

For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Face the challenge - 23 May 2022 02:22

As I near my 50th day clean I decided that number one I'm going to share my full story (sorry if it's a little long) and number two I'm going to start a thread on the forum specifically for bochrin. Why. Because I'm a bachur just like you and I know that the chizuk that you can get from someone who's in the same situation as you can propel you to new heights. It's my hope that all the bochrin on GYE will make use of this thread so that we can get continuous chizuk from each other. Well here goes.

A long time ago...when I was about seven or eight years old I was exposed to porn. It was from my older siblings who are unfortunately otd. Being as young as I was, I "knew" it was wrong but I didn't **really** get it. As far as I could tell this is what my older siblings, my role models, were doing in their free time. Of course I wouldn't ever dream of telling my parents on them. How could I? As time went on I would spend time alone with myself. In my room, in the shower, in the bathroom etc. and I would masturbate. This wasn't really with bad intentions as I was still too young to really understand the ramifications of what I was doing.

Fast forward a few years and I'm getting bar mitzvah. I get tefillin a new hat, a new suit, and I'm ready to join adulthood. But I still got this secret that no one knows about. (By this time I knew it was wrong to be masturbating and watching porn). I decided that with my bar mitzvah I'm going to stop. A fresh new start for me. I'm sure you can guess what happened. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. I continued on in my bad ways for the next two years.

Comes along time for high school and at this point in my life my body is in full lust mode. I decided (with my parents) to go out of town for mesivta so that I wouldn't be around my siblings for them to have a bad influence on me. I'm kinda laughing in the inside because I know it's too late. It's not just my siblings who are otd. It's me. But being that I'm the pride and joy of the family, the "frum" one, I just couldn't let my parents down. I projected an amazing outside image and I was afraid of anyone finding out what was really going on in the inside. So off to high school I went and these were some of the darkest years in my life. In short my daily routine would be that during shachris I would always be taking my tefillin off, going to the bathroom to masturbate, and then coming back, put my tefillin on and make it seem like nothing had happened. On to shiur, I would sit there fantasizing about all the worst things under the sun and then I would "go to the bathroom" again and masturbate. This is how it went for two years. I didn't really care about hashem, didn't care about learning, didn't really connect to my rebbeim, but all along I was projecting the image of one of the top bachrim in the yeshiva. Mind you for the first two years of high school I only had a phone with talk and text so I couldn't watch porn while I was in yeshiva but that didn't stop me from fantasizing, masturbating, and

running to the computer every off shabbos the moment that I came home so that I could go find my fantasies and fill my head with videos for the next few weeks.

Then 11th grade hit. I was smart. I ordered a 35 dollar smartphone that would work with my SIM card. No one had to know about it. I would keep my other phone around when I was at home and hand in my dumb phone when I got to yeshiva (after removing the SIM card to put in my smartphone). This was a real treat for me. I finally had access to porn in yeshiva and with that I would lay in my bed every night while my roommates were sleeping and watch and watch and watch until I would masturbate, fall asleep, and repeat the next day. But don't forget. I'm still a top bachur who people in yeshiva look up to.

Fast forward a few months and I'm in 12th grade. I got a moment of inspiration. I decided that I really need to pull my life together. I couldn't continue on like this. I was ruining my life and I knew it. I smashed my smartphone. It felt great. I felt like I had just won my life back and with that I started anew. I was on top of the world. This was the new me. Ready to change once and for all. And that lasted until I went home for the next off shabbos upon which I encountered a whole hose filled with unfiltered devices and I didn't even last an hour. I was a goner. I felt horribly guilty. How could I go back to watching porn and masturbating?? I had just smashed my smartphone. What happened to me. I made a kabala/promise that I would never do it again. As I'm sure you already know this didn't last to long. I repeated this process of falling and repeating to promise for the whole year. It was horrible. I knew that I would never be able to get out of this vicious cycle but that didn't stop me from making promise after promise after promise. I was the biggest rasha in the world, but the pride and joy of my parents. Their son, their from son who made them so proud of his learning in yeshiva. He was such a tzadik and they got so much nachas. I'm sure you can imagine the pain that I went through at these times. There's nothing like someone praising you while you know that you are really the most horrible person to walk the planet. (And of course I think I'm the only one who's struggling...).

