



Sometimes it seems that our tefilla goes unanswered, but this is never the case (She'arim B' tefilla, Ittur, pp. 142-4, Shomer Emunim, Maamar Ha'bitachon V'hischazkus, 5; See Pri Tzadik, Vayera, 5). An example is the public davening for the recovery of a sick person where the person passes away. Although it appears that the tefillos did not achieve anything, this is far from true. Those tefillos are not in vain as it may have prolonged his life or lessened his pain. It may also be that the tefillos will help his descendants or it will be saved for one who needs it or a time when it is needed.

With this in mind, explains R' Shimshon Pincus, we can understand the *pasuk, nodi safarta atta sima dimasi b'nodecha haloh b'sifrasecha*, You have counted my wanderings, place my tears in Your flask, are they not on record (Tehillim 56:9). Each tear is counted by Hashem and stored away for when it is needed. A tefilla is never wasted. So everyone who is helped is helped because of a tefilla—whether it's his own tefilla or someone else's (i.e. an ancestor, friend, etc.)

The following scenario beautifully illustrates this concept. Yaakov's relative, Yehuda, was tragically involved in a severe car accident, leaving his life hanging in the balance. Yehuda's situation was critical, and his survival seemed uncertain. However, Yaakov was completely unaware of the accident and, as a result, did not stop to daven for Yehuda's recovery. In such a case, one might wonder: In what merit could Yehuda possibly be saved if no one is actively davening for him at that critical moment? Hashem takes the tears collected from Yaakov's previous heartfelt and fervent tefillos and uses them to intervene and save Yehuda's life!

To help us grasp this profound idea, the following analogy can serve as a guide: Imagine an individual who has long dreamed of traveling to Eretz Yisrael. Determined to make this dream a reality, he works diligently to save up the necessary funds for the journey. However, before the trip can take place, an unexpected illness strikes, and he finds himself in need of an expensive, life-saving surgery. With no other resources available, he reluctantly uses the money he had set aside for the trip to cover the cost of the surgery. While the original purpose of the savings was to purchase a ticket to Eretz Yisrael, the money ultimately served a far more urgent and essential purpose—saving his life.

Similarly, in the realm of tefillah, we may pour out our hearts to Hashem with a specific request in mind, believing that our prayers are directed solely toward that particular need. Yet, Hashem, in His infinite kindness and understanding, may choose to "store" those heartfelt prayers, using them at a later time when they are most urgently needed. This teaches us the extraordinary value of every tear and every tefillah, even when we may not see their immediate impact. In Hashem's perfect plan, no prayer ever goes to waste.

A deeply distraught woman once approached the great tzadik, R'

Aryeh Levine, seeking solace after enduring the heart-wrenching loss of her husband, who had suffered through a prolonged and agonizing illness. With tears streaming down her face, she asked him a question that came from the depths of her anguish: "What happened to all the tears I cried during my tefillos? I davened so fervently, so desperately, and yet my husband still passed away. Were all those tears wasted?" With his characteristic warmth and wisdom, R' Aryeh gently reassured her. He explained that not a single tear shed in prayer is ever wasted. "When the time comes for you to leave this world," he said, "you will see how Hashem lovingly gathered each and every one of your tears, storing them away like precious gems in His treasury. And whenever a harsh decree loomed over the Jewish people, Hashem took one of your tears and used it to wash that decree away. Your prayers and tears may not have been answered in the way you expected, but they were not in vain. They became a source of salvation and protection for others."

This comforting and profound idea aligns beautifully with a saying about the ways Hashem responds to our prayers: "Hashem has three answers to your tefillos: Yes, Not yet, and I have something better in mind." These words remind us that while we may not always understand Hashem's plan, we can trust that He hears and treasures every prayer. Sometimes, the answer is an immediate "yes," granting our heartfelt request in the way we hoped. Other times, Hashem may delay His response, telling us, "Not yet," as the time is not right. And in many instances, Hashem, in His infinite wisdom, has something far greater in store for us, even if it is beyond our comprehension in the moment.

The story is told of Reuven who was davening for his best friend Shimon Ben Chana. Shimon was very sick and eventually, he succumbed to his illness and passed away. Reuven was very distraught as he felt his tefillos for the recovery of his friend were wasted. Years later, Reuven's daughter who was single for many years got married. In one of the conversations between this chosson and kalla, the chosson related an unbelievable story: He said that when his father, Shimon, was on his deathbed, the family came together to be with him in his last moments. Suddenly, while everyone was there, his father exclaimed, "I feel great. Why am I in the hospital?" And so, in the end, the father left the hospital and then went to a *mekubal* to ask what happened, as he was sick in the hospital and suddenly healthy. The *mekubal* told him that there was someone constantly davening for him and that is what brought him back to life. "This person that was davening for you had a best friend named Shimon Ben Chana who he had davened for, but it was decreed that this person Shimon Ben Chana had to die. However, your name is also Shimon Ben Chana and his tefillos saved your life!" The chosson continued: "After this episode, my father left the hospital and had one more child and this child is me!"

**RABBI YEHOSHUA ALT**

The newly released book "Unbelievable Insights about Moshiah and the Final Redemption" is now available (as a paperback, hardcover and digitized version) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0D14Z6283> or by sending an email to [yalt3285@gmail.com](mailto:yalt3285@gmail.com)

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.  
 What is the correlation between the rapid advancement of technology and Moshiah coming?  
 What concrete actions can we take to express our anticipation of Moshiah?  
 In what ways can we accelerate Moshiah's arrival?  
 What will the future redemption look like?

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