

TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by TzedekChaim - 06 Sep 2016 23:20

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Well here I am.

I thought I could do it on my own. Definitely can't. That's how being an addict is. Although this is in the 90 day journey section. I am not going for 90 days. Just 1 day. Today. From now till 7:08pm tomorrow. Then we'll see from there.

I was exposed to this filth as a youngster, completely out of no where. I was playing a gameboy and one of my classmates had a psp with unfiltered internet access and he shoved it in my face. The internet in my house was not filtered (parents in denial, yada yada...). b'h I have not watched that much shmutz but my imagination is a real problem, not to mention the triggers abound in the goyish college/public transportation that I go to. The rest is history. But since finding gye about 2 yrs ago I hope to change that.

So why am I starting a thread if I have been doing this for two years? Obviously, because I have been failing at this for not just the past two years (where I have made some very big gains) but also for the last ten years. I am now 23 and in the parsha, but I am not stupid to think that getting married will solve my problems. it will probably make them worse. What I need is advice and support from this amazing community to help me get through this.

Thanks

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Singularity - 28 Oct 2016 08:22

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up!

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by TzedekChaim - 30 Oct 2016 01:37

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Thank you Singularity and Moudmack for the encouragement.

Thank you Hashem for helping me with each and every challenge.

Shabbos was very nice. I got some antibiotics so my voice is finally back (like 80%) so I could sing some zmiros b'H!! A couple of sick thoughts crossed my mind over shabbos and I had to almost keel over from them. (revolting, and no I won't share them here. and No they are not ) With Hashem's help I managed to dismiss them all within the 3 secondish rule limit and move on. It brought to mind the idea from the handbook (i think it was though it may have been a chizuk email) that said that these thoughts come to our mind so that they can be uplifted when we surrender them to Hashem. I know that if I had never seen anything like this in my life I wouldn't have thoughts like this, but the idea brought me some calm

Tonight is 54 b'H!!

now that the yom tov season is over I will bli neder rejuvenate my physical workout routine which has been on hiatus for a couple of months. (I have a small but effective gym in my house ) I also would like to strengthen my learning schedule. (make it more kovei'ah itim, even if I time does not allow for as much as I can) Part of that may be to aim to do shnayim mikra in bits over the week and not cram it all in on the weekend. That way it's more meaningful. :D

Anyway, The most important thing is to take it ONE day at a time! (It's like living ledovid the each and every day!!!)  
what you may be thinking1

All the best fellow GYE'ers!! Keep trucking...

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
and helped make the surrender more effective.  
Posted by Moudmack - 30 Oct 2016 04:51

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Very good mindset. May you go from strenght to strenght

Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by TzedekChaim - 11 Nov 2016 19:05

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Amain!! Moudmack

Today is 66 baruch Hashem!!!! One step at a time. ONE DAY at a time. Yesterday I had a date in manhattan. There were so many distractions (noise, people, bustling, etc...) A lot of the shmiras eynayim that I have been working on suddenly felt like it disappeared. I found myself looking around (not specifically at anything innapropriate, and when I saw something innapropriate I looked away, surrendered whatever it was, all within the three second rule). It was very disorienting just ahving so much going on. Baruch Hashem once I met up with my date it became a lot easier to focus and I think I only saw a few innapropriate sights. Which is actually amazing given where I was. It should have been much worse (so thank you Hashem for making it easier).

Each day is a day. Each is not dependent on the another (especially not future days), and we only have to focus on one of them at a time. I am happy that Hashem reminds me that I am not better (probably never will be, though I am growing a lot through this recovery). I know that feelings of confidence in terms of feeling 'cured' is a major red warning sign for a fall. So Thank

And when I think about it, despite having tests every day, there really aren't so many of them.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement, and may Hashem help each and every one of us find the true us and the true relationship with Him.

Good shabbos GYE!

