



## Closer to G-d

*It was an average Sunday in Crown Heights. A long line of people, from all walks of life, poured onto the sidewalk in front of 770 Eastern Parkway. The Lubavitcher Rebbe had been standing for hours handing out dollars, listening to fervent requests for G-d sent help, and offering blessings and words of comfort to thousands of people.*

*On this particular Sunday, after waiting his turn, a distressed man approached the Rebbe telling him that his newborn son had been diagnosed with autism.*

*The Rebbe responded as follows: “**They say that children with Autism are distant from people, which in turn means that they are closer to G-d.**”*

One might ask, “Aren’t all humans blessed with a G-dly soul? Aren’t we all close to G-d?”

The answer is, “Yes.” However, most of us are introduced to this world in a manner in which we become accustomed to its materialistic qualities relatively quickly. Our G-dly soul, though spiritual by nature, has been “transferred” from its divine surroundings into a physical human body. The reason for this is that G-d desires a home in this world, a home where He will feel comfortable. The only way to achieve this goal is for G-d to convey part of Himself, our souls, to this world, instructing them to increase the sanctity therein and thus He can find comfort.

Yet, it is at great risk that G-d allows the soul to descend into the human body. Not all of us are successful in our sacred task. Some of us become too comfortable with our new environment and become distracted from our mission to enhance the spirituality of our surroundings. Sadly, our G-dly souls become theoretical while the materialism of the world becomes actual.

How does G-d remind us that we possess a soul that is pure? A soul that is tasked with making this world a better place? A soul that emanates from G-d’s essence? By sending down another soul, in all of its purity, a soul that will not be affected by the materialism of the world, a soul that will seek limited contact with society, lest its purity become diminished and its goal obstructed.

Many souls descend to this world as rectification for previous unaccomplished assignments, and the souls of our special children are those sent to attain G-d’s goal.