Class # 40–Parshat [Ki T](http://www.yutorah.org/parsha/ki-teitzei/)avo- An acquaintance calls and invites himself over for Shabbos …

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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Scenario #1 – An acquaintance calls and [asks] invites himself over for Shabbos in your NYC apartment so they can attend MJE. They name drop Rabbi Wildes name. You are not in the mood. What goes through your mind?

Scenario #2 - It’s a week before Yom Kippur.

Scenario # 3 – It’s the morning of your dental cleaning appointment. What do you do differently this morning? Why?

*The Blessing for Obedience*

28:1 [If you obey God your Lord](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=28#C4369), carefully keeping all His commandments as I am prescribing them to you today, then God will make you highest of all the nations on earth. 8:2 As long as you listen to God your Lord, all these blessings will come to bear on you. 28:3 Blessed will you be in the city, and blessed in the field. 28:4 Blessed will be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your soil, and the fruit of your livestock, the [calves of your herds and the lambs of your flock](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=28#C4370). 28:5 Blessed will be your [food basket](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=28#C4371) and your kneading bowl. 28:6 Blessed will you be when you come and blessed when you go. 28:7 If any enemies attack you, God will make them flee from you in panic. They may march against you on one road, but they will flee from you in seven directions. 28:8 God will grant a blessing in your granaries and all your [other] endeavors. He will bless you in the land that He, God your Lord, is giving you. **28:9 If only you keep the commandments of God your Lord and walk in His paths, God will establish you as His holy nation,** [**as He promised you**](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=28#C4372)**.** 28:10 All the nations of the world will realize that God's name is associated with you, and they will be in awe of you. 28:11 God will [grant you good surplus](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=28#C4373) in the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your livestock, and the fruit of your land. [You will thus flourish] on the good land that God promised your ancestors to give you. 28:12 God will open His good treasury in heaven to give your land rain at precisely the right time, and to bless everything you do. You will lend many nations, but you will not have to borrow. 28:13 God will make you [a leader and never a follower](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=28#C4374). You will be on the top and never on the bottom. You must merely obey the commandments of God your Lord, as I am prescribing them to you today, carefully keeping them. 28:14 Do not stray to the right or left from all the words that I am commanding you today. [Be especially careful not to] follow other gods or serve them.

Laws of Character traits 1:4-7

4) The straight path: This [involves discovering] the midpoint temperament of each and every trait that man possesses [within his personality.] This refers to the trait which is equidistant from either of the extremes, without being close to either of them.

Therefore, the early Sages instructed a man to evaluate his traits, to calculate them and to direct them along the middle path, so that he will be sound {of body}.

For example: he should not be wrathful, easily angered; nor be like the dead, without feeling, rather he should [adopt] an intermediate course; i.e., he should display anger only when the matter is serious enough to warrant it, in order to prevent the matter from recurring. Similarly, he should not desire anything other than that which the body needs and cannot exist without, as [[Proverbs 13:25](http://www.chabad.org/16384#v25)] states: "The righteous man eats to satisfy his soul."

Also, he shall not labor in his business except to gain what he needs for immediate use, as [[Psalms 37:16](http://www.chabad.org/16258#v16)] states: "A little is good for the righteous man."

He should not be overly stingy nor spread his money about, but he should give charity according to his capacity and lend to the needy as is fitting. He should not be overly elated and laugh [excessively], nor be sad and depressed in spirit. Rather, he should be quietly happy at all times, with a friendly countenance. The same applies with regard to his other traits.

This path is the path of the wise. Every man whose traits are intermediate and equally balanced can be called a "wise man."

5) ….We are commanded to walk in these intermediate paths - and they are good and straight paths - as [[Deuteronomy 28:9](http://www.chabad.org/9992#v9)] states: "And you shall walk in His ways."

6)  [Our Sages] taught [the following] explanation of this mitzvah:

Just as He is called "Gracious," you shall be gracious;

Just as He is called "Merciful," you shall be merciful;

Just as He is called "Holy," you shall be holy;

In a similar manner, the prophets called God by other titles: "Slow to anger," "Abundant in kindness," "Righteous," "Just," "Perfect," "Almighty," "Powerful," and the like. [They did so] to inform us that these are good and just paths. A person is obligated to accustom himself to these paths and [to try to] resemble Him to the extent of his ability.

7)  How can one train himself to follow these temperaments to the extent that they become a permanent fixture of his [personality]?

He should perform - repeat - and perform a third time - the acts which conform to the standards of the middle road temperaments. He should do this constantly, until these acts are easy for him and do not present any difficulty. Then, these temperaments will become a fixed part of his personality.

Since the Creator is called by these terms and they make up the middle path which we are obligated to follow, this path is called "the path of God." This is [the heritage] which our Patriarch Abraham taught his descendants, as [[Genesis 18:19](http://www.chabad.org/8213#v19)] states: "for I have known Him so that he will command his descendants...to keep the path of God."

One who follows this path brings benefit and blessing to himself, as [the above verse continues]: "so that God will bring about for Abraham all that He promised."