

Rabbi David Wolpe's

Off The Pulpit

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Hidden Treasures

Hebrew has no one letter words. The word for "I" is *Ani* which begins with the letter *aleph*. *Aleph* is a silent letter. Referring to oneself then, should begin in silence.

Over the centuries, people have uncovered wonders in Hebrew. The difference between the word for man and woman (*ish / ishah*) is a *heh*, which is also a sign of God. Both man and woman have the word for "fire" in them; so between the two there is fire and more often than not, it is the woman who brings God into the relationship. You see how the game is played?

Take the last letter of the Torah, *Lamed*, and the first, *Bet*, switch them, and you get *Lev*, heart. If you take the first, middle and last letter of the Hebrew alphabet — *aleph*, *mem* and *taf*, you get the word *emeth*, truth. Because truth is the first and last value, and must be observed all along the way. Once you add *gematria*, since each Hebrew letter has numerical values (as in *chai* =18) there is no end to the ingenuity of combinations. Learn our language, spin it around, play, calculate, and discover.

The Double Standard of Religious Leadership