

Tefillah Focus Of The Week:

BIRCHAS HASHACHAR

Equipped For The Mission

MEANING: The simple translation of the prayer

Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who has provided me my every need.

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו
מלך העולם שעשה לי
כל צרכי.

WORD TO THE WISE: Meaning within the meaning



The Hebrew word for king is both 'melech' and 'mosheil'. The Vilna Gaon explains that the word 'melech' (from the word 'ha'melucha'), applies to Hashem's Kingship over the Jewish nation as the word 'melech' refers to a king whose kingship is **accepted** by the people. 'Mosheil', however, applies to His sovereignty over the other nations of the world, as it says in Tehillim 22:29: *Ki laShem ha'melucha u'mosheil bagoyim*, 'For the Kingship (ha'melucha) is the L-rd's, and He rules (u'mosheil) over the nations.' That is because the word 'Mosheil', refers to a ruler who **imposes** his rulership over an unwilling people, as the nations of the world have **not accepted** His rulership.

THEME:

An essential concept of the prayer

You've Got It All

Hashem provides me with my every need.

INSIGHT:

Deeper meanings of the theme

Our Essential Belief

שעשה לי כל צרכי, He provided me with my every need—expresses two foundation stones of a Jew's faith. First, that all we have comes from Hashem. Second, the blessing reminds us that Hashem leaves nothing out of His provision for us. **"Every need" required for us to succeed at our G-d-given mission in life is provided to us by G-d.**

Human nature is such that you look at your **rich neighbor** and say, "If I had his money, I'd be a big philanthropist too." Or you see your neighbor's perfectly behaved children and think, "If I had such calm, docile children, I'd also be a great mother." A little envy inevitably slips into our hearts. Yet a person who says the above beracha with conviction and regularly calls its words to mind in the course of daily life has a **powerful anti-envy tool** in hand. "She'osah li kol tzorchi" means that **G-d has given each of us exactly what we need to live the lives we are meant to live.** Therefore, if G-d

has not provided you with a particular benefit, it is by definition not something you need for your spiritual growth. In fact, the "asset" may hamper your real success in life.

What if a person has so many challenges that it's hard for him to do mitzvos? The truth is that performing one mitzvah despite great difficulty shows a strong desire to do Hashem's will, and may be far more significant than performing many mitzvos when the waters are calm.

This blessing also teaches the essence of true humility: We may take pride in our talents, intelligence, family background, money or any other asset we have, but this blessing reminds us that **these are all simply temporary gifts to us from God.** He gives us what we need **to fulfill our mission** – none of it is really our own. We are like workers who have been loaned an expensive car in which to drive a dignitary. We might enjoy driving the car, but we would be foolish to become arrogant over our possession of it.

VISUALIZE:

Images that bring the prayer to life

Equipped For Your Mission

Rav Naftali Amsterdam was a close disciple of Rav Yisroel Salanter. Once, Rav Amsterdam said to his Rebbe, "If I had the brainpower of the Shagas Aryeh, the heart of the author of Yesod V'Shoresh HaAvodah, and the character of Rabbi Salanter then I would



be able to serve G-d." His Rebbe responded, "Naftali, your mission in life is to serve Hashem with **your brainpower, your heart and your character.** Only then can you be a true servant of Hashem."

As Rabbi Salanter implied, there is no need to despair at achieving that which seems outside our grasp. However, this fact does not provide sanction for a person to stop trying. It is **only by using what we have to the greatest extent possible that we can succeed at the mission** – whether limited or grand – **that G-d has given each of us.**

Try This!

Imagine that each morning, G-d leaves at your bedside a **suitcase** filled with all the equipment you will need for that day – **the exact amount** of money, the food, the information, technology and so forth. This week, as you say the words "she'osa li kol tzorchi," feel the security of taking that suitcase in hand, knowing that all you need is within it.

Did You Know

Up All Night

One who was **awake the entire night** also recites the 'Birchas HaShachar', but not before dawn (Ketzos HaShulchan 5:6). However, the blessings 'Elokei neshama' and 'H'Ma'avir shainah' should not be said as they refer directly to sleep. Rather, one should **listen to someone else** saying these blessings to satisfy his obligation (Mishneh Berurah, Siman 46, Se'if Katan 24).