



The following is an excerpt from the new
“A Daily Dose of Bitachon”
written by Rabbi David Sutton

DON'T BE THE BANK TELLER; USE BITACHON

Let us continue exploring the relationship between wealth and *bitachon*:

If a person possesses an item but doesn't have *bitachon*, he doesn't really own it. For example, imagine a man who is excited about the great new phone he bought after plenty of research and comparison shopping. He doesn't think, “Hashem allowed me to find a good deal,” but rather, “I really know how to make a wise purchase.” Then, suddenly, the phone starts malfunctioning and he is terribly upset. Why? Because without *bitachon*, a person can purchase an item, but won't be able to deal with disappointment. *Bitachon* gives us a mature understanding of our assets.

The Chovos HaLevavos warns us that our money might only be a deposit. Without *bitachon*, we are like a teller at a bank. We can touch the money, but it is not ours.

When I was a child, my mother would send me to ShopRite. I would pay the cashier and watch her at the register, where she had piles of cash at her fingertips. I once came home and told my mother I wanted to work in ShopRite as a cashier. When my mother asked me why, I told her it was because of the amount of money the cashier collected. Of course, my mother pointed out that it's not the cashier's money at all, that she was just handling it for the owners.

That memory comes to mind when I think of what the *Chovos HaLevavos* is teaching us. There are many people holding onto money, but without *bitachon*, it's just a deposit. They are being permitted to handle it, but if they think it is theirs, they are deluding themselves as much as the cashier would be deluding herself if she looked into the register and said, "I'm rich!"

The *Chovos HaLevavos* bursts any illusion to the contrary, telling us bluntly that we are just watching over it until it goes to someone else who is supposed to have it.

With this stark warning, he is offering us a secret to success: Whatever we have — a car, a watch, a house, a bank account — if we want to enjoy it, and not just hold onto it for the next person, we must find out how to enjoy it correctly.

How do we do so? When we rely on Hashem for an item and say, "Hashem, I have a car, but I know it's really Your car — please allow me to use it," we're correctly understanding our possessions. When we tell Hashem, "Thank you for my stomach that is digesting my food," we are ensuring that we will enjoy the food our money has purchased.

Reliance on Hashem unleashes, for our benefit, all the potential that's already in our hands. Then we aren't just guarding our wealth for someone else.

PRACTICAL TAKE-AWAY

Remind yourself often to keep Hashem in the picture when you earn money or buy something with your earnings. Then you will merit keeping what He so graciously puts in your hands.