

Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 21 Dec 2020 22:15

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Hi, I have posted in other threads but just wanted to start this new one to get this off my chest. I guess I am venting more than anything else. To make a long story short, I have been a struggler for years with these issues. This includes watching and also chatting with online relationships etc. BH over the past few years due to a variety of reasons things have greatly improved in this area. Don't get me wrong. It wasn't fixed but the issues were less serious (trying to avoid triggering {embarrassing} details). As it still was certainly an issue eventually I recently joined GYE and working on the 90 days etc. I have started and failed more than once but I understand that is part of the process. What is really getting to me and is actually confusing to me is that my most recent fall was to a level worse than I have had in a few years! In other words, when I was working on the issues less officially I was staying away from that level. Now that I am working on really cleaning up my act I have stooped back to my really low levels Why?? It definitely was some Hashgacha Pratis in this as I was faced with a nisayon I have avoided in the past. Is Hashem telling me that now that I am stronger I should be able to deal with nisayon?? Well, I didn't...

Any feedback is welcome!

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 21 Mar 2021 16:25

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Thank you so much for the thank yous and the posts! I appreciate all of you and that is certainly a big portion of what keeps me going!

I thank Hashem for bringing me to this point.

I am very happy to be holding here, but I am well aware that really nothing much has changed since yesterday. I am doing well BH but still need the same vigilance. Yes, it is not the same as Day 1, but not sure if any different than day 88.

I always like to compare this struggle to other parts of my life. As I have mentioned, for health reasons I made a major diet change about a year and a half ago. I was very realistic about it and set up a very livable plan. It included most foods so that it was not a short term fad thing but fairly sustainable. I would tell everyone "I am not on a diet. This is the way that I eat now." This was all good for a year or so. BH I had a simcha and things got very busy... I ended up totally going off the new plan for a while. Then back on. Then off. etc etc

I learned a few things from the experience. First of all, if you struggle in an area, even a year is not long enough to say your good for life! I also learned that life is not so simple. Although I did well for a year, complications will arise and that is just part of the ebb and flow of life as we know

it. Just gotta keep going as best as we can.

?Perhaps the most important lesson I learned (honestly I am realizing this now as I type) is that even though I had on times and off times since that year of great eating habits, my habits have never returned to the same level as before with regard to certain aspects. This is perhaps the best lesson. Even if there are ups and downs on the journey, the gains you make by changing still have a huge impact on the levels of struggle you will deal with(I believe this is referred to as Nekudas habechrah).

So too here, BH I am in a good place now and I am extremely grateful to Hashem for that.However, I am not naive enough to think I am done. Not by a long shot.

Thank you

Lou

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 21 Mar 2021 16:41

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Sorry for a back to back posting....

GYE sent an email that I should share what has worked for me beH.In all honesty,I don't feel qualified to answer that. I did not come here at the age and level when I was deep in the throes of my desires. At that time someone did try to get me to come here and I blatantly refused. By the time I came here for real, I was at the maturity and internal level that I was ready for change. Don't get me wrong I was still doing terrible,terrible things on a fairly regular basis,but the fire was not the same.I just needed the kick in the pants and the pat on the back at the right times to get me going. GYE fit me like a glove at this point. Without it,I would still be drifting out there. But without my internal drive (Chessed Hashem),it would not really have done much for me either.

So, what am I saying to others? Firstly I stand in awe and respect for those younger and in different more challenging phases of life. If I were here at that point, I would probably be up and down all the time. But my real message is that more important than all the GYE rules and programs etc is to work on creating the drive to want to change yourself. Once that is clear, joining and following GYE is just a pleasure.

Hatzlocha

Lou

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 25 Mar 2021 20:13

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Chag **Kosher** ViSameach to all!

Achecha bahava,

Lou

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 06 Apr 2021 21:33

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Bchesd Hashem, a boring post to say all is going well. I still have a heartbeat so still faced with nisyonos occasionally, but overall living the good life!

Thank you Hashem and all of you here at GYE!

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 07 Apr 2021 14:57

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I had a fall after 107 days. I have no time to elaborate now....

Not in the best of spirits now obviously

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 07 Apr 2021 15:19

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Sorry to hear.

You have been an inspiration for me over the last couple of months, and I am looking forward to many more to come.

Falling happens to the best of us, it doesn't change who you are as a person.

