

# Kohelet Thoughts 3

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***“When you pronounce a vow to G-d, do not delay to pay, for He has no pleasure in fools; that which you vow, pay. It is better that you vow not, than that you vow and do not pay it.”***

Kohelet 5:3-4

Does it take much common sense to understand that one is supposed to keep one's word? Is not the very definition of wisdom to know to do what is best for oneself? How can one be considered anything other than a fool when one does not keep one's word?

True, G-d knows our hearts. Heaven knows all possible futures and sees whether or not we will keep our word. Heaven also sees the consequences of when we lie as well as when we keep the truth.

Alas, we lack Heaven's vision. We never know when we give our word if indeed we will keep it or find some lame excuse to justify to ourselves why we break it. The word that we break most often is the one we make to ourselves. It is bad enough that we lie to others and hurt them in the process, but it is sheer insanity and foolishness when we lie to ourselves and allow self deceptions to lead us into the valley of the shadow of death where we face nothing other than our own self created evils.

The evil and demons that we face tomorrow are the ones that we ourselves create today. Do not look to Heaven and pray that G-d clean up the mess that you yourself have made. If you roll in the mud, you must clean yourself off. If you mess up your life, it is you that must clean it up. Heaven will help you, yes; if you are sincere. But part of sincerity is your resolve to make right that which was done wrong. Only you can fix what you break. Heaven will help you, yes; but the majority of the work remains on your shoulders.

When you make a commitment; keep it! Do not go looking for excuses! Do not follow your cravings! Do not allow yourself to lie to yourself. Fight your own worst enemy; this is the liar within each of us. Keep your word, through “hell or high water.” One who does this is smiled upon from Heaven.

If you can't commit, then don't. Better to tell the truth and face the consequences than to lie and face even worse consequences. One is respected when one tells the truth and keeps one's word. This is common sense; it is basic survival and the most profound of wisdoms. Now, go do it!

