



Learning to Walk

Have you ever watched a baby learn to walk? There's a lot of hesitation, a lot of trial-and-error, a lot of holding on, letting go, reaching out - and falling down.

How does it work?

After crawling around for a few months, the baby can pull herself up to a kneeling position. That seems like a lot of fun, especially when the parents make a big deal out of it. But having figured out how to kneel, the baby goes back to crawling. There's a lot of experimenting with pulling herself up, using a table leg or the couch, to kneel before moving on to standing up.

Now this one's a bit harder. The legs are wobbly. As soon as she's up, plop, down she goes. And sometimes she's so unsteady on her feet that instead of plopping down, she becomes disoriented, and forgets how to plop. So she lets go and falls over, startling herself.

Once she's learned how to stand and keep standing without knees buckling, she begins to figure out how to slide along the edges of furniture, keeping a firm handhold as she gets her bearings and masters the art of walking.

Then she ventures across the gap - a hand reaches from nightstand to bed, or coffee table to couch. It doesn't quite make it and, plop, down she goes. After figuring out how to negotiate the space between, she's ready to launch into uncharted waters - walking by herself.

Watching an infant learn to walk teaches us much about faith in and knowledge of G-d, what they are, and what's the difference between them.

There are two parts to the process of learning to walk: the innate impulse, the instinctive faith that one can walk, and the personal effort, the trial and error of learning how, so that one does not imagine or believe or dream or hope one can walk; one walks because one knows how.

The same applies to the concepts of faith in G-d and knowledge of G-d. We have an instinctive faith, a belief we receive as an inheritance, as Rabbi Shneur Zalman, founder of Chabad Chasidism stated unequivocally, "We are believers, the children of believers." At first, we believe in G-d simply because we're told by those we trust that G-d exists. But we don't really experience G-dliness; we don't know G-d.

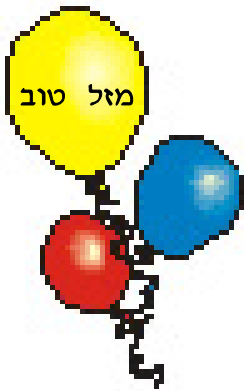
Only through trial-and-error, only through effort and concentration, can we come to have a knowledge of G-d. Just like learning to walk, or getting to know someone so well (a spouse) that the relationship becomes a bond, a unity, so too knowledge of G-d takes time, reflection and all the other mental work it takes to get to know anything or anyone.

The "classroom" that teaches us is prayer, and the "text" is the prayer book. When we really "get into" the words of the prayers, we can begin to understand concepts related to knowledge of G-d - His omnipotence, His being Infinite, G-d as Creator, and so forth.

So we begin with faith (an inherited instinct) and grow into knowledge (irrefutable experience, gained through effort and trial and error).

But we don't stop there. We come back to faith, a faith that transcends intellect - much as, once we've learned to walk, we no longer think about walking, or how to walk - we simply walk.

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)



A Hearty Mazel Tov to:
Mr. Yechiel and Mrs. Rochelle Rubin & Family
 on the **upcoming marriage of their daughter**

Ilana
 to
Nissim Pinto
 of Woodmere, New York.

Mazel Tov to Nissim's father
Mr. Avraham Pinto.

And a Mazel Tov to the grandparents: **Rabbi Ephraim Rubin, Mrs. Judy Glick,**
Mr. Nesim & Mrs. Jamie Pinto, and **Mr. Josef & Mrs. Jane Weinstein.**
 Yechiel and Rochelle invite everyone to join the Chuppah which will be held at Ateres Elka
 at 4:00 p.m. (reception at 3:00 p.m.).

We wish a Mazel Tov to **Devorah Berry**
 on the occasion of
 her **Bat Mitzvah.**
 Mazel Tov to her parents:
Moshe and Noamsie Berry,
 and to all of the Family.



Mr. Yechiel and Mrs. Rochelle Rubin are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat
 in honor of the upcoming marriage of
their daughter Ilana,
 to
Nissim Pinto.

Thus Shul wants to thank
Ilana Rubin
 for her years leading the children's program,
 as well as her committed attendance in shul mostly every week for many years.
 We wish her Mazel Tov and best of luck as a resident of NY.

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 3/8 — 28 Adar א

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 5:48 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Shabbat 3/9 — 29 Adar א

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
 Minchah — 5:35 p.m.
 Shiur — after Minchah
 Ma'ariv — 6:50 p.m.

Sunday, 3/10 — Rosh Chodesh Adar ב — 30 Adar א

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. D.S.T.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.



Monday, 3/11 — Rosh Chodesh Adar ב — 1 Adar א

Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.

Tuesday, 3/12 — 2 Adar ב

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.

Wednesday, 3/13 — 3 Adar ב

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.

Thursday, 3/14 — 4 Adar ב

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.

Friday, 3/15 — 5 Adar ב

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 6:55 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.