

The Daily Portion

- Sivan Rahav Meir

Managing Our Account

For what great nation has God so near to it, like the Lord our God is at all times, that we call upon Him? (Devarim 4:7)

Rabbi Yehuda Amital, the founder of Yeshivat Har Etzion, wrote about prayer: “Every person has been given a great merit – God allows us to pray. The human race would be different, it would be sadder and more desolate, were it not for this great merit given to man.”

Throughout the Book of D’varim, Moshe repeatedly exhorts us to turn to God, to connect to Him by praying, begging, and speaking. Rabbi Amital used to tell the following story in connection with prayer:

I heard this from the director of a senior citizens’ home in Miami. Many of the residents’ children live far away in places such as New York, Washington, and Chicago. The director categorizes the children into three groups. The first is the children who mail a check to their parents every month, sometimes, but not always, adding a personal note. Thus, the parent knows that his child remembers him every month. The

second group is the children who mail the check directly to the office. Although the check isn’t sent directly to the parent, at least the child shows that he still remembers him. The third group pay by standing order. The bank clerk sends the check and the child does not even know if his parent is alive or not. Everything works automatically.

What kind of relationship do we want to have with God? The Torah asks us to keep a near and personal relationship and not to sign on a standing order.