

Aspirations for the New Year

This past week, we began to say Psalm 27 twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. This prayer keeps us focused during this month to develop our relationship with *Hashem*. One particular verse needs some clarification. In the fourth verse King David states, "One thing I asked of *Hashem* that I should want to dwell in the House of *Hashem* all the days of my life, to see the pleasantness of *Hashem* and to visit His Sanctuary." There seems to be an apparent contradiction. On the one hand, King David asks to dwell in the House of *Hashem* which would mean to live with *Hashem* on a permanent basis like a place of dwelling. On the other hand, at the end of the verse it states to visit which means only temporary. Which one is the true understanding of his request?

The *Chofetz Chaim* answers this with a question. How does one keep the inspiration of feeling close to *Hashem* in one's life? He gives an analogy. A person traveling through a city for the first time as a visitor tends to be more excited about what he/she sees than the permanent resident who sees these sights every day. It is all new and fresh to the visitor - the sights, streets etc. - and he/she is enamored by his surroundings. King David was asking *Hashem* for that feeling of a visitor to be inspired constantly in the service of *Hashem*.

Our goal is definitely to have a permanent relationship with *Hashem* as King David requested. The way to create that relationship is through the eyes of being a visitor. There is so much around us to be grateful for that should automatically inspire us. We need to take this approach during this month preceding *Rosh Hashana* to focus on the words of this prayer. We all need to ask that we should have the vision of a visitor every day so we will be able to live life inspired in our service of *Hashem*.