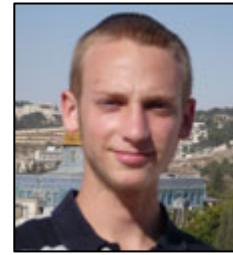




STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Josh Feigenbaum

This past week I was sick with strep. Now usually when I'm sick I give my body a rest; assume that I wasn't cautious enough with my health; then think about all the ways that I can make myself better. I go to the doctor and take medicine that I assume is going to heal me. Not until this year did I throw *Hashem* into the loop.



Now, instead of thinking how I am going to heal myself, I try to think how I can help *Hashem* heal me. I now realize that I am not getting sick just because I wasn't careful with my health (although that may be a small reason why), but more because I need to experience the journey of getting sick, resting, and letting *Hashem* heal me to make me stronger. I have lived 18 years without ever realizing this. Sometimes I may have thought "why me?" Or sometimes I may have thought that *Hashem* hates me, but the truth is that this is a much more optimistic way of looking at illness.

For a very large portion of my life, I wanted to be a surgeon. I still do today. This recognition of *Hashem's* healing power has given me a whole new take on being a doctor. I used to think that doctors heal; that they have the power to decide whether a person can live or die. I guess in a weird way I wanted that power to keep life in this world. But now I realize that that's a very childish way of looking at it. Doctors do not heal. They accompany *Hashem* in his healing. Yes, doctors have very important jobs because they are *Hashem's* accomplices in the healing process. But they do not control life. They are not the ones who are rewiring bodies and saving lives; *Hashem* is.

As the *Gabbai* here I should have realized this sooner. Every time we read the *Torah*, at the end I say a "*Mi Sheberach*" for the sick people of the world. I say "May the Holy One blessed be he, be filled with compassion for him/her to restore his/her health, to heal him/her, to strengthen him/her, and to revivify him/her." It is plain and simple right there. We humans cannot now or ever truly heal someone. *Hashem* heals all people, strengthens them, and revivifies them. I now ask of *Hashem* to heal me physically and spiritually. I ask Him to use His doctors, His antibiotics, His Ibuprofen, and whatever else to heal me. No longer am I going to think the childish way in life and ask "why me"? Now I know why me and what I must do to get healed. If someone had told me that I would be thinking of sickness and medicine this way 6 months ago, I would have told them that they are crazy. Now, it is the only way that makes sense to me.