

And Bnei Yisrael cried out to Hashem. (14:10)

Rashi cites *Yalkut Shimoni* who comments: *Tafsu umnos Avosam*, “They adopted the craft of their Forefathers.” The *Avos HaKedoshim*, holy Patriarchs, conversed with Hashem through the medium of prayer. Apparently, what was good for the *Avos* was good for their offspring. **Horav Nossan Wachtfogel, zl**, derives a powerful lesson from the *Yalkut*. A craft is one’s trade, his vocation, the medium by which he earns a living. Prayer is our trade, our *umnos*. One who has a profession must be serious about it, or his work will be for naught. Someone who has studied a trade, mastered a course, and received a degree attesting to his ability will do everything to ensure that he is successful in his chosen vocation. He will rise early, be on time, maintain his commitments. In short – he will not play around. After all, this is his *umnos*.

Should our *davening* be any different? It is our *umnos*. Without proper *davening*, we will receive nothing. To skip parts of the *tefillah*, cut corners, come late, leave early, is no way to run a business – unless one seeks to ensure bankruptcy. Imagine someone who has a business and shows up whenever he is in the mood, treats his customers in accordance with how well he slept the previous night; stands outside *schmoozing* with his friends, ignoring what is taking place in the store. This is certainly not the way to guarantee a successful business venture. Should *davening* be any different? It is our business venture with Hashem. How can we hope for a positive response if we are outside discussing the latest gossip? How can we entreat Hashem for His favor if we do not even bother to wait around in *shul* for an answer? If *tefillah* is our *umnos*, we had better do it properly, or risk foreclosure.