

Walking with You

In the beginning of this week's *parsha*, we are commanded to *walk in the ways of Hashem*. *Rashi* explains this commandment does not refer to doing the *mitzvos*, but rather, the effort that goes into the action of doing them. The reward for this effort as stated in the ensuing verses includes peace, prosperity, and that G-d will rest His presence with you and walk with you. How do we understand the meaning of this last blessing? How does G-d walk with you?

The *Seforno* (a 16th century commentator on the *Chumash*) explains that walking with you means that G-d is ready to interact with us wherever we may be. We should not limit our interactions with G-d to only designated places for *Torah* and *tefillah*. Yes, our synagogues and *Batei Medrash* are places where the presence of *Hashem* is felt. However, we have to understand that they do not have to be the only places.

If we do as the *Torah* commands us, to walk in the ways of *Hashem*, applying ourselves as much as we can in the effort of doing the *mitzvos*, we will have the ability to feel His presence wherever we are. It is not about how much we do, but rather about the effort we put forth in doing. This effort leads us and keeps us focused on strengthening our connection with G-d in our synagogues, in our homes, and wherever we may be. The more effort we put in, the more we are thinking about doing His will, which will subsequently lead to feeling His presence in all aspects of our lives.