

OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 18 Feb 2016 15:34

Ok, I had opened a new screen ID because I had forgotten how to get into this one. But This is who I started GYE (or GUE at that time for old timers) as originally, and this is the screen name I want to use. I have never posted in THIS forum using OTR as I was here in the past when we were on the old forum platform. But OTR for anyone who remembers me is who I was, am and will be here going forward.

- Getting to the matter at hand because who really cares about the significance of an anonymous screen name..... What's different this time?

-My wife does NOT know that I am joining the forum now. Actually she is not aware too much of my current condition.

- I am not here because I was embarrassed into coming, or (as previously) because my wife caught me and I knew I needed to do 'something'.

There was something very cutesy and supportive about my previous experience. You know... my wife was proud that I was on the forum, I told her about some of the jokes... etc.... And I think, had I continued keeping myself out of isolation, that I would have probably remained in recovery for longer. Especially seeing how the tools on this forum have grown....

But this time I am here because I want to be here. I am not necessarily looking to share my experience here with my wife, because this is about me and my life and my desire to leave this side of me behind.

What drove me to come back? I have nothing else to offer myself to improve, broken nedarim that worked well for a really long time but then eventually I transgressed.;... I took apart and put together my faith, my understanding of my higher power. At about 40 years old, I said ok what am I doing with my life, is this what I want? What do I want.... It was not Hashem as we call it in yiddishkeit, it was Truth- emmess. wanting to be a person of the truth and connect to the truth because that is the only thing that is stable in life.

And one thing it requires is being good to your word- which I wasn't... So what did I have left to say for myself? Not much.....

Through this I realized (again) that I have no other recourse but to reach out to others and get help with this. I called an old GYE buddy or two... got no reply. So I need to start again....

In a way the fact that I am here now, not because of external shame, but because I want to be a person of truth, true to myself, true to who I want to be... I think that makes this a little more real.

That is one thought that I have.... There are so many interesting things to get out in writing, I can't get them all down at once..... But I am starting on my 3 preliminary days toward getting on the 90 day chart, installing proper filters and getting back on the road or on track or whatever you call it to get straight and become who I really want and am supposed to be.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by OTR - 17 Apr 2016 03:00

Cumulative Clean Days: 149

I realized today over Shabbos, that NOT every time that I am acting out is it because of some deeper pressure or lack of internal calm. Actually now, my marital life is greatly stressed and we are apart for a lot longer than is normal. It makes sense that I feel it, and that this is a difficult time with regard to wanting to act out.

The reason I am writing this is because, when acting out is solely an escape from reality, and due to the wrong approach to pressures of life, then indeed the right way to work it is to deal with the deeper issues. When in fact you are suddenly forced into a situation where your regular schedule of marital relations is disrupted in a BIG way, you have to recognize the challenge for what it is- By understanding each one for what it is there is more of a chance for me to work it through correctly.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by thanks613 - 17 Apr 2016 03:12

[OTR wrote on 17 Apr 2016 03:00:](#)

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This is an interesting thought for me. All the more because I am unmarried... Anyone care to comment or offer rebuttal?

Also, I'm curious OTR how this perspective helps you work it through

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by Shlomo24 - 17 Apr 2016 05:08

I agree completely, I am an addict. If I get triggered then these things happen, I don't need to be in a bad place. I sure as hell will be in bad place if I act out or whatnot, but that doesn't necessarily precede acting out. And I'm also single.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 17 Apr 2016 15:32

[thanks613 wrote on 17 Apr 2016 03:12:](#)

[OTR wrote on 17 Apr 2016 03:00:](#)

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It helps me because being honest and looking at what is really going on inside me helps me. It is helpful to me in terms of addiction and in terms of being a person.

I have a lot of junk inside that I need to sort through, and face... improve etc... At the same time I am not entirely without merit. I have done good things, I have experienced sobriety. And I have normal drives. Understanding the difference between normal drives and addictive drives, does not open a door to me to be able to act out freely. But in recognizing where things are coming

from, I will hopefully be able to be more aware of how to respond when the desire kicks in. - Being able to say to myself, of course you are feeling it... your wife has been assur 26 our of the last 30 days- Just puts me in perspective of what I am facing at that moment. It doesn't mean it's ok to act out. And if I do act out, I will be triggering all the addict tendencies in me as well as those emotional chain reactions. ... But when there is a deeper issue at play in the moment, I would want to react to it for what it is, and tell myself to give it over to God- recognize what is really happening inside me and deal with it.

I guess in the lamasseh of giving it over to God it's the same thing- the question is do I have to follow the feelings I am having inside to apply them to step work or not in that given moment. I am not sure if I am explaining what I am thinking clearly though.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by OTR - 02 May 2016 15:14

162 cumulative days clean:

Ok Pesach had some really great moments of feeling good about my sobriety and some weaker times also. That was for the yom tov days. Once chol hamoed came things were not as good. My wife started bleeding on a leil tevila which was totally unexpected and hard to deal with. Coupled with the fact that the previous yemei heter lasted about 4 days until she started seeing again as well as the fact that i had let up on certain personal nedarim I had made, I would up acting out. -

Overall though, my yom tov interaction with my family wife and kids was better than it had been in the past. I was more attentive to my wife's needs in general. I was more civil to a family member with whom I have had great difficulty relating in the past as well.

