

My Story

Posted by AvigdorBenYisroel - 03 Jan 2017 01:50

In a nutshell, lotsa struggle with p&m, getting married, thinking that divorce is my only option. Constantly needing a fix, constantly breaking barriers and crossing red lines just for the thrill of breaking them. Then needing to break them again, just because... well, you guys all know the story.

GYE came into my life when I was 19 and saved my life. But then I began to feel ok and started coasting along, I was ok, a fall here and there never hurt anyone, especially if I could fix it right away by giving someone else "chizuk".

Then I got married and suddenly it wasn't ok anymore... and then all of my different double lives sort of collided and I was forced into SA.

My life changed through working the 12 Steps. Maybe I'll give specific examples in the future.

But after a while I wasn't happy in SA, I felt I was wasting my life trying to maintain my sobriety and wasn't doing enough to grow spiritually in my "positive" sobriety.

That's when I discovered my Rebbe Rav Avigdor Miller zt"l and the growth is immeasurable. My wife says that I'm not the person she married, rather a much improved version.

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Re: My Story

Posted by AvigdorBenYisroel - 06 Jan 2017 01:33

[Yosef Tikun HaYesod wrote on 05 Jan 2017 11:51:](#)

I didn't get answers to my 4 questions either...

other than: "maybe it's yetzer hara" and "I don't know".

I just pointed out contradictions in your first couple of posts to the forum,

to try to understand you better. Your posts don't make sense to me:

leaving Torah because of what a sponsor said to you (maybe even a goy from Tennessee),

saying your Rebbe is Rav Avigdor Miller, who insisted one have a relationship with a living Rebbe,

saying that we need to make recovery the main thing, after saying that you left SA, to focus on spirituality,

joining the forum and gye now, when you seem to be both a sponsor and have a job offer as a Rov.

Please take a moment and try to answer these questions, so that we can all understand you better.

I just want to make sense of what you're saying...if possible. I won't enter into a long discussion or debate.

Thanks,

Yosef

p.s. I sure hope you don't sell porn or other drugs on the street corner.

I'm not sure which of Cordnoy's questions I didn't answer. I'll look it over in a minute, for now, you're more important. [Which one of your grandchildren do you love best? The one in my lap... (don't remember who the quote is from, maybe from "ibid" ;)]

So let's answer your questions:

1. *"leaving Torah because of what a sponsor said to you"*

I didn't leave Torah, I left my idea that I must go out there and become a Rov...

2. *"saying your Rebbe is Rav Avigdor Miller, who insisted one have a relationship with a living Rebbe,"*

That's a good point. I do, in fact have a relationship with a Living Rebbe [who happens to consider himself a talmid of Reb Avigdor as well].

3. *"saying that we need to make recovery the main thing, after saying that you left SA, to focus on spirituality,"*

I never left **recovery**. I'm still working to grow spiritually and am incorporating attitudes I gained in SA into my daily life. I am still a member of SA [since "[i]their only requirement for

membership[/i] is a desire to stop lusting and remain sexually sober."]. But I stopped spending at least three hours a day on SA [as some SA members believe is absolutely necessary].

4. *"joining the forum and gye now, when you seem to be both a sponsor and have a job offer as a Rov."*

I feel like I grew so much from Rabbi Miller that I want to bring his words to others suffering from addiction, so that maybe they can be inspired as well. At the same time, I feel that it's important to point out that once someone progressed very far in his addiction all this might not help him. So he shouldn't say "Torah and mussar is BS, he should say, oh, maybe I'm just not ready for it yet- like this avigdor fellow.

5. *"Please take a moment and try to answer these questions, so that we can all understand you better."*

I just want to make sense of what you're saying...if possible. I won't enter into a long discussion or debate."

You're welcome!

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Re: My Story

Posted by Shlomo24 - 06 Jan 2017 02:58

I'll post Cordnoy's questions again.

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Re: My Story

Posted by Shlomo24 - 06 Jan 2017 03:00

[cordnoy wrote on 03 Jan 2017 23:22:](#)

Who decides that it's important as religion?

Who decides that your learning plans should be put on hold?

Glad it worked out for you.

It is a powerful post.

Here they are.

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Re: My Story

Posted by GrowStrong - 06 Jan 2017 12:58

[cordnoy wrote on 05 Jan 2017 11:39:](#)

[GrowStrong wrote on 05 Jan 2017 08:45:](#)

[cordnoy wrote on 05 Jan 2017 04:43:](#)

Disclaimer: I have been in serious recovery for close to four years. I still have not done teshuvah. I am not proud of this, but I do not allow the thought to fester.

OK ill go back a step..

The 12 steps are riddled with "Teshuva" yet you say you are in serious recovery and yet have not yet done Teshuva.

My interpretation of that works a few different ways, but what did you mean by it?

Thank you.

Il have worked the steps many times.

I did not see teshuvah there once.

OK so one step back further.

What is teshuva?

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Re: My Story

Posted by Yosef Tikun HaYesod - 06 Jan 2017 14:05

I am going to head over to the Torah chizuk forum to read Rav Avigdor Miller insights.

