



When I succeed in my Avodas Hashem, it is easy for me to imagine the great love Hashem has for me. However, when I find myself failing in Avodas Hashem, this becomes very hard, which only makes my struggle to get back on track that much harder. How can I strengthen my awareness of Hashem's love for me despite whatever spiritual level I find myself on?

By simply understanding the basis of Hashem's love for us this problem will disappear. What is that basis? The Mishnah (*Pirkei Avos 5:16*) states: *All love that depends on something, [when the] thing ceases, [the] love ceases; and [all love] that does not depend on anything, will never cease. What is an example of love that depends on something? The love of Amnon for Tamar. And what is an example of love that does not depend on anything? The love of Dovid and Yonasan.*

One may wonder: Under what category of love is the love between Klal Yisroel and Hashem? The answer to this is found in a different Chazal (*Tana D'Bei Eliyahu Rabah, 28:1*) which sites other examples for the above mentioned types of love: *What is an example of love that depends on something? The love of Bilam for Balak. And what is an example of love that does not depend on anything? The love of Avraham, Yitzchok, and Yaakov, who love Hashem and Hashem loves them **and their children and their children's children until the end of all generations!***

Chazal testify to us that not only is Hashem's love unconditional and not based on our current spiritual level, but that love, no matter what level we may find ourselves on, is considered all part of that same infinite love that He has for the holy Avos, Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov.

So next time you find yourself struggling spiritually and find it hard to imagine Hashem's love for you, just imagine how much Hashem would love you if you were as spiritually successful as Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, for that is indeed the love Hashem has for you right now!