It's a rough spot to be in and it feels awful, especially after a long streak.

Just so you know, I got a lot of chizzuk from this post:

Bchesd Hashem, a boring post to say all is going well. I still have a heartbeat so still faced with nisyonos occasionally, but overall living the good life!

Thank you Hashem and all of you here at GYE!

I love the honesty and clarity.

wishing you much hatzlacha!

Wilnevergiveup

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 07 Apr 2021 20:06

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[Lou wrote on 07 Apr 2021 14:57:](#)

I had a fall after 107 days. I have no time to elaborate now....

Not in the best of spirits now obviously

I will not go into great detail about the actual fall as I don't see a point. Suffice it say it was considered a fall according to all opinions. However, it was not as bad as things I was doing before joining GYE. I also want to point out that it started off as curiosity and ended in a bad way. Curiosity is a great Middah and should be used to understand and know more Torah and perhaps other important knowledge. I used it the wrong way.

Right now, I am simultaneously working on opposite ideas. On the one hand I am trying to magnify this fall so I shouldn't think it was not a big deal and just move on. On the other hand, I am working on lessening the enormity of the situation so as not to lose hope and be depressed and have yiush etc. Trying to find an appropriate balance. I am also trying not to think all that much about it at all as that leads me to think about the actual fall and you know where that could lead to. Especially while I am still in this vulnerable state.

?I hope this experience will help me empathize better with others that have similar falls.

Thank you for listening

Hashem Yirachem

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Grant400 - 08 Apr 2021 01:25

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You did amazing. 107. For some reason in regard to this specific issue we become radicals. If we learn well all week besides one day we accept that and move on. Here we get all bent out of shape. There are many reasons probably, but whatever it is let's view it in the proper context.

You came here deep in the mud. You fought your way out, learning how to do it, and helped many, many others too. So you fell. It's wrong and shouldn't happen, but that can't erase where you are holding. You are a completely different person now and have a whole new reservoir of tools and a wealth of shteiging.

Accept, learn from it and move on. You owe it to yourself.

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Zedj - 08 Apr 2021 03:34

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We all say "falling is part of the process" and it really is but when it happens it hurts.

Your story doesn't end with a fall it continues on....it was just a plot twist to add suspense....

i hope you get up from this and continue forward because the chizuk you give all of us is tremendous.

The past is the past but tommorow is in your hands.

Wishing you much hatzlocha!

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Striving Avreich - 08 Apr 2021 09:05

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From my own experience (no where near 107 days) I find that trying to live life is the best and most straight forward way to go.

I hope are doing better

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 09 Apr 2021 01:53

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Thank you to all who reached out with Chizuk on here,PM and chat etc. I really appreciate it.

BH in a much better place now. I will plead temporary insanity for this fall, but not sure if that works in Bais Din shel maalah. It certainly would not be a good plea to my family members or myself so it can not happen again.

Thank you all

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by DavidT - 09 Apr 2021 15:08

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[Lou wrote on 09 Apr 2021 01:53:](#)

Thank you to all who reached out with Chizuk on here, PM and chat etc. I really appreciate it.

BH in a much better place now. I will plead temporary insanity for this fall, but not sure if that works in Bais Din shel maalah. It certainly would not be a good plea to my family members or myself so it can not happen again.

Thank you all

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 09 Apr 2021 16:58

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David T That was beautiful. Where is that from?

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Re: Starting Again...

Posted by Lou - 09 Apr 2021 17:18

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The last few days have not been so pleasant. On again.Off again. etc etc

I only have one piece of advice for everyone (most of all myself!) Keep in mind, A fall is not just a fall for that minute. There is a recovery process afterwards and it is brutal. Keep that in mind next you get hit by the temporary insanity (Ruach Shtus). Realize it aint so temporary...

Struggling (and falling) with things that haven't been an issue for a few months. BH, I definitely do see a marked difference in the way it all is now then how it was before I came here. A huge difference,and that is great! I am celebrating that point.

I think the process can be seen as building a tower. I fell off the tower but the tower is still there. However it is not so simple as I still have to walk up all those steps to get back to the top of the tower. Walking up is not as hard as building but it sure is harder than being at the top already. Going up with the elevator won't work. You need to walk back up with sweat pouring down your face to get back to the top of your building. Perhaps you are better off as on the way up you can examine and repair any faulty parts on your way up....

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