**Never Give Up**



**Pirkei Avos 1:7**

*...and don’t despair of retribution.*

**Rashi**

*One should not let retribution cause you to despair; even if evil comes, one should not give up hope, for salvation can arrive quickly.*

**#1**

(a) Max and Linda are having trouble starting a family. Linda has a medical issue that makes it highly improbable for her to conceive. She is in her late forties...

(b) Your best friend is telling you that a doctor said there is no chance of recovery…

**Question: How would you advise your friends?**

**#2**

**Talmud, Shabbos 31a**

*After departing from this world, when a person is brought to judgment for the life he lived in this world, (one of the questions) they ask him is: Did you await/ anticipate salvation?*

**Talmud, Brochos 10a**

*Even if a sharp sword is laying on the neck of a person, he should not give up from asking for mercy from G-d.*

**Jerusalem Talmud, Brochos 9:2**

*As long as person is alive, there is hope; once he dies, hope is lost.*

**Rabbi Tzadok Hakohen**

*A Jew is never allowed to give up hope neither from physical nor from spiritual challenges.*

It seems that according to the Torah there is absolutely no place for loss of hope.

**Questions:**

**(a) Are these statements not too extreme? Is there no situation where there is definitely no hope?**

**(b) Why do people give up hope?**

**(c) What situations have made you despair?**

**(d) How did you overcome those situations?**

**(e) Did you ever give up on something and regret you did so?**

**(f) Did you ever give up on something and were happy you did so?**

**(g) Does belief in G-d have practical benefits for dealing with and overcoming difficult situations?**

**#3**

**Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a**

*Son of (king) David (Mashiach or Messiah) will not come…until people despair of redemption.*

**Thirteen Principles of Faith, Maimonides**

**Principle Nr.12**

*I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah (Mashiach); and even though he may delay, I will await him every day.*

**Question: How would you resolve this contradiction that on one hand you have to believe that Mashiach can come any day, and on the other hand it is only when people will give up on his coming that G-d will send the redemption?**

**National Anthem of the State of Israel.**  
**Hatikva (The Hope)**

As long as deep within the heart  
A Jewish soul stirs,  
And forward, to the ends of the East  
An eye looks out, towards Zion.  
  
Our hope is not yet lost,  
The hope of two thousand years,  
To be a free people in our land  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.  
To be a free people in our land  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

**Transliteration**  
Kol od balevav penimah,  
Nefesh yehudi homiyah,  
Ulefa-atei mizrach, kadimah,  
Ayin letziyon tsofiyah.

Od lo avdah tikvateinu  
Hatikva bat shnot alpayim,  
Lihyot am chofshi be-artzeinu,  
Eretz tzion, virushalayim.