



Torah Reflections: Conversations on the Weekly Parsha
Parshat Beshlach 5785 – Steady Faith

Integrating Torah into one's life through reflection and conversation can be an incredibly fun and engaging experience. It's a journey of discovery, where ancient wisdom and timeless teachings come to life in our daily experiences. Through reflection, we have the opportunity to dive deep into the rich tapestry of Torah, extracting profound insights and lessons that resonate with our modern lives. The joy lies in the 'aha' moments, those instances when a Torah verse or story suddenly connects with our personal challenges, aspirations, and values. And when we engage in conversations about Torah with others, it becomes an interactive exploration, where diverse perspectives and interpretations enhance our understanding. These dialogues often spark excitement and intellectual curiosity, making the learning process both enjoyable and fulfilling. Torah becomes a vibrant and dynamic part of our lives, offering not just guidance but also a source of endless fascination, connection, and growth.

NOTE: Don't feel obligated to go through every source or answer all the questions—unless you want to. Even one source, or one question will give you plenty of material for discussion and meditation. Enjoy this!

Some Thoughts from the Parsha

The battle against Amalek, described in *Parshat Beshalach*, is more than a military encounter—it is a timeless struggle between certainty and doubt, between faith and spiritual weakness. Amalek's attack came at a crucial moment: after the Israelites had witnessed undeniable miracles—the Exodus, the splitting of the sea, and manna falling from heaven. Yet, when faced with thirst, they questioned, "*Is the L-rd among us or not?*"

This question opened the door for Amalek. The Sages compare Amalek to someone who jumps into a boiling bath, cooling it down so that others are no longer afraid to enter. In other words, Amalek's attack sought to weaken Israel's certainty, to "cool off" their clarity of faith.

Rebbe Nachman teaches that knowledge and belief function on different levels. When something is known through direct experience, belief is unnecessary. The Israelites had *known* G-d's presence through miracles, but they had not yet developed true faith—the ability to trust in G-d even when His presence was not immediately visible. The moment they doubted, they became vulnerable to attack.

This lesson is relevant for Noahides as well. The modern world often promotes skepticism and distraction, pulling people away from faith. When life is smooth, belief may feel unnecessary—but when challenges arise, doubt creeps in. Like the Israelites, we may ask, "*Is G-d really with me?*"

The Torah teaches that faith must be actively strengthened. The Israelites overcame Amalek through Moses' steady hands—symbolizing unwavering trust in G-d. This story reminds us that doubt is not simply intellectual; it can weaken our spiritual resilience. By developing faith—trusting G-d's presence even when unseen—we prepare ourselves to withstand challenges and move forward with strength.

May we all be blessed to deepen our faith and recognize that everything we have, like the manna in the desert, ultimately comes from G-d's kindness.



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Now, reflect on the following questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a time when doubt challenged your sense of faith or purpose? How did you navigate it?
2. Why do you think Amalek is associated with doubt (*safek*)? How does doubt weaken our spiritual or moral strength?
3. In moments of uncertainty, what practices or perspectives help you maintain trust in G-d's presence?
4. Moses' steady hands symbolize consistent faith. What practical steps can you take to reinforce your own spiritual steadiness?
5. How can recognizing that "all we have comes from G-d" change the way we respond to difficulties in life?

Shabbat Shalom!

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