

What does "powerless" mean???

Posted by Rt234 - 22 Jun 2021 13:36

Looking around Gye you see alot that in this struggle we are powerless and it's all up to Hashem. My question is... That yes, everything is up to Hashem, but when it comes to right and wrong Hashem gives us the power to make that decision. So what does this mean???

any help would be greatly appreciated!!!

Thank you everyone for everything!!!

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Re: What does "powerless" mean???

Posted by DavidT - 22 Jun 2021 13:50

Powerless doesn't mean you **can't do anything about it**. Powerless simply means that you can't change the fact you are an addict, in the same way that someone with diabetes can't change that fact either.

Does this mean a person with diabetes is doomed to die? No! But instead of fighting **diabetes**, he needs to learn what WORKS for a diabetic!

So again to sum up: Powerless is referring to the disease and **not** to the person's ability to help themselves.

Also, powerlessness implies a combination of two things.

1) Once I start, I can't stop. No matter how much I know it will kill me, I will keep going.

2) I **must** stop. It is poison for me. It will kill me.

Recognition of these two things FORCES us to come to rely on Hashem completely because we have no way out. We are stuck between a rock and a hard place. And when Hashem sees that we honestly realize that without Him we are finished, He makes miracles for us. (As Chazal say "*Ain ben David ba ad sheyomru ain lanu al mi li'hisha'en ela avinu shebashamayim*".)

When we are faced with a test and say "I'm powerlessness" we mean to say, "If I start, I will not

be able to stop. **And it will kill me.**"

It is analogous to a drunk getting into his car and muttering to himself, "I know I am drunk. Once I start driving on the highway, I won't be able to stop. And I will likely get killed - or kill others".

Powerless makes us realize we CANNOT AFFORD TO LUST. We can't afford to get into the lust car. We are drunk and we will soon be driving down a road to gehenom!

Once we have the recognition of powerlessness that incorporates **both** of these aspects, we force ourselves to make the right gedarim. We learn how to do our best to avoid the first drink, and we learn how to give over our will to Hashem to save us from this "death".

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Re: What does "powerless" mean???

Posted by Rt234 - 22 Jun 2021 14:05

Thank you!! Appreciate it!!

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Re: What does "powerless" mean???

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 22 Jun 2021 14:21

Different people understand it differently. The way I understand it is simply that we are powerless to overcome this on our own. We need the help of others, Hashem, of course, and His multitudes of *shluchim*.

When we try over and over again the same things (i.e. whatever it is but on our own) and they don't work this means that it's obvious that we don't have the power to change without help (if we did, we wouldn't be here). This is not a contradiction to *bechirah*, free will, because we do *have* the *bechirah* to get help. On our own we are indeed powerless, we need help, we need Hashem to restore us to sanity. Our *bechirah* is to get out of isolation and get some support or whatever it is.

Some quote the gemara "*elmalei HKB"H ozro, iy efsher lo*" the Y"H is so strong that without Hashem's help it would be impossible to overcome him.

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Re: What does "powerless" mean???

Posted by Rt234 - 23 Jun 2021 00:16

Thank you!!!!

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