

Spotlight on...Hearts and Spirits

Background:

This week we read Vayakhel-Pekudei, a double parsha that tells of the actual construction of the mishkan and the garments for the kohanim. In 35:21 we are told that two categories of people came to bring materials for the construction:

<p>And everyone whose heart carried them, and everyone whose generosity of spirit moved them came, bringing to the LORD his offering for the work of the Tent of Meeting and for all its service and for the sacral vestments.</p>	<p>וַיָּבֹאוּ כָל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-נִשְׁאַן לְבֹו וְכָל אֲשֶׁר נָדְבָה רוּחוֹ אֹתוֹ הֵבִיאוּ אֶת-תְּרוּמַת ה' לְמִלְאֶקֶת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּלְכָל-עֲבֹדָתוֹ וּלְבִגְדֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ:</p>
--	---

The commentaries offer different interpretations of these two categories, and why the Torah includes both of them.

Netziv: There are two ways that a person gives a gift. The first is to avoid shame or even punishment from others for avoiding the cause and not donating to it - this is the person referred to as “whose heart carried them.” The second is a person who gives because their mind AND spirit advise them to give - that is the person referred to as “whose generosity of spirit moved them.”

Ktav v'hakabalah: There are ways that a person gives a gift. The first is someone who gives solely because of their soul, for their materialistic inclination encourages them to want to protect their wealth even though their soul yearns to give - this is the person referred to as “whose heart carried them.” The second is someone who gives with their soul AND body, and their materialistic inclination does not challenge their soul - that is the person referred to as “whose generosity of spirit moved them.”

Questions:

1. How does the Netziv differentiate between these two categories?
2. How does the Ktav v'hakabalah differentiate between these two categories?
3. Think of some times that you have donated your money or stuff to someone else. When have you felt like someone “whose heart carried them”? When have you felt like someone “whose generosity of spirit moved them”?
4. Is there an actual difference between these two categories? Is the act of giving affected by one's mindset at the time?