

Sukkoth/Simchat Torah Meditation on the blessings we have to be thankful for

1. That there is only one G-d. (Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Immutable) who doesn't have to be Who He is or show the patience which He shows. Ex. 34:5-7
2. That the Bible is His Word, nothing more nothing less. It is the complete guide to sane, successful spirituality. How sane and successful is your spirituality? Acts 17:11
3. That He has given us Eternal Life through our blessed Messiah. It just gets better and better until the best arrives, even when it feels like it is getting worse and worse. Rom. 8:28
4. That He calls us to know Him personally and never leaves us alone until we respond to Him, no matter how long it takes. He wants us to be happy for the right reasons and not to keep wallowing in the mud and the sand of life. Phil. 2:13 and Eph. 2:10
5. He gives us more than one chance to get it right and provides and guides as we wander through valleys, even those where we wander away from Him. His persistent love is neither fragile nor finicky – and is not easily chased away. Ezek. 33:11
6. That He knows us (watches us and sees what we do) and still loves us. He knows what we are capable of and wants us to be capable in Him and not in the world or the flesh. Jer. 29:11
7. That He takes us seriously and requires holiness (which is not a dirty word, nor a boring word). Holiness and wholeness are inseparable and He wants us to be in good spiritual shape. I P. 2:9-11
8. That He forgives us without indulging us and gives us opportunities to change. He never works for our destruction and is never our enemy. Is. Is. 43:25
9. That He watches over us until His purposes in our life are fulfilled. Until we finally get what we persistently choose and choosing Him is something He works on in our lives quite aggressively. Ex. 30:19
10. That nothing in this life can separate us from the love of our Blessed Messiah – neither the foolishness or pain or tragedies of the world nor the crooked corruption, or the twistedness of man. Rom. 8:35-39
11. That none of the foolishness and hypocrisy and sadness of this world changes Him or His love. He is slow to anger and full of compassion, repeatedly. John 3:16
12. That we are made in His image: born to choose, whether we want to or not. (Rom. 2:13-16)
13. That He has made us such unique individuals and we all have a future in Him (Gen. 1:27).
14. That we have another year to walk with Him through the coming year. (Eccl. 11:6; 12:13, 14)

How will you walk with Him this year? What changes and challenges will you allow Him to bring into your life this year? Will you learn to be thankful in Him for who He is and also for what He brings into your life this coming year? Walking with Him through the changes and challenges and being thankful and willing to change will mean that over the next year we will be able to have nothing but joy in Him, because the Joy of

the L-rd is our strength and He leaves His joy with us. May we all learn to receive this joy and walk in it stubbornly and consistently in 5773.