I decide to go to Israel for yeshiva. This time I was going to do it right. I got a strict kosher phone and went off to yeshiva. I started getting turned on to Judaism in a way that I had never felt before. I was really connecting. That Elul in first year I shteiged so much. I was clean from p and m for the whole zman. I had heartfelt tefilos on rosh hashana and Yom Kippur and I was sure that this time I really made it. (If you are still reading this-thank you(-:) I really had sincere tshuva and I promised hashem that I was done. And I really meant it. But then bein hazmanim hit in Israel. With no structure and a hot climate I slowly but surely started slipping. I was outside and would stare a little to long at the girls walking by. I would go to the separate beaches but on the way there I made sure to feast my eyes on the coed beach. There was nothing rationale about what I was doing and I knew it. But I didn't stop. I fell. I fell hard and this just made me sink down into a deeper feeling of guilt. I had just come off of my best Yom Kippur davening and I was right back to where I started. I recommitted to winter zman and I shteiged alot. Mind you I would fall here and there but I was in a much better place then when I got to yeshiva. Fast forward to pesach break. Im sitting in the airport trying my best not to look around at all the unclad people there. I had not been exposed to immodestly dressed women since sukkos and I was able to a pretty good job at guarding my eyes. I felt accomplished. I said to myself that this

vacation I'm going to do it. I'm going to pass by without falling into the trap of the yetzer hara. I won't watch porn. I'm not going to masturbate. I was on guard the whole flight home and I felt accomplished. I really did a good job.

I get home and I'm exhausted so I tell my parents good night and head up to my room to go to sleep. Then I see it. I see an iPod touch in my room and I say to myself don't do it. Don't pick it up. Just go to sleep and feel good in the morning. But then my "yetzer tov" spoke up. "Remember that shiur that you were listening to on YouTube from that rabbi that you really liked hearing. Why don't you find another shiur from him and listen to it until you fall asleep. There's nothing better than listening to torah while falling asleep..." So I picked it up and got down to listening to a shiur. As I go scrolling through the videos looking for some more shiurim to listen to I end up flying past several extremely immodestly dressed women. Be it advertising or the 'next video suggestion' but whatever it is it triggers me. I eventually decide that there's nothing wrong with getting a little entertainment so I go on AGT to watch some magicians. To put it simply the judges aren't dressed to the standards of a bas yisrael. It escalated very quickly from there and before I knew it I was typing in my favorite porn site to the browser. I told myself don't do it. Stop. But all rationale thought was gone. I fell. I fell real bad. For the rest of break I fell a few times a day. And I would keep promising myself that it would stop. But it never worked. I dug myself deeper and deeper into my hole and I was got super depressed.

In short this is what happened for the rest of my years in Israel. I would be mostly fine during the zman with a fall here and there and then bein hazmanim I was done for. I'm sure this is familiar to you. But the hardest part for me wasn't the falls. It was much worse. It was the fact that I was my parents nachas. Their pride and joy that they have a frum child who likes learning. All they would ever see is their son who's growing and growing. And when they would give me a bracha on Friday night I knew that there were always thinking of my older siblings and how they were so proud that they at least had me. I was ashamed. Mortified. I couldn't believe how I deceived them. But this wasn't the only problem that came about from my p and m habits. As a result of my "addiction" I would never have real conversations with Rebbeim. I had no connection to them. I just felt that I wasn't worthy to talk to them. I had no one in my life that I could talk to. I was all alone with no way out from porn. To further bring on the pain, while I watched my friends grow in their learning and grow yiras hashem, I watched myself sit on the sidelines because I never had really invested into my learning and I could see the gap getting bigger and bigger. This is what I came home to after being in Israel for a few years.

These feelings of being all alone in the world while everyone thought that I was a top guy who's ready to become something big. It was comical how many people were telling me that I should go into shidduchim. I just pushed them away saying that I wanted a few more years to learn while in truth i needed a few more years to put my life together.

This past bein hazmanim I fell in one of the worst ways that I could. I went to a level that I had never gone to before and I'm to embarrassed to say what i did. But it was bad. And I was so

depressed and angry at myself. Immediately after my fall I talked to hashem. I said to him that I'm not going to ask forgiveness. I had played that game to many times. I said that I was going to commit to find a way out and only after I had done something different, something to show that this wasn't the same me who was asking forgiveness and making more empty promises, only then I would ask for forgiveness. For a way to start again. I went on to google and I started searching for people who had broken free from porn addictions.

It's been 49 days since I discovered gye that night. And I've been clean since. I would sit there for hours reading the forum of all the people who were going through the same exact struggles as me. It was so comforting hearing people over and over and over describing the same exact issues that I had. I couldn't believe it. I wasn't the only one. I used all the free time that I used to watch porn and instead just kept going back onto gye. (I clocked in over 40 hours in one week which would have otherwise probably been used for porn.) Bh I slowly started pulling myself out of the muck that I was in. I made real safeguards for myself in the areas that I used to slip the most and I've been focusing all my efforts in making sure that the yetzer hara doesn't get his foot in the door because I know that if he does I won't win. (I'll post later what these included...) I eventually got on the phone after 5 days of internal struggle back and forth with myself and back and forth again. I called HHM to get help. I wanted to know what else I should know to make sure I wouldn't fall back into this problem. He is so knowledgeable and gave me over an hour on the phone. I can't thank him enough for the time he gave me or for the encouragement and inspiration to keep going. He put everything that I was doing into a real life perspective and made me realize that I can really do this.

