

Emet V'yatsiv

אֱמֶת וַיִּצִיב וְנִכּוֹן וְקִיָּם וַיִּשָּׁר וְנֶאֱמָן וְאֶהוּב וְחֶבִיב וְנִחְמָד וְנִעִים וְנוֹרָא וְאֲדִיר
וּמְתַקֵּן וּמְקַבֵּל וְטוֹב וַיִּפֶּה הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה עָלֵינוּ לְעוֹלָם וָעֵד.

E-met v'ya-tsiv v'na-khon v'ka-yam v'ya-shar v'ne-e-man v'a-huv v'kha-viv v'nekh-mad
v'na-im v'no-ra v'a-dir u-m'tu-kan u-m'ku-bal v'tov v'ya-feh ha-da-var ha-zeh a-lei-nu
l'o-lam va-ed l'o-lam va-ed.

True and certain, established and enduring, upright and faithful, beloved and cherished, delightful and pleasant, awesome and mighty, correct and accepted, good and beautiful is this word to us for all eternity.

D'rash

True and certain—That which came before this—our declaration that You are One, that we must repeat and teach Your Torah, and that we shall be lost if we fail to do Your will—is beyond question or doubt: we know the truth of it with utter certainty. **Established and enduring**—Though we are plagued with doubts and questions about ourselves and our lives, fearful of our own frailties, we are confident that You are the Eternal One, that You were present for those who came before us, and that You shall remain for all who come after us. **Upright and faithful**—When we emulate You, living in Your image by honoring Your Torah, we and all those who learn from us are raised up and made faithful to You. **Beloved and cherished**—You are our Beloved, in whom we live, and we cherish You when, by our deeds, we invite Your Shekhina into our world. **Awesome and mighty**—We are compelled by Your creation and its laws, the continuity of our lives and communities bound to our recognition of Your power and dominion. **Correct and accepted**—We are grateful that You have revealed in Your Torah the order of Your Creation, the blessings and commandments we need to fulfill our covenant with you. **Good and beautiful is this word to us for all eternity**—We declare, to ourselves and to the world beyond us, that only goodness and beauty will ever follow from affirming Your Oneness, learning and teaching Your Torah, and doing Your will.

Iyun Tefilla

READ THE MANUAL

Looking
Into the Torah,
Before creating the world,
Did God stop to think
About people like me
And what would happen
Once the world
Was put into our hands,
Given how we are,
About testing the rules
And pushing limits?
See, I think
God knew all about
People like me and
What might happen,
But just went ahead
With the plan
Anyway,

Knowing
That in spite of
Our nature,
If the nature
Of the creation
Is such that
If I jump
Into the deep end
Of the pool
And I don't wave
My legs and arms,
I will drown.
As with everything
Else in life,
I may refuse.
I may say:
I DON'T LIKE THIS RULE!
Or even,
YOU CAN'T MAKE ME LIVE BY THIS RULE!
I will still drown.

Go to <http://www.gatherthepeople.org> for more congregational development and organizing tools.

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