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by TzedekChaim - 14 Nov 2016 13:40

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And that rounds out to just over 700 days clean since I started at GYE which is pretty amazing. Just keep working at it, working on making myself a better person (jewishly, socially, normally, and be in recovery) Is key. Personal growth and development. Fill in the void, etc... are all part of the daily grind of trucking. One thing I started doing in my learning is to write down every time I have a question on anything. Doesn't matter how simple or complex the question. And I don't care if I have an answer to it or not. One, it gets me to be more honest with my learning and admit that I don't fully understand everything that I learn. Two, it engages me in my learning so Well, that is day 69 b'H!!! Thank you Hashem that it is more interesting and personalized. (It becomes something meaningful to me). Third, some of the questions are actually very good.

So I did that for shnayim mikra of last week and it became much more meaningful and not boring in the least. (the one downside is not being able to do this on shabbos since we can't write.)

Anyway, so good progress on the learning front. Will keep it up IMY'H and continue upward and onward!!

One anecdote that occurred to me which I think contains an important lesson is: I was frustrated from something because the schedule I had planned out was completely ignored and fell apart. I decided that I should be mivater and not make a big deal out of it. In the end I couldn't contain it and did make some remark about it. Immediately, my yetzer harah was like you totally blew that. All down the drain. Then I was thinking about it and realized that, true, I did not live up to the expectation of being mivater 100% but I definitely could've gone way overboard in my reaction had I not made the decision to be mivater. So I didn't blow it, Just that

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by dm - 14 Nov 2016 14:03

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So you have 20 days more to go, congratulations!

I was up to 16 days and already had my fell yesterday.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by Markz - 14 Nov 2016 15:09

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[dm wrote on 14 Nov 2016 14:03:](#)

So you have 20 days more to go, congratulations!

I was up to 16 days and already had my fell yesterday.

, grab a hitch with Tzedek's Truck and you'll be good to go!!

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by TzedekChaim - 15 Nov 2016 23:42

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Actually, I only have one more day... After that just one more. The total number doesn't matter and dwelling on it doesn't help me. I have been there 17 days, 8 days, 67 days, 160 days. Without that taking it one day at a time, I fall right back down.

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Marks, do you get a trucking referral fee  
Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by YidFromMonsey - 16 Nov 2016 00:53

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[TzedekChaim wrote on 15 Nov 2016 23:42:](#)

Actually, I only have one more day... After that just one more. The total number doesn't matter and dwelling on it doesn't help me. I have been there 17 days, 8 days, 67 days, 160 days. Without that taking it one day at a time, I fall right back down.

Thank you dm.

So Jump on the bandwagon and join the trucking!!! We are happy to have you!!

Wow wow wow!!! Great inspiration and it's so true, keep it up.....

(I fell at 52 days, that was 15 days ago and I'm not back yet to even 1 day clean....)

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Shlomo24 - 16 Nov 2016 03:32

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[TzedekChaim wrote on 15 Nov 2016 23:42:](#)

Actually, I only have one more day... After that just one more. The total number doesn't matter and dwelling on it doesn't help me. I have been there 17 days, 8 days, 67 days, 160 days. Without that taking it one day at a time, I fall right back down.

Thank you dm.

Hmmmm. This sounds like someone I know well.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by Singularity - 16 Nov 2016 09:16

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Cmon man you're almost there! You're into Yaakov mode!

(What's that?)

Well Avraham is the morning, the Middah of Chessed, things are new, fresh, the promise of a whole day. We thank Hashem for his Chessed in the morning more, longer davening, brochos, Modeh Ani.

Yitzchak is the afternoon. The afternoon is dry. The sun is hot. There's no Chiddush. Like Yitzchak's life, there was no chiddush, he did everything his father did (going to Avimelech, complaining about wells). And there's no end in sight. Yitzchak is Gevurah. Because that's what you need to carry on when there's no end in sight. Like 20km into a 50km marathon.

