

FA5. Praying for Our Enemies.

We to pray for our enemies.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 5:44

But I tell you, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 6:14-15

Mark 11:25

Luke 6:27. 35

Romans 12:20-21

Related New Testament Mitzvot

JA07 Loving Our Enemies

JA08 Giving to Our Enemies and Expecting Nothing in Return

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Proverbs 24:16-17

For though he falls seven times, he will get up again; it's the wicked who fail under stress. Don't rejoice when your enemy falls; don't let your heart be glad when he stumbles.

Comment

Scripture's requirement that we pray for our enemies logically follows from the commandment to love our enemies since we must pray for those whom we love. But what are we to pray? That our enemies will be successful in hurting us? Of course not. Though our enemies no doubt don't know it, harming us results in their doing spiritual harm to themselves.

So, when we pray that our enemy be not successful in his malevolence toward us, we are praying for us but for him as well. Also, we should remember that our enemy is a person, like ourselves, who is created in God's image and loved by God the same as He loves us. Our enemy is also our neighbor, and we are commanded to love our neighbor. One more thing; Scripture calls us to forgive those who sin against us. Difficult as that might be, it must be done before any prayers in behalf of our enemy are effective.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

N01 Loving Our Neighbor, the Stranger, and Even Our Enemy