

***May Your mercies be aroused, L-rd our G-d, upon the righteous, upon the pious... Grant ample reward to all who truly trust in Your Name, and place our lot among them always; may we never be disgraced, for we have put our trust in You.***

*(Tefillah of Al HaTzadikim, Shemoneh Esrei)*

The *Arizal* poses a question regarding this *bracha*: “One must pay heed to the meaning behind these words which seemingly are fruitless prayer and blessing in vain, for being that one has free will how can he pray that Hashem will place his lot with those of the *Tzadikim*?... And if this means that even when one sins he prays to Hashem to place his lot with the *Tzadikim*, it is all the more perplexing. For the deeds of the [Mighty] Rock are perfect (*Devarim* 32:4) to give each man according to his ways, be they good or evil?” (*Arizal, Shaar Hakavanos*)

Perhaps this questioned can be answered according to the words of the *Ramchal* in his essay on Bitachon (*Ma’amar HaKivuy*):

“One who has Bitachon even if he enters Gehinom he exits...Hashem shines His light upon him and numerous heavenly angles raise him up... and depart with him upwards. His Bitachon is his purification... So too one who has Bitachon literally breaks through with his Bitachon and creates a hole and crack enabling him to go up under Hashem’s throne... Just as he had Bitachon during his lifetime so too afterwards, when the forces of judgment begin to overwhelm him, he strengthens his Bitachon until Hashem and becomes attached to Him...”

So back to the *Arizal*’s question: *How can one pray that Hashem will place his lot with those of the Tzadikim when we know the deeds of the [Mighty] Rock are perfect (Devarim 32:4) to give each man according to his ways, be they good or evil?*

For, in the words of the *Ramchal*, “Just as he had Bitachon during his lifetime so too afterwards, when the forces of judgment begin to overwhelm him, he strengthens his Bitachon in Hashem and becomes attached to Him. So too one who has Bitachon literally breaks through with his Bitachon and creates a hole and crack enabling him to go up under Hashem’s throne.”

*Established By:*



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