The more the better. Thank you for doing it...just please take care to write it accurately.

It's a lot of work. I have written over several of Rav Ben Zion Shafier's shiurim as well as many insights/stories from Rav Fishel Shechter, and it takes a long time...so I appreciate it.

Thanks for clarifying more where you're coming from.

Have a great Shabbos!

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Re: My Story

Posted by cordnoy - 06 Jan 2017 16:22

[GrowStrong wrote on 06 Jan 2017 12:58:](#)

[cordnoy wrote on 05 Jan 2017 11:39:](#)

[GrowStrong wrote on 05 Jan 2017 08:45:](#)

[cordnoy wrote on 05 Jan 2017 04:43:](#)

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OK so one step back further.

What is teshuva?

read the rambam.

there are four components.

In the steps there is stoppin'....Step zero...Which is azivas hachet.

There is admitting, but it is a different sort, do not exactly viduy.

There is acceptance for today to remain sober (perhaps, and included on the daily renewal), but that does not fulfill kabbalah al ha'asid.

There is no charatah regardin' the sin involved at all.

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Re: My Story

Posted by Shlomo24 - 06 Jan 2017 19:15

In fact, one of the promises is "We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it."

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Re: My Story

Posted by AvigdorBenYisroel - 08 Jan 2017 22:14

[Shlomo24 wrote on 06 Jan 2017 19:15:](#)

In fact, one of the promises is "We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it."

Look at the last post on my other thread [from Gevura]. Of course we must regret actions we did in the past. This promise means that instead of being "ashamed" of the past, we'll be proud of where it has taken us.

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Re: My Story

Posted by AvigdorBenYisroel - 13 Jan 2017 19:36

Open mindedness

I was always for "hagahos". Whenever I learned a sefer, I was looking to see if I can write something in the margin. I wasn't learning, I was itching to use my pen. Maybe he misquoted something, maybe he missed a source, maybe I disagree, maybe there's stam a typo... I always had my eyes open.

Same thing when I read the Big Book. His writing is good... style is flowing, not flowing, why did he choose this name for this chapter etc. etc. etc.

BUT I WAS MISSING THE POINT

When I read a book it's not about ME.

Read the words.

It is perfect, it's not perfect, who cares?

Can I learn something here?

It makes a big difference.

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Re: My Story

Posted by Meier - 16 Jan 2017 16:22

Cord. I'm not the biggest Talmid chuchum.

and I haven't had the privilege of learning hilchos teshuva yet.

But I will take the liberty to say that we/us

On GYE are ALOT further along in doing teshuva on these particular sins than alot of guys that think they are doing teshuva on other/lesser sins.

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Re: My Story

Posted by cordnoy - 16 Jan 2017 16:31

[Meier wrote on 16 Jan 2017 16:22:](#)

Cord. I'm not the biggest Talmid chuchum.

and I haven't had the privilege of learning hilchos teshuva yet.

But I will take the liberty to say that we/us

On GYE are ALOT further along in doing teshuva on these particular sins than alot of guys that think they are doing teshuva on other/lesser sins.

If that makes you feel good, go for it.

Dol you wanna contrast your/our sinsl with theirs? Who wins that?

But, either way.....feel what's good for you.

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Re: My Story

Posted by Meier - 16 Jan 2017 17:24

No contrast

but let's take talking in shul.

a guy that's a chronic talker is mekabel

Not to talk in shul. most of the time when he goes a full shabbos morning with just a couple of hellos etc. he feels accomplished. in other words he's doing teshuva and he won't even feel the need to do extra/special teshuva for the one or two good mornings.

Now let's talk about us.

If today chas vshulem we wandered and started to read a article (no images) about inappropriate subjects. (just happened to me. BH I quickly caught myself.) we feel the need to beg hashem for forgiveness. and be ????? for hashem's helping hand for the future.

to me. we/us here are doing teshuva on a closer and more genuine level. we anguish over the "little" stuff. our daily ????? has meaning, (I actually look forward to Mondays and Thursdays, today there was a choson in my minyan)

you get the idea.

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Re: My Story

Posted by cordnoy - 16 Jan 2017 18:31

KKal hakavod!

I wish I would.

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Re: My Story

Posted by ieeyc - 20 Feb 2018 17:26

[Singularity wrote on 03 Jan 2017 09:00:](#)

Hatzlocha Raba! Any friend of the Rav is a friend of mine!

I personally enjoy the teachings of Rav Shimshon Pincus Zt"l.

But both very *gevuradik* in *hashkofa* which I love.

Hope to see big things from you

i heard Rabbi Pincus ztl was a talmid of Rabbi miller ztl

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Re: My Story

Posted by ieeyc - 21 Feb 2018 08:23

[AvigdorBenYisroel wrote on 03 Jan 2017 22:03:](#)

[Shlomo24 wrote on 03 Jan 2017 04:07:](#)

This is bringing me back to high school. My Rebbi was a massive Rav Miller follower.

And btw Singularity, Rabbi Pincus was a talmid of Rabbi Miller!!

Sorry, I commented on Rabbi Pincus ZTL before I saw this post of Reb Avigdor Ben Yisroel

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