

Love and Trust

BY RABBI DAVID WOLPE

"Love cannot live where there is no trust." Those are the words of renowned writer on mythology, Edith Hamilton. From her study of the steady currents in human myth making, she recognized that for love — as for friendship or any deep relationship — trust is essential.

Perhaps that is why faith in the Jewish tradition is most often referred to as *bitachon*, which means trust. To trust in God is more powerful and comprehensive than to believe in God. Trust is the currency of true connection both with people and with God.

Only trust grants true closeness: the certainty that intimacies will be private, that tears will be measured, that pleas will be heard. Now that we have come through the cycle of holidays, we assess them in part by whether our trust in God has grown. Were there moments when we felt heard, cherished, sanctified by God's presence? Do not abandon us, we implored God as the gates were closing on Yom Kippur. The echoes of that deep cry, the wish not to be left alone, the hope of embrace and the promise of remembrance, resound with us throughout the year.