

10. Fear of Heaven can't stop us, but it can PUSH us

Posted by mnman415 - 26 Oct 2010 01:47

Often we were aware how serious these sins were, yet our "Fear of Heaven" alone was never enough to convince us to stop these behaviors for very long. And it's not that we didn't fear Hashem but, like we mentioned above, will power alone is not sufficient in cases of addiction. Not only that, but lust is so powerful that even the greatest Tzadikim who feared Hashem with all their hearts, felt powerless when faced head-on with lust. See what happened with Masya ben Charash (#46 on this page) and Rav Amram, Rabban Shel Chassidim (#275 on this page). In both these cases, these great Tzadikim had to take extreme measures to ensure they didn't stumble.

But, what we CAN learn from these two stories above is that, although Yiras Shamayim is not enough on its own, it should push us to take EVERY step we can to break free of these sins (see the GuardYourEyes Handbook to learn the steps you can take).

With this in mind, let us explore a few aspects about these sins that can help strengthen our Fear of Heaven to make sure that we indeed take every step we can to break free:

Chazal (Niddah 13a) write that HZ"L is as if one has spilled blood or worshiped Avodah Zorah, and that those who do it are chayev misah biday shamayim. The Zohar even goes so far as to say that it is the worst sin in the Torah. Another terrible result of these sins brought down in the holy books, is that they desensitize our souls to spiritual connection. The more we sin in these areas, the more desensitized we become. This is a commonly experienced phenomenon, where people slowly lose their yearning for spirituality, and they start to feel ever more disconnected from Torah, Shabbos and Mitzvos. Unfortunately, this also makes Teshuvah all the more unlikely, as one becomes more and more disconnected.

Also, maintaining our addiction requires constant hiding, lies, and living a double life. This cuts us off from the world around us and doesn't let us feel the tremendous kindness of Hashem that fills our lives. It blinds us to the goodness in the world around us, to our souls, and to Hashem. We begin to lose appreciation for our own wives and children. We are unable to find inner peace, we can't stop lusting everywhere we go, and we remain closed up within a shell that no one can penetrate.

It is also brought down in Kabbalistic texts that every drop emitted in vain causes souls to be created, and these souls are snatched up by the forces of evil and become demonic forces that cause much suffering in a person's life. The souls themselves also suffer in misery with no hope (unless we fix ourselves), and after we die they stand as terrible accusers against us. See this

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page and video clip for a dramatic first-hand testimony of someone who claims he had died and experienced the judgment of the world to come. This story and video, especially where he weeps as he recalls the myriads of accusing souls that stood before him, can help inspire our Fear of Heaven and ensure that we do everything in our power to heal from this disease.

But do not let all these dramatic revelations cause you to despair. Teshuvah was created even before the world was created, and Hashem knew that we would stumble in these areas. Hashem has infinite patience and he understands us far better than we understand ourselves. Chazal say that Hashem even brought David Hamelech to stumble with Bas Sheva, only to show us the incredible power of Teshuvah.

Also, it is brought down in the Holy books that, through a sincere Teshuvah, all the souls that we created through our sins actually become uplifted, and they change from being "accusing angels" and become "defending angels" instead.

So never despair! By learning the proper perspective on this struggle, and by taking the steps we can to break free, we are doing exactly what Hashem intended for us to do all along.

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Re: 10. Fear of Heaven can't stop us, but it can PUSH us
Posted by mnman415 - 26 Oct 2010 01:56

many of us understand why this is such a bad thing to do spiritually yet it doesnt stop us. in fact there is an amora in the gemorah (he is mentioned in the gemorah, this means hes a great tzadik) that had this nissayon, meaning his yiras shamayim did NOT stop him!

actually it can motivvate us to work on this area, but it alone will not make us sober

with this in mind, this step continues to explain why its bad, remember that this is to motivate ouselves to put effort into this:

it is as if we killed....the zohar says its the worst aveira....it takes away our seriousness to spirituality...makes teshuva hard to do(these might not be literal, they are here to show us how serious it is.....dont get depressed!!!!)

people who do this basically live a double life (aspecially those people who are in kolel or are married and ect.) and it takes us away from reality and it takes away serenity from us. every drop creates a soul that is taken captive by the evil side.

but remember!!!!!!! **nothing stands in the way of teshuva!!!!** teshuva can get rid of all these bad things! and just the fact that we are here is the 1st step of teshuva!

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