**Focus Part II- Yom Kippur Edition**

After committing ourselves to our relationship with ה", we have taken a large step in the process of Teshuva, but we aren’t even close to done. If we return to the Mashal we gave about the employee, we can gain some insight into the Avodah of Yom Kippur.

In any normal working environment, there are yearly evaluations of the company, its employees, and their effectiveness. Until this point in our Teshuva/ Tefilla process we have committed ourselves to our purpose in this world, but now the question stands, are we actualizing this ideal? Are we doing our job properly? Do our actions line up with our ideals, or do we sometimes not fulfil our part of the job? Do we sometimes even sabotage our own efforts knowingly?

Are we acting with integrity with our peers? Don’t forget about בין אדם לחברו.

These are hard questions to ask ourselves, but in order to do a real evaluation, these are the questions which must be asked. Being committed is very important, but that isn’t where the job ends. Remember the Mashal of the husband and wife, he is committed, but is not ready to give up on personal things.

There is a lot of work to do to get to that place of feeling of total fulfilling of our purpose. This is one of the most important parts of Yom Kippur. We evaluate ourselves, and are judged if we are willing to continue in our mission.

**Practically, what does this mean?**

Our relationship with ה" is intrinsic to who we are, so how do we become separate?

The Navi tells us: Your sins are what separate you! It is when you sabotage this relationship you get to this point.

**How do we fix this? Practical Application:**

It is time to perform our annual evaluation, to see where we are holding. Where have we been strong this year? Where have we done less well in? Once again, let’s not make this a general evaluation, let’s get specific.

**בין אדם לחברו**- Crying to ה" to forgive you for bad mouthing your friend, or embarrassing him, doesn’t work. There is almost nothing worse than a person who is so invested in his relationship with ה", and isn’t invested in his relationships with his peers. Yom Kippur does not atone for these sins, prepare yourself personally for this.

**לשון הרע**- Do I struggle with this? Do I excel in this area? How can I work on this to be better this coming year?

**חסד מול גבורה**- Is it pleasant to be around you? Do you put people down, to bring yourself up?

**בין אדם למקום-** Do our actions line up with our ideals? Are our ideals in the right place?

**שמירת הנפש-** Are we looking at the right things? Are we spending our free time in the right way?

**בכל דרכיך דעהו-** How are we doing with הלכה? Are we living lives which practically aligns with what ה" wants from you?

**Exercises:**

1. **One thing I constantly procrastinate about it is­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I do not take care of it because of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What would help me get to it sooner would be if I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
2. **Who in my life have I been resistant to give a second chance to, and who may actually be deserving of it? Why have I resisted? What would help me to give them that second chance?**
3. **Think of three things within the realm of בין אדם למקום that you struggle with, write them down, and how you plan on working on them. Let ה" in on your plan, ask him for help.**
4. **Think of three things within the realm of בין אדם לחברו that you struggle with, write them down, and how you plan on working on them. Let ה" in on your plan, ask him for help.**
5. **For every section of על חטא, prepare one or two things to remind ה" and yourself of that you’re doing right! (Remember that a real judge takes the whole picture into consideration when giving his ruling.)**