

וְאָהַבְתָּ

Root – ך-ב-ר

Meaning – speak

Root – א-ה-ב

Meaning - love

Words in the prayer with the same root **וְאָהַבְתָּ וְדַבַּרְתָּ הַדְּבָרִים**

The **וְאָהַבְתָּ** is found in the Shabbat morning service immediately following the **שְׁמַע**. The congregation chants it out loud. Following its recitation the congregation prays silently until reaching the last few lines of the section about Tzitzit.

In the Torah, the **וְאָהַבְתָּ** is part of the **שְׁמַע** and is one of only two prayers that the Torah commands us to recite, once in the morning and once at night. This is why it is recited in both the morning and evening services. Some prayer books also suggest that the prayer be said at bedtime.

The **וְאָהַבְתָּ** commands us to do many things. It speaks of loving God with all of your being, it commands us to make the words of the **שְׁמַע** part of who we are each and every day, to teach the words of the **שְׁמַע** to our children, to say the words when we rise up (in the morning) and when we lie down (in the evening). The prayer also commands us to wear tefillin and to put the words of the **שְׁמַע** and the **וְאָהַבְתָּ** into the Mezzuzah and to place the Mezzuzah on the doorposts (door frames) of our homes.

Vocabulary and Translation

And You Shall Love – **וְאָהַבְתָּ**

That – **אֲשֶׁר**

Your Heart – **לְבַבְךָ**

Command You – **מְצַוְךָ**

And When You Walk - **וּבְלִכְתּוֹךָ**

I – **אֲנִי**

Words – **הַדְּבָרִים**

My Commandments – **מִצְוֹתַי**

Past Roots and Prefixes

ר – ח – ב – Choose

כ – ר – ב - Bless

י – י – ח – Life, live

ל – א – Root of the names of God

ב – א - Father

מ – א – Mother

מ – י – ש – Place, Put

ל – ד – ג – Great large

נ – ת – נ – Give

ר – ב – ג – Hero, power

ל – To, For

ו – And

ב – In, on, with

Translation

And you Shall Love Adonai Your God with all of Your Heart, with all of Your Soul, and with All of Your Might.

And set these words that I command you this day upon your heart.

Teach them to your children, speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on your way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol between your eyes. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Therefore remember and do all of my commandments so that you will be holy to Your God.

I am Adonai your God that brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God, I am Adonai Your God.