

## "And if your brother becomes poor, and his means fail with you, then you shall uphold him." (25:35)

The primary focus of this *mitzvah* is supporting those who have been poverty stricken. The *Torah* states "*you shall uphold and support him*," giving charity is a fine art, which involves more than the act of writing a check and dispensing it. The *Torah* demands a unique sensitivity to the concerns of the impoverished. No one is as vulnerable to humiliation as the needy. The *Torah* voices its concern for the protection of the poor man's esteem. Don't let him falter into depression! *Hold him up and strengthen him!*

*Horav Moshe Shternbuch Shlita* extends this *mitzvah* yet further. There are individuals who look to us for another form of support, even though they are not lacking in material needs. There are students who simply find their studies too difficult. Although they make every attempt to achieve success, it is of no avail. They may consequently become depressed to the point that they lose perspective of their own self-worth. This can lead to a serious and sometimes incurable form of despondency and even to feelings of contempt for the *Torah*. We are enjoined to strengthen those who are not as successful as we are. Offer solace when necessary, but, above all, take time to teach, to inspire, and to encourage.

He cites *Horav Avrohom Misochotchov Z"l* who explains that this was *Bnei Yisrael's* form of charity during their forty years in the desert, when no Jew was in material need. Those who were more proficient studied and explained Hashem's wisdom to others who were not as capable. There is no greater form of "lhjt lunh hfuf" than this. "uc ,ezjvu" - implies the need for sensitive action toward all the needs of our brethren.