I feel really bad about this recent acting out. I have come to realize that even if my wife doesn't

know, or feel that I have been acting out (which at this moment she does, but has been unaware in the past), it is still ruining my relationship. It is still living a lie. I made some notes on my 90 day journey chart as to what I think led to my acting out this time, and have implemented some new safeguards to be able to help me stay on the right path.

In a way, I am beginning to question if I really want to be sober entirely, or I am satisfied with having stretches of sobriety with intermittent episodes of acting out. The question is not relevant as lust has already shown its power to kill me inside and out. But my safest is whether I am, on some level fooling myself and only striving for what I am getting. (which is this cycle).

It's definitely wayyyyy better than where I was a few months ago- which was basically acting out everyday- hour and being constantly drawn into more. I think I am paddling against that current, the question is if I am as committed as I would like to believe and as committed as I should be to really make the change in my life that I need. these are my thoughts for now.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by mggsbms - 02 May 2016 16:07

[OTR wrote on 02 May 2016 15:14:](#)

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Great share. And a very valid question which I'm also grappling with.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by Shlomo24 - 02 May 2016 16:12

Thanks for sharing. It can be hard to share a fall.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by thanks613 - 02 May 2016 16:56

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 02 May 2016 17:34

When I act out for prolonged periods of time, I am constantly obsessed with thoughts of guilt remorse and further acting out.. I am short tempered, and pay little attention to my family even if I am there in body (my mind is someplace else). And this is exactly how I operate when I start to act out on these mini-binges. But it's like in this binge, that I know I want to close it up, so I feel like I am chapping arein- lahvdil chatof ve'echol..... because I will soon stop acting out for a while and be a good boy.

This is the total honest truth about what is going on in my head at these times. I think I am making progress in general as my wife and kids have definitely noticed me being more attentive, happy and in general acting more like the person I know I am and want to be.

The question is if I am as committed as I would like to believe and as committed as I should be to really make the change in my life that I need. I recall distinctly on the Yomim Noraim, when I was feeling totally horrible about how low I had sunk, that my 'goal' would even be just to act out once a month over a year. Right now, I am working hard today. I am focused, I am not being distracted. I have a lot to do and I am doing it.

So I am asking myself, so what- so you acted out for a few days over chol hamoed. You didn't screw up your work really, your wife was out... And true, I have a little bit of afterburn but ... meh.

This is actually a very scary thing as A: It is in essence me trying to convince myself I can control lust. B: Acting out, especially in the way that I do, injects a lie into my life. - **BOTH** of these things need to bother me more.

As far as being bothered by sharing my acting out- It's not comfortable, that's for sure..... But I need to just face what my life is already. If for nothing else than at least to come to terms with acting out. I can't stand the running and faking anymore. So empty.... So insecure....

So, yes I did the wrong thing. I took a look at what preceded this acting out, and tried to now make a correction and keep going.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by OTR - 05 May 2016 16:02

I have come to realize that I would love to continue acting out if it didn't destroy my life. As in, if I could maintain my workload, be nice to my family and keep my sedarim... you know basically not devolve into a lust machine, but sort of 'fit it in with everything else'- I totally would.

That part I think we all know. What is bugging me is that on some level I am telling myself that I can if I "play my cards right" and just jump back into my routine here on GYE. - Oy that sucks to say I know. AND it is wrong. Hope that by expressing this and acknowledging it I will have gained some ground on it. (or at least gotten a way to deal with it perhaps from some insight from others....)
Cumulative Clean Days: 165

I AM glad that I am staying with the forum and not just saying to h*** with the whole thing because I fell- which I would very much like to do in some ways. But on another side, I have to really look inside and be honest about what I want and what I am doing.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by cordnoy - 05 May 2016 16:06

[OTR wrote on 05 May 2016 16:02:](#)

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I AM glad that I am staying with the forum and not just saying to h*** with the whole thing because I fell- which I would very much like to do in some ways. But on another side, I have to really look inside and be honest about what I want and what I am doing.

i know from my experience where that would lead me, and where it did lead me.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by OTR - 06 May 2016 01:45

I get the sense that it was not to the top of mount everest....

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by markz - 06 May 2016 01:45

Deep stuff going on here

Thats probably part of why Cordnoy changed to a boat on deep waters, and he has exceptional navigation!

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by OTR - 08 May 2016 02:37

Cumulative Clean Days: 168

BH shabbos was good. I learned a lot with my son, and on my own as well and my davening was good. I happened to see a piece of Ohr Hachaim on this week's parsha (Acharey Mos) toward the end of the parsha where it begins to talk about the inyonei arayos. He says there that a person has no eitza against the tayvos of arayos once they are ignited. They pull a person in further and further. The place to set up a defense is in shemiras haeynayim and in machshova.

These two points are things we discussed a lot on our group calls. On the one hand viewing porn is not a technical violation of sobriety. But as it says in SA we have come to realize that doing so will inevitably lead to acting out. Personally, the machshova idea is hard for me as I have talked about with people on my group call. Hopefully having seen this Ohr Hachayim will help me in the next challenge I have.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by Shlomo24 - 08 May 2016 13:36

Harvey from SA says that people should really consider pornography as their sobriety date. He has a shmuess about why that is, in terms of even SA sobriety. Nowhere does it say that SA sobriety is masturbation till ejaculation, it says "sex with one's self."

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