I'm here in yeshiva in America now and while i still struggle in that my learning abilities are behind my friends, and I don't yet have a strong relationship with rebbeim, I take comfort in the fact that I'm putting my life together again one day at a time. I'll move onto to figure out the other areas of my life later. I got to go one step at time. Ones day at a time. Im sure with hashems help I'll get there. It's been a journey of 14-15 years but I hope and pray that this is the last stop.

To hashem. I haven't asked forgiveness since 49 days ago because I knew that I had to come and show that I was different. Is 49 days clean good enough. Will I be forgiven? I can only beg of you to forgive me and help me fight every single day to face this challenge. I know it's not going to be easy but I'm doing this for you. I want to get a real connection to you. Please let me come back.

To all my friends at gye. You guys are what kept me going this whole time. Never stop posting and giving chizuk to others. You don't know who you can impact. It doesn't matter if people don't always respond. There will always be people like me who are reading your posts to get chizuk and fight our yetzer hara.

to gye-you are angels sent from heaven to help us all come back to hashem. May hashem give you much success in helping many others out of their situation.

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Face the challenge - 29 May 2022 05:41

As for the discussion that has been going on whether or not it is/was good to have a double standard here's my thoughts. It was good and bad. It was good in the sense that I kept myself learning,davening, etc. and didn't openly go otd. If that had happened I don't know where I would be today. So that's definitely a plus. Also now that I'm fighting to get free I really want to live up to a high standard so it created a good goal for me of where I want to go and who I want to become. At the same time there were really bad things that came out of it. The pain, the deep pain that comes about about living a double standard. The way that I had to learn how to lie so easily. To cover up everything that I was doing. The thoughts of being known as good. It was a horrible feeling. I never want to have it again. But we're not here to dwell on the past. What was done is done. Now I'm going to try and focus only on the positive side from here on out.

It always helps me to think that ????? ????? ????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ???? ?????? ??????. That's crazy!! We can use our past to springboard ourselves into the highest of places. Ever think about how many other people are out there struggling the same way that you I and are. I don't mean to belittle them at all but you should feel great about yourself that you are part of gye. You are part of the few who are actively trying to get out of this situation and that's more than many (unfortunately) can say about themselves. Give yourself some credit. Feel good that you are actually fighting the battle. Hashem should help us all continue fighting and break free!

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by bochur23 - 29 May 2022 06:14

I think there was a deeper point in frank.lee's post (if that wasn't his intention, then it's my point:wink:).

?Sure, double standards are bad for the most part (although some people still pointed out certain benefits even then). But is it a double standard, when I live up to it in some areas and I

others not? It's not a "All or nothing", what I do live up to isn't necessarily fake just because I struggle in something else.

There's a story about the fourth Lubavitcher Rebbe: one of his chassidim would wear chassidic clothes when visiting his Rebbe, and would wear business attire while on business trips. After a while he thought to himself "who am I tricking?" So he decided to come to the Rebbe in his business clothes. When the Rebbe saw him he commented "and I thought you were faking by the business trips, not here..."

The point is, who is the real me? The one who is a top bochur etc who also has a real struggle in this area, or am I really OTD and just putting on a good show for everyone else?

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin
Posted by Yissie - 29 May 2022 17:06

Just to add to bochur23, not directly related to the topic at hand, but an interesting thought.

Someone told me that his rebbe told him on purim that you have to make sure that today you are wearing a costume, not that this is your real clothing and the rest of the year you are wearing a costume.

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin
Posted by jackthejew - 29 May 2022 17:19

I agree with most of the posts that keeping up the "good side" is better then not. I was just reffering to the damage done by the strain of keeping up 2 lives.

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Nitzachon - 29 May 2022 17:40

Bh

I agree.

i don't think we necessarily have to define it as double standard in the first place. A person is extremely multi faceted. If you ask yourself "what do i want" there are at least 2 answers that come immediately that contradict escort based on different dimensions of our identity: instant gratification and delayed graduation. And that's just a fraction of who we are....

So i think there always existed a deep seated conviction that Truth is truth and the right thing is the right thing, and even if part of me gets gratification out of xyz, partpart of me know that in the long term i want to lead a Jewish life. H how that will be reconciled, only time will tell, but i don't think it's