

"If you will walk in My laws (My decrees) and My mitzvos you will guard/observe and perform them." (26:3)

Mitzvah observance is the prime focus of this *parsha*. This *pasuk* presents a refreshing perspective on *mitzvah* observance. Many individuals desire to fulfill the *mitzvos* to the highest degree in order to achieve an unparalleled relationship with Hashem. The *Sidduro Shel Shabbos* posits that the words, "And My mitzvos you will guard," suggest an orientation to *mitzvah* observance that can be summed up with one word -- yearning. One should possess an inner longing to observe *mitzvos* to the point that he anticipates the opportunity for performing a *mitzvah* with love and increasing desire. This type of devotion symbolizes an overwhelming love for the Almighty. This catalyzes Hashem's positive response. Indeed, one who loves someone yearns for the moment when that love can be expressed and reciprocated.

Horav Levi Yitzchak M'Berdichev, z.l., differentiates between the individual who demonstrates great devotion and enthusiasm while performing a *mitzvah* and the individual whose mind is constantly preoccupied with *mitzvos*. One who is forever thinking about opportunities for *mitzvah* performance exhibits a deep love for Hashem. The Berdichever contends that he who is always looking for a way to perform a *mitzvah* is included in *Chazal's* axiom, "He who intends to perform a *mitzvah*, but did not see his wishes achieve fruition as a result of an accident, it is considered as if he actually carried out his intentions."

The rationale behind this idea is simple. People who are constantly seeking ways to perform *mitzvos* actually desire to see *Succos* or *Pesach* last a whole year. "Unfortunately," these *yomim tovim* are time-bound and last only 7/8 days. Thus, he is not able to perform the *mitzvah* as a result of the parameters of the calendar. The potential in the *mitzvah* ends after only a few days due to the constraints of time. However, due to his overwhelming desire to serve Hashem, it is viewed as if he performs the *mitzvah* all year! The rule is simple; the message is profound. One who seeks to become intimate with his Master waits enthusiastically, seeking new avenues for *mitzvah* performance. Thus, he strives to achieve greater heights in his relationship with Hashem.