

Rosh HaShana Pointers

How To Get Your Prayers Heard and Answered

By HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok

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1. Do not go to synagogue to show off your fancy cloths. G-d does not wear clothes. He will not be impressed.
2. Do not go to Synagogue and chat it up with everyone around. Synagogue is for talking to G-d. He considers it rude when you come to His house to talk to Him and instead spend your time talking to others.
3. Do not go to Synagogue and show off. Remember this is Judgment Day. Those who are noticeable are the ones noticed first. They get judged first. G-d hates show-offs and does not judge them favorably.
4. Do not go to Synagogue just because you have to. G-d is not impressed with whining children in adult bodies. Either act like an adult and be responsible or just stay home.
5. Remember, this is Judgment Day. What you believe does not matter. You are judged by your actions and according to your actions. Your own deeds and your true inner motivations go before you into the Heavenly Court. G-d sees these first and foremost. If I were you I would not go in front of the Judge unprepared and acting like an idiot.
6. Do not think that you can gain “brownie-points” with G-d by spending money to purchase this or that honor in the Synagogue. Giving charity is always good and the right thing to do. Just beware that you give it for the right reasons, to truly be of help to others. If you give charity in the pursuit of personal gain you will not gain anything, instead you will lose more.
7. We go to Synagogue on Rosh HaShana to talk to G-d; so talk to Him! You can use the traditional prayer books and pray in any language you understand. But the best language to pray in is the Divine language; this is the language of the heart.
8. G-d knows your insides. G-d knows who you really are. You can fool everybody in Synagogue and make them believe anything about you, but you cannot and will not fool G-d.
9. You can pray prayers from your own heart. You can talk to G-d personally, just you and Him. This is the way it is supposed to be; and this is the best kind of prayer that there is!
10. Go to Synagogue and speak silently to G-d in your heart. Admit that you have sometimes been a “shmuck.” Be honest! Talk to G-d and tell Him how you really want to be better than you are right now. Promise Him that you will improve yourself. And don’t stop with words; back it up with action!

Show G-d that you “walk your talk” and that you keep your word. By the time Yom Kippur rolls around such sincere good behavior will indeed impress Heaven and solicit both reward and blessings.

Just remember, you have to be sincere, now and for the whole year.

May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a healthy, happy, prosperous and safe New Year.

Shalom from me and my family to you and yours.

Ariel Bar Tzadok

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