

מוֹדִים אֲנִיחֵנוּ לָךְ

We Are Thankful to You

The eighteenth benediction of the Shemonei Esrei is a prayer of thanksgiving. Often referred to by the first word, *modim*, this prayer repeats a common thread throughout the Scriptures, and particularly in the Psalms, that of giving thanks to HaShem even before the prayer is answered.

We are able to do this because we know what G-d is like. His character assures us that our prayers will be answered for His glory and our good. We can therefore thank Him for the answers to our prayers even before we see them. This, once again, shows us the central place faith plays in the whole matter of prayer. We pray to HaShem because He alone is the G-d who can answer our prayers because He is both merciful and powerful. While idolaters pray to a god who cannot deliver them nor help them, we pray to the Almighty Who is able to do all things according to His own will and desire.

The prayer goes like this:

We are thankful to You that You Adonai are our G-d
and the G-d of our fathers forever;
Rock of our lives, the Shield of our salvation,
are You in every generation.

We will give thanks to You and recount Your praise,
for our lives which are committed into Your hand,
and for our souls which are entrusted to You,
and for Your miracles which are with us every day,
and for Your wonders and goodness at all times, evening, morning, and noon.

You are the Good One, for Your compassion is never withheld;
And the Merciful One, for Your kindness never ceases;
we have always placed our hope in You;
and for all the foregoing,

Blessed and exalted be Your Name, our King constantly forever and ever.
And all the living shall thank You forever
and praise Your Name with sincerity;
the Almighty, Who is our salvation and our help forever.

Blessed are You, Adonai,
The Good One is Your name
and You it is fitting to praise.

Give thanks to
the LORD, for He
is good, for His
lovingkindness is
everlasting.

Psalms 136:1