

If true *bitachon* is unstoppable, then why do *tzadikim* ever suffer?

The Vilna Gaon addresses this question in a comment on the following *Gemara* (*Brachos* 60a): *The Sages taught: There was an incident involving Hillel the Elder, who was coming on the road when he heard a scream in the city. He said: I am certain that the scream is not coming from my house. And of him, the verse says: "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord" (Psalms 112:7). Rava said: Either way that you interpret this verse, its meaning is clear. It can be interpreted from beginning to end or it can be interpreted from end to beginning. The Gemara goes on to explain: It can be interpreted from beginning to end: Why is it that he shall not be afraid of evil tidings? Because his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. The Gemara continues: And it can be interpreted from end to beginning: One whose heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord is a person who shall not be afraid of evil tidings.*

The Vilna Gaon (*Imrei No'am*, *ibid*) comments on the above *Gemara*: "This that there are *tzadikim* who suffered, one must explain that it all depends on the strength of *bitachon* in their heart."

Indeed, nothing can stand in the way of complete trust in our Father in Heaven!

*Established By:*



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