

Turn your hope to God

by Rabbi Shefa Gold

קִוֵּה אֶל-יְהוָה חֲזַק וַיֵּאֱמֹץ לִבְךָ וְקִוֵּה אֶל-יְהוָה

Kavay el Yah, Chazak v'ya'amaytz libecha, Kavay el Yah

Turn your hope to God; be strong and be filled with courage;

turn your hope to God. (Psalm 27:14)

Psalm 27, which is especially dedicated to the Tshuvah work of Elul, ends by offering us this visionary possibility. We can turn to God with all our yearning, all our dreams, all our highest and deepest hope. In doing so we will be strengthened in our work of coming close to God. We can also understand this line to mean that it will take all of our strength and all of our courage in order to turn our hope to God. The practice of this chant is to call up that strength, that courage, and use it to make that turning.