BITACHON LESSON FROM THE PARSHA

פרשת כִּי תִשָּׂא תשפ"ו – Hashem is The Boss!

שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תֵּעָבֹד וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי תִּשְׁבֹּת
You shall work for six days, but on the seventh day you must refrain from working (Shemos 34:21)

Why does the Torah have to tell us to work on the 6 weekdays?

Wouldn't it just suffice to tell us to not work on the seventh day? Obviously, on the other 6 days we can work; after all, we have to make a living.

Rav Moshe Feinstein Zatzal (whose 40th Yahrtzeit was this week, on 13 Adar) explains that this that we work on Sunday through Friday is not because we decide to work, rather it is because Hashem renews and recreates the world daily – **וּבְטוּבוֹ מְחַדֵּשׁ בְּכָל יוֹם תָּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְרֵאשִׁית** – and imbues each new day with the ability to produce via our work.

Our Hishtadlus doesn't produce results because we decided to put in effort; it produces results because Hashem wills it to produce. If Hashem decides that any specific Hishtadlus we do should not produce results, it won't produce anything. This is why we should not overexert ourselves with too much Hishtadlus, as doing so is useless, and often counterproductive.

שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תֵּעָבֹד

Furthermore, if not for Hashem's explicit command that we work the land and exert other efforts during the 6 days of the week, we would be unable to even lift a finger to do anything.

As the Gemara (Chulin 7b) tells us:
אין אדם נוקף אצבעו מלמטה אלא אם כן מכריזין עליו מלמעלה
No person even hurts his finger down here on earth unless it was first decreed as such in heaven.

We don't do whatever we want. We do whatever Hashem allows us to do. (Bechira doesn't mean we can do whatever we want; it means we can make the decision to do whatever we want, but if we actually execute on that decision is Hashem's department. We are judged for our decisions. This is a larger topic that we discussed in the past, and may discuss again in the future, but for the purposes of this week's discussion, we will digress)

The fact that we work on weekdays and the fact that our efforts results in our earning money – or losing money at times – is all controlled by Hashem.

On the 6 weekdays He tells us to work, and He then decrees if that work will be productive or not. On the 7th day He tells us to take a rest from working, and despite our not working, he still provides for our needs, as ultimately what we receive is not a result of our work; it's a result of Hashem's decrees. As the Telshe Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Mordechai Gifter Zatzal, would often quip: *"We don't make a living; we take a living!"*

Of course, one who doesn't work on Shabbos, is expressing his Emunah and Bitachon in Hashem's stewardship of the world.

Rav Moshe is teaching us that one who works during the 6 days of the week, with the proper attitude and perspective, is also expressing his Emunah and Bitachon in Hashem's stewardship of the world.

Our working - **שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תֵּעָבֹד** - and our resting - **וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי תִּשְׁבֹּת** - is all equally dictated by Hashem!

Hashem is the Boss.

One who understands that he is working for the Boss, understands that his schedule is beholden to the Boss. He works when the Boss demands that, and he takes a day off when the Boss grants it.

One who defies the Boss, and thinks he is his own boss, who can work and rest at his own discretion, and produce based on his own efforts, is nothing short of a fool.

Don't be that fool!

Good Shabbos!

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This week's lesson is dedicated – לרפו"ש חוה בת חיה אסתר בתוך שאר חולי ישראל