

# A Thought for Shabbat

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## Shabbat Shalom

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In this week's Torah portion, *Noach*, we learn of the story of Noah and the flood. The Torah introduces Noah with the phrase, "Noah walked with God." What does this mean?

Rashi, the great medieval commentator explained it this way. "In the case of Abraham the Torah says, 'God before whom I (Abraham) walked.' Noah, on the other hand, needed God's support to uphold him in righteousness, while Abraham drew his moral strength from himself and walked in his righteousness by his own effort."

We, human beings, are probably more like Noah than we are like Abraham in that we are pulled both by our evil inclination as well as our good inclination. Abraham seems to only have had a good inclination. Therefore, God, Torah, and Judaism in general serve us as moral compasses. With such compasses, we can find the direction in order to make good and righteous decisions. It is wonderful if we can do it all on our own, but I think most of us need a little extra help. Judaism has set an unbelievably beautiful path for us to walk. Let's all take the stroll.