

I need your help, brothers

Posted by Kevin Pond - 05 Jul 2012 23:53

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this may not be the right place, but i really need your help.

my teenage kids drive me UP THE WALL!!!!

this is not just a simple case; they work very "methodically" on my lack of self- confidence.

i just know that if I had more confidence it would be better. I feel lost. disconnected from H'.

whenever I feel like a lousy father i want to go into hirhurim or even worse- for comfort.

i can't take this anymore- HELP!

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Re: I need your help, brothers

Posted by Dov - 06 Jul 2012 00:21

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Dear KP,

It may be true that our problem is not the lusting and masturbation, but living real life *without them*. Real life without the comfort of our sex-with-self and fantasizing, is just unbearable....or, as you put it, getting close to unbearable!

So.

The 12 steps suggest a path of gaining comfort with real life - or as the addicts put it, "life on Life's terms" (and they mean on *G-d's* terms, really). It is steps 4-7, then steps 8-10. They are about gaining acceptance of other peoples' limitations, of G-d's power and our lack of knowledge, of our sometimes very self-defeating ways of dealing with events, people, and G-d's Will, and learning to allow Hashem in by getting our self-will out of His way.

As the Kotzker used to say, "Hashem only comes *where people let Him in!*"

That's all the 12 steps are, nothing else.

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Re: I need your help, brothers  
Posted by alexeliezer - 06 Jul 2012 18:59

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Try this lecture by Rabbi Jonathan Rietti

[www.torahmedia.com/flexcart/searchResults.php?sid=&cid=&evid=uusxa86twb&directlink=29769](http://www.torahmedia.com/flexcart/searchResults.php?sid=&cid=&evid=uusxa86twb&directlink=29769)

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Re: I need your help, brothers  
Posted by Kevin Pond - 08 Jul 2012 23:03

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Dov,

I always find your messages so inspiring and real.

this one was no exception.

huge thanks!

KP

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Re: I need your help, brothers  
Posted by Kevin Pond - 08 Jul 2012 23:09

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Alex,

thank you for the link!

i will look into it. it is good to know of its existence, in times of need....

KP

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Re: I need your help, brothers  
Posted by Dov - 10 Jul 2012 17:06

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KP - thanks for the chizzuk. Seriously, it means a great deal to me to be appreciated for things of *real* value. Continued hatzlocha with your kids...

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Re: I need your help, brothers  
Posted by Kevin Pond - 12 Jul 2012 22:30

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BH

you are welcome, Dov. keep giving lots of chizuk to all of us here!

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Re: I need your help, brothers  
Posted by Izgadin - 16 Jul 2012 00:31

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When I was going through teenage tension, I always thought "it's my job to raise him, to teach him, to guide him... etc. etc." As long as I held on to my perceived mission, my ego got in the way. It finally occurred to me that perhaps my pain and distress had nothing to do with my "job"; it was simply Hashem's way of purifying my own sins! With this thought in mind my ego evaporated - and my relationship vastly improved.

It's not him driving me crazy, it's my own aveiros that are driving me crazy.

It's not always easy to remember, but when I do it amazingly clears the air.

How is it working now?

Birah

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Re: I need your help, brothers

Posted by Kevin Pond - 16 Jul 2012 14:34

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thanks, Bira. i went to a chinuch shiur and the educator (who is amazing, by the way) said very similar things. he said chinuch is about educating ourselves (& working on our middos) much more than educating our kids. your words resonate very well.  
things are a bit better now- thanks so much for your care & advice!

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Re: I need your help, brothers

Posted by Izgadin - 16 Jul 2012 16:55

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Very glad to hear it!

Birah

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Re: I need your help, brothers

Posted by Kevin Pond - 19 Jul 2012 00:40

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