

Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Nachshon - 22 Sep 2013 21:08

God has blessed me with so much...wife that is crazy about me...wonderful children...career that is going well...friends..etc.

Why can't I just control this part of me...why do I need this escape. Yes life is hectic...have 60 employees I am responsible for...but I love having the responsibility...I feel so weak and self loathing every time I slip. I feel as I am I giving god reasons to take away all that he has given me.

When The moment it is over...a wave of guilt/disgust washes over me....I tell myself I will stop...but in short order I return. I made a donation to GYE...before RH....as a hope that god will possibly forgive some of my sins. I go through starts and stops with cutting back...just seems like right after YK...desire and tests come at me. Feel like I keep getting these challenges...woman into my life...that weaken me. All my fault....not blaming anyone.

Need help...feel lost...not sure what else to do....going down the rabbit hole...need to keep trying...feel no matter what I will revert back.

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by kavanah - 27 Nov 2013 11:25

Just to agree with Dov from a bit of a different perspective...

I'm a newbie when it comes to controlling sexual stuff, and I can't really speak in that area from successful experience yet.

But I do have a strong track record of experience dealing with drug addiction. I'm many years clean of drugs and used to be addicted to all sorts.

Believe me, I've thought often that after all those years maybe it wouldn't be so bad to take a trip to Amsterdam and just do something light, some pot, maybe a little mushrooms... like a vacation... after all, I don't even have much of a desire for it anymore, and I'm a trained "master" of resisting it now, so of course I can control it and just have some safe temporary fun right?

That's completely wrong, for me at least. At the end of the day- and I hope nobody takes this the wrong way, the number of days clean doesn't really matter. If I took some drugs today, it could instantly set me back to the state of mind where I was all those years ago. But that's actually a happy thought, because *the opposite is true as well*, that by consciously abstaining and feeling even for a moment that I don't need it, it's as though I have a 1000 year track record behind me. *Mamash* Hashem accepts our teshuva from where we are in the moment.

I think that's what Dov's saying in other words. By taking real action and making a conscious choice against your yetzer hara, feeling free for one moment, you've won! You've learned how to do it. Most of the world is not on that level by the way. Then it's just a question of practice and patience as you (and all of us) train ourselves in making those moments more frequent and longer lasting.

Don't get me wrong- that training is critical and a huge battle. In that sense, number of days very much does matter and accumulated experience is *very* important.

It's like training in anything. Reviewing a mishna 101 times is not like the 100th. Trying to do pushups on day 1 is not like day 100. Getting through a daf the first time is not like the 10th, etc.

Yet at the same time, the difference between 1 and 1000 is really a very different thing than the difference between 0 and 1, if you catch my drift. And it's total truth to view each successful day as making that giant infinite leap from *ayin* to *yesh*. That's really the *ikar*. As those t-shirts in the

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by gibbor120 - 27 Nov 2013 20:54

[kavanah wrote:](#)

As those t-shirts in the 80's/90's used to say, "the rest is just details"
Did hillel sue them? He came up with that a couple thousand years earlier... and he did it

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Machshovo Tova - 27 Nov 2013 21:47

I think he had it on his bathrobe, not his t-shirt.

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Dov - 29 Nov 2013 18:40

[kavanah wrote:](#)

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experience dealing with drug addiction. I'm many years clean of drugs.
standing on one foot

Believe me, I've thought often that I'm a trained "master" of resisting it now, so of course I can control it and just have some safe temporary fun right?

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Very clear post, thanks!

Now that you've cut through so much mush and clarified some really great points, I want to describe in what way I *do* see things from another perspective, as you mentioned. I do not consider this disagreeing at all, as you will see, just another perspective that works for me and others I know.

First, Happy Chanukah!!

OK.

If my attitude is that I win, then I lose. If my attitude is that when I give up, then I am a winner by

default - because G-d allows me to be free of it at the moment and I am comfortably clean. For me, that's recovery.

And incidentally, if I deserve *schar* for any of this, then it's not recovery as i see it. For then I did it. Rather, all I did was choose to allow Him in. Yes, WE let - or do not let - Hashem in. As the Kotzker put it so well, Hashem is *only* found where people let Him in. This is practical, not theoretical.

This is not semantics, but a different way of living.

It is Noach (walking *with* G-d) - not Avrohom (walking *before* G-d).

