



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Beshalach - Healing our Sickness!

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אם-שָׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמַע לְקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְהִיָּשֵׁר בְּעֵינֶיךָ תַעֲשֶׂה (15,26) " :...וְהָאֲזַנְתָּ לְמִצְוֹתַי וְשָׁמַרְתָּ כָּל-חֻקֵּי כָל-הַמִּחְלָה אֲשֶׁר-שָׁמַתִּי בְּמִצְרַיִם לֹא-אֲשִׁים עֲלֶיךָ... ", the Seforno infers that if Klal Yisrael accepts upon themselves the mitzvos and then rebels, then they will get punished with all these things. Then on the words "כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה רִפְאֵךְ" the Seforno explains that the reason if Klal Yisrael accepts and then rebels, they will be punished, is because the mitzvos are given to heal the soul from the ills of the soul like desires and other spiritual ills, and if you rebel, you will make sick and harm the soul, and the soul is "the Holiness of Hashem that is beloved".

The first daher is that we are sick, that because of our own desires we are sick and we have to heal ourselves! It's not that there's a person and then there's his desires out there which we sometimes violate! We are sick! If one would think on his own what's the reason that if a person rebels against Hashem that he's fit to get punished, one would probably say because he's being ungrateful, or because he's desecrating Hashem's name, or many other reasons. However the Seforno is saying that the reason he's fit to get punished is because he's desecrating his own soul which is holy and beloved. We see from here a powerful daher about how much holiness and greatness is within every individual, that the reason for the punishment is because he desecrates such a holy and elevated entity. We should therefore realize when interacting with others, that we are interacting with someone who is holy and beloved and also we should recognize in ourselves how we can ever do anything wrong if within us is something so lofty and so beloved!