

24. It's never all or nothing

Posted by mnman415 - 10 Nov 2010 02:53

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The notion that we must always succeed actually turns us into easy prey for our Yetzer Hara. He uses our good qualities, such as our constant yearning for perfection, and he turns it against us by trying to get us to feel down when we experience a fall! In this struggle, it is never "all or nothing." When an army goes out to battle, do they always win? Are there never casualties? People injured? The Pasuk says: "There is no Tzadik on earth who does only good and never sins" (Koheles 7:20).

If you were watching a fight between a man and a lion, who would you be inclined to reward more, a man with a gun who shoots the lion in one fell blow, or the man who needs to use his bare hands? In the latter case, there is a huge fight and sometimes the man is down and the lion is winning, yet he manages to push off the lion again and again and finally overpowers him and wins the fight! Hashem wants to reward us with infinite Divine delight, and he gave us a beast inside us to slay. He could have made us mighty as the Malachim, but it is only through human beings who fight with their bare hands in the darkness of this world that Hashem's Divine presence is uplifted and is able to brighten the darkest places.

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Rav Hutner once wrote a letter to a Bochur who was despondent over his personal spiritual failures. In the letter, Rav Hutner explains that what makes life meaningful is not basking in the exclusive company of one's Yetzer Tov, but rather the dynamic struggle of one's battle with the Yetzer Hara. Shlomo Hamelech's maxim that "Seven times does the righteous one fall and get up" (Mishlei, 24:16), continues Rav Hutner, does not mean that "even after falling seven times, the righteous one manages to gets up again." What it really means, he explains, is that it is only and precisely through repeated falls that a person truly achieves righteousness. The struggles – even the failures – are inherent elements of what can, with determination and perseverance, become an ultimate victory.

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Re: 24. It's never all or nothing

Posted by mnman415 - 10 Nov 2010 02:57

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it is important to know that it is NOT all or nothing. just like in the a war, there is a war and a battle so too the human life is a long war and every second it a new battle. so who cares about the fall of last second, that is a past thing. again, not all or nothing.

if a man gets into a fight with a lion, he could shoot him but its way more impressive to see him fight bare handed. so we dont have any guns to shoot the yetzer in one shot, rather we constantly need to keep fighting.

seven times a tzaddik falls, even though he had so many falls in the past never-the -less what mankes him a tzadik is that he keeps on pushing.

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