Yaakov is Emes. Night. It's exciting, wild, pumping. You feel rejuvenated miraculously from a long, stinging day. And it's Emes because if you got so far already, then you know it's true. And the end is in sight, so keep trucking~!!!

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by Shlomo24 - 16 Nov 2016 13:28

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What exactly is this "end" that you're referring to?

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by TzedekChaim - 20 Nov 2016 16:25

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DAY 75 b'H!!!! Thank you Hashem, for helping me so generously, and giving me this opportunity for growth on all fronts.

Thank you yidfrommonsey, shlomo24, and singularity for the tremendous chizuk and encouragement!! ~~Feeling like~~ Knowing that there are people there with me in this struggle makes it so much easier (for a good image eyin lihavdil harry potter when he goes to face down voldemort)

The avraham/yitzchak/yaakov imagery/idea is very powerful. But I have to say that I identify more with the yitzchak stage. (well, actually, I find that I identify the most with the jews in the desert. For, the first time I can understand a bit why the yidden wanted to keep going back to mitzrayim. For nearly 20 years I could not understand how they could possibly want such a thing after seeing all of the miracles and everything. Being an addict in recovery has given me a new perspective on the whole pesach story as well as many other aspects of yiddishkeit. IT certainly brings home the whole kedusha/tumah thing). So I feel more like the day in day out guy and

That is not to say that the mashul doesn't apply, I find it really does match well for the one DAY at a time thing. The day starts off, ready for action. Then the day goes on... one incident after another, surrender one, surrender 2, etc... How am I every going to get through this. Then before you know it, your falling asleep in bed thanking Hashem and pumped for tomorrow.

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The beginning for me was like a newborn baby (b'H have a nephew who was born a couple of weeks before I hit bottom, so I had a great role model for me in terms of total, helpless, and powerless surrender and need for Him to help me). For example, (I don't remember if I shared this already, but it's worth reading again) my brother and sister in law came over for shabbos. we were sitting in the living room shmoozing, and we heard the little fellow downstairs start crying. My sister in law turns calmly to my brother and says something like we will go bring him up after he cries for 5-15 min, (so he learns to self-sooth, or something like that). I was just like WOW. That's me! I am like that baby, I think everything is terrible, In a dark room, by myself and when I cry out no one answers me. Little do I know that the One(s) who love me most are right there taking care of me in ways that I cannot understand right now at all.

After about 30 days, I felt more like a young child holding his fathers hand (I think that I had a measure of growth here and Hashem was taking it to the next level) One particular example I thought about a bit during this stage was that He is running the show and I am his kid. What can a kid really do? The parent loves the child and the child loves the parent (obviously not the same level). Like when a father takes out his tool box and goes to hammer in some nails, his little son runs over excited takes out his toy tool set and starts hammering in whatever he can find. It's adorable. The child is doing his best and his father loves him even more. When I surrender to Hashem, I say that I have no idea how I am going to get through this, but I'll just do my part (guarding my eyes and surrendering lust) and I trust that you will get me though it. Now I feel like the training wheels are off. Though it is a tricky gambit if they really are and I am ready for the next stage or if it is just the yetzer harah telling me that I am good and can do it on my own, which is a LIE!

Whew, that was a long stream of consciousness. A bunch of ideas I have been mulling over that with a ~~big~~, NAY! an enormous stretch of the imagination. ) your vort.

Thank you GYE for giving me life and the oppourtunity to reach my potential. It is not a trivial thing and I hope everyone here knows the truth of that.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey  
Posted by Shlomo24 - 20 Nov 2016 21:32  
fit (somewhat)

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KUTGW! I really like the comparison to a baby. I was actually michaven to that a week ago. . For me I was thinking more in terms of the powerlessness of a baby. He/she is completely dependant on a Higher Power, in most cases that's the parents. I'm like that also. I'm really a baby, I need God in my life. Without Him I'm nothing. He gives me the strength to be who I am and he's like a parent, always there for me to care for me.

Hatzlacha Rabah.

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