

# Page 84

§ This Rosh Hashanah, each of us enters this sanctuary with a different need.

Some hearts are full of gratitude and joy: they are overflowing with the happiness of love and the joy of life; they are eager to confront the day, to make the world more fair; they have recovered from illness or have escaped misfortune.

And we rejoice with them.

Some hearts ache with sorrow: disappointments weigh heavily upon them, and they have tasted despair; families have been broken; loved ones lie in bed in pain; death has taken those whom they cherished.

May our presence and sympathy bring them comfort.

Some hearts are embittered: they have sought answers in vain; they have had their ideals mocked and betrayed; life has lost its meaning and value.

May the knowledge that we too are searching restore their hope that there is something to find.

Some spirits hunger: they long for friendship; they crave understanding; they yearn for warmth.

May we in our common need gain strength from one another, sharing our joys, lightening each other's burdens, and praying for the welfare of our community.

—CHAIM STERN (*adapted*)