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## Noach: The Perfectionist's Challenge

The Torah tells us that נח and his family entered the תבה once the waters of the מבול started. Rashi (7:7) teaches that נח “had little faith” and struggled to believe the מבול would come and it was only once the waters became too much that נח was compelled to enter the תבה. Rebbe Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev teaches that the “little faith” נח had was not in whether God would bring the מבול, but rather if נח himself had the ability to be the difference maker to stop it. נח had little faith in himself.

I want to suggest that perhaps נח's struggle was the struggle of the perfectionist. We are told that Noach was righteous, perfect in his generation, and walked with God. What is the biggest fear of the perfectionist? It is to make a mistake. No matter the task the perfectionist must have a flawless performance with no room for error. The perfectionist can withhold themselves to take chances and risks and as a result lose out on exploring new situations and opportunities that can change themselves and ultimately the world.

We must realize that even when we do not believe in ourselves, God always does,

and he gives us the exact challenges we need to grow and develop. Only through the vulnerability of failure can we truly succeed. May Hashem give us the courage to believe in ourselves to be the difference makers the world needs.



**Zipporah Nuszen**  
10th Grade,  
Neve Daniel

## T'shuva!

In this Parsha, the people of Bavel had a chance to do Tshuva, but they didn't.

Regarding this concept, I have a story for you:

A teenage boy told his grandpa about everything that his friends had and also wanted. The older man asked him, “are you happy?” The boy said, “what kind of question is this? I have money, I'm popular, I get straight A's, I have friends; of course I'm happy.”

The elder man studied him but said nothing. When they met again that night, he said “I have a paradise to show you, it'll be a long hike. Do you still want to see it?” The boy nodded. They walked until sunrise. When they reached the top of the mountain the grandfather announced their arrival. The boy looked around, “where is the paradise? What did you want to show me? The view?” The grandfather smiled and looked down, “no, I wanted to show

you this rock.” You can imagine the boys reaction. He got mad “We climbed for THREE hours, for this rock?! This was for nothing! I was excited! I thought you were going to give me something big!” The old man picked up the rock, put it in his palm, and said, “Whether it’s big or small, it is the journey that matters most. Always be learning and changing in life. Don’t over-look this stone. If it makes you feel better, I didn’t know what we would find either.”

There are two types of people  
 איש החוץ ואיש הבפנים (Eesh Hachutz and Eesh Habifnim)

Eesh Hachutz is focused on the outside world and the GAIN. He wants to WIN. He wants what others have and is not comfortable in his own skin.

The Eesh Habifnim, physical gain is not important to him. What matters is what he learns on the way; on the JOURNEY.

He GROWS from what he goes through and connects to his soul which uncovers who he REALLY is inside and what he truly values in life.

Which one of these two people, in your opinion, is more likely to do Tshuva?

Which one are YOU? Some people are both. That’s fine! Just don’t forget what truly matters.

Now I will ask the same question that the grandfather asked:

Are you happy? ■



NCSY Israel is the premier organization in Israel, dedicated to connect, inspire, empower teen olim to the Land of Israel by encouraging passionate Judaism through Torah and Tradition. Find out more at [israel.ncsy.org](http://israel.ncsy.org)



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