberg:** ***It is well known that we merit to be taught and to recognize ourselves through the children, more than we teach them,*** because through raising the

children, we merit to receive from them awesome tests of character, each day anew. Therefore, we need to ask from Hashem 'to compel our evil inclination to be subservient to You,' that we should not stumble...and if we do stumble, that we should merit to immediately be strengthened. **The main influence of a parent is when the children see how hard we try to fix our character flaws.** Even if they fall and stumble, they see that their parents are trying...**but every feeling of pain in his heart and regret, every yearning to overcome one's flaws, is immediately felt by the child much more than the parent feels it himself.** This is one of the wonders of the Creator, from the force that a child is an extension of the parent.