

# שִׁמּוֹן שְׁלוֹם

## *Grant Peace*

The final prayer of the Eighteen Benedictions is one asking G-d to grant peace upon Israel His people. But it is interesting how the prayer defines peace: “Bless us, our Father, all of us as one, with the light of Your countenance.” Peace is described here as G-d’s abiding presence among His people. When G-d is with us, all will be well. In fact, very often in the Tanach G-d tells us not to fear because He is with us. Do you remember the story of when G-d appeared to Yitzchak in the night? Here is what He said:

“I am the God of your father Abraham;  
Do not fear, for I am with you.”  
(Genesis 26:24)

In fact, G-d’s abiding presence with His people is the source of their joy, happiness, life, and peace. So when we conclude the Shemonei Esrei by asking for shalom, we realize that this shalom can only come when we know G-d dwells with us. And with whom is G-d pleased to dwell? With those who have humbled themselves before Him and have repented of their sins (Isaiah 57:17; 66:2).

Here is the final prayer of the Eighteen Benedictions:

Grant peace, goodness, and blessing, favor kindness and compassion  
upon us and upon all Israel, Your people.

Bless us, our Father, all of us as one  
with the light of Your countenance.

For by the light of Your countenance You gave us Adonai our G-d  
a Torah of life and the love of kindness, righteousness, blessing, compassion,  
life, and peace. And may it be good in Your sight  
to bless Your people Israel, at all times and at every moment  
with Your peace.

Blessed are You, Adonai,  
Who blesses His people Israel with peace.

“But to this one  
I will look,  
To him who is  
humble and contrite of  
spirit, and who  
trembles at My word.

Isaiah 66:2