

# Parsha Story

Stories and Parables from  
the famed Maggid of Dubno

by Rabbi Chanan Morrison

## BE STRAIGHT

Sho-f'tim

**TAMIM TIHYEH IM HASHEM ELOKECHA**

"Complete [tamim] you will be with  
the Eternal your God" (D'varim 18:13)

The Midrash explains the verse as if  
the word TIHYEH ("you will be") was  
written twice. If "you will be  
complete" - then "you will be with  
God."

The Maggid explained this Midrash  
with the following parable:

A carpenter needed to glue together  
boards of wood. Sometimes the  
boards are smooth and straight, and  
sometimes he must glue together  
crooked boards.

When the boards are crooked, the  
carpenter must work hard. He must  
carefully examine both pieces of  
wood and determine the optimal way  
to attach the two boards together.

But when the boards are perfectly  
smooth and straight, the carpenter's  
work is easy. He does not need to  
carefully examine the boards from all  
angles. He simply spreads the glue on  
the wood, and presses the pieces  
together.

So too, the Torah tells us to "cleave  
to God". If a person is not straight,  
this 'cleaving' will be a difficult  
matter. One who wishes to cleave to  
God must correct his faults in order  
that he will be able to properly  
connect to God.

Therefore the Torah admonishes us  
to be TAMIM. We should make sure  
that our character traits are straight  
and our actions are honest. And then,  
as the Midrash explains, we can be  
"with God". We can easily cleave to  
God, like two straight boards.

*Adapted from Mishlei Ya'akov, pp. 438-39*