And that is not to say that there is no *schar* for being clean, or for choosing to surrender my right to lust because I can't afford it. There very well may be tremendous *schar*. But it is none of my business at all and never will be. It's entirely G-d's affair. All the old *schar* v'onesh thinking - both the onesh as well as the *schar* parts - twist me. And I know I am not alone in that.

So I say: drop it.

And anyhow, with the exception of great tzaddikim, it is *no service of Hashem at all*, to think in terms of *schar* v'onesh. It is truly and only *service of self*. Spiritual selfishness, spiritual fantasizing - in other words, spiritual lust. I have no use for it, b"H.

By the same token, the wordly *schar* of 'becoming a master' is a thing I can do without. I certainly agree 100% with you, that if I am struggling with my lust as painfully as I did years back, there is something very wrong with my recovery. But 'a master'? All I do is surrender my right to it! I get no feeling of mastery, just freedom granted by G-d *even though I don't deserve it, at all*.

And speaking of Yiddishkeit, I believe not a single person on this planet can be frum enough or good enough to *deserve* closeness to Hashem, at all. Same for recovery. It is based on humility, acceptance that no matter how long I am sober for, I am sober because I am by nature unable

to stay sober - if anything, I am a loser, not a winner. G-d puts me in the 'win' column.

Do you *need* to say then that this makes you a 'winner'? Fine, gezunterheit. Maybe some need that. Not me. Labels do not matter to me so much - not as 'addict' and not as 'winner'. That's part of really living one day at a time.

It's good enough for me that i am sober today and it's good enough for me that my life is totally different than it 'should' - by all rights - be. Hashem is indeed very, very Good. Am I? That's not my business, but His. And Hashem is definitely enough for me to actually, physically smile about - and I do!

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Nachshon - 29 Nov 2013 21:05

Thank you all for the chizuk, insight and caring...I have not posted in a few days (a couple of holidays...and a lot of work)...so I wanted to keep at it.

As Dov and others have said important to stay out of isolation....

I need to internalize a bit more the last several posts...they were all very well written with a lot of insight.

The first point regarding keeping track of days for me that is helpful (Day 3B)...as it challenges myself to keep at it. I just don't have that person in my life that I could really open up to that would understand the battle I am in. You (this forum) is that person. My closest friends would think I am nuts...Rabbi (would shatter his image of me...plus he relies on me for so much)...perhaps these are just excuses and I have to think deeper on this.

Both of you (Dov and Kavanah...in your previous posts)...focus on the difference between counting days vs. a paradigm shift of unnecessary (to count days) as the person see things from a much different perspective. The critical question is how to get to that place. My first 14

days I was definitely fighting it...winning a bunch of battles and then finally succumbing. If I am 100% honest with myself I was playing around the edge during that time period and then pulling up before disaster (until I couldn't). Excellent point about hiding the bottle...and no sandwiches for Rabbi Shimon Bart Yochi...all of these examples are more of the same idea (need for a change in the brain then the daily battle) I really do get the difference...just not sure how to get to that place?

Dov, I did read the AA story (last one)...but wasn't clear what got her to flip the switch after all those years of drinking and tragedy.

Regarding points of let god in...and happy/unhappy with reality. I know what the words mean but how does that really apply. Of course I love god and "let" him in my life...as I stated in previous posts...think I am overall a pretty good Jew (doubt anyone thinks they are a bad one)...so back to the elephant on the room...WHY IS THIS BATTLE SO HARD...I know its wrong...goes against my understanding of what a good Jew is...if I sit down and think about it know its VERY wrong...corrupts my relationship with god...will someday have to answer for these things...so WHY???

Overall pretty good life...great wife...children...career...etc...is it my escape from reality and I just crave the excitement of another? PN...etc...seems like a crazy trade for a few minutes of pleasure. After connecting with old friend(s) can feel in my bones the disappointment and self loathing I feel....So WHY...cant I make that calculation before?

I believe you will answer with should not need to make the calculation...turn to god...etc...On a conceptual level understand that and this streak is much more along those lines...just not sure I have the tools to fully make the jump from fighting it to abandoning it and turning to god....

Thank you all for the posts and insight...and sorry again for the long posts

A Happy Chanukah To all...Shabbat Shalom

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Nov 2013 23:28

[Nachshon wrote:](#)

I just don't have that person in my life that I could really open up to that would understand the battle I am in. You (this forum) is that person. My closest friends would think I am nuts...**Rabbi (would shatter his image of me...plus he relies on me for so much)**...perhaps these are just excuses and I have to think deeper on this.

Would it shatter your "rabbi's" view of you or "your own" view of you?

Have you read the captain kirk post. If not, just click on the dov quotes link in my signature. It's the very first one.

I had to face my Rabbi. My wife found out and she needed someone to talk to. I was quite embarrassed. He reiterated that he in fact respects me more for facing this difficult issue.

If you have a good rabbi, he's heard this hundreds of times. He will not look down on you at all. Our Rav told us that he deals with this a lot, even with very chashuv people. It is quite common today.

Have a wonderful Shabbos Chanukah!

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Nov 2013 23:30

[Dov wrote:](#)

First, Happy Chanukah!!

Love the smiley menorah! Why such a loud shammas?

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Pidaini - 01 Dec 2013 00:24

[gibbor120 wrote:](#)

[Dov wrote:](#)

First, Happy Chanukah!!

Love the smiley menorah! Why such a loud shammas?

Is this better?

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Dec 2013 21:26

[Pidaini wrote:](#)

[gibbor120 wrote:](#)

[Dov wrote:](#)

First, Happy Chanukah!!

Love the smiley menorah! Why such a loud shammash?

Is this better?

Cool, but why is the shammash blushing?

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 02 Dec 2013 22:03

[gibbor120 wrote:](#)

[Pidaini wrote:](#)

[gibbor120 wrote:](#)

[Dov wrote:](#)

First, Happy Chanukah!!

Love the smiley menorah! Why such a loud shammash?

Is this better?

Cool, but why is the shammash blushing?

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Nachshon - 02 Dec 2013 23:42

Solid week...on Day 6B...definitely a better run than the last one...have really stayed away. Just not sure what my next step is. I hate to admit it....but at times I miss it. It is strange because it has gotten easier each day...but can feel temptation around me. My job requires me to interact with a lot of people...feel as if the tests are getting thrown at me. So far so good... He's embarrassed because you said he was too loud...

I ask myself what exactly do I miss? Is it the brief excitement? The escape from reality (as mentioned my reality is not bad)...steal away a few minutes for myself? Cant put my finger on it?

Really thought about the Rabbi...actually made an appointment and met with him...before I could get three words at...hit me with a ton of community issues/Tzedakah projects...never did quite get to my stuff. I did realize that he is not the person for me to discuss this with.

So what's next...feel like am at a hybrid step away from White Knuckling it and not quite at the paradigm shift that others have made...how do I take the next step forward so I don't regress?

A hopeful soul marches on....

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Pidaini - 03 Dec 2013 00:01

Have you spoken to Dov, or gibor120 (the two that offered)? It's a step more than what you
ahve been doing until now, no?

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by Nachshon - 05 Dec 2013 01:29

Solid Streak...on Day 8B...definitely different than my last streak...have really stayed away from
triggers.

I feel like I have peaked in my "recovery"...what are my next steps moving forward? Where has
Dov gone? Insights have been extremely helpful. I don't believe Dov offered to be my
sponsor...would love to talk if you did?

I did try and read others postings...read Doves story...Amazing.

I just get the sense that I am not really taking any new initiatives or steps to stay clean and that
over time my resolve (not sure the right word...since have felt less a need with each passing
day) will weaken.

Other ramblings...am I an addict? Not sure based on what I read? Was able to function even at
my worst...felt horrible inside for what I was doing (more to wife) than to God....not sure why I
don't realize (or I choose not to) the severity of the sin...

Onward....

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Re: Strong everywhere except here NEED HELP why can't
Posted by gibbor120 - 05 Dec 2013 01:49

[Nachshon wrote:](#)

I feel like I have peaked in my "recovery"

What do you mean?

[Nachshon wrote:](#)

...what are my next steps moving forward?

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[Nachshon wrote:](#)

Where has Dov gone?

He's still around. Sometimes he posts more, sometimes less.

[Nachshon wrote:](#)

I don't believe Dov offered to be my sponsor...would love to talk if you did?

Why does someone need to be your "sponsor" to talk to them. Sponsor is an AA (or SA in this case) term. It is a person that helps you work the 12 steps. You are not working the 12 steps, so why do you need a sponsor.

If you want someone to open up to, you just need a friend, or rebbi, or someone from this site who understands what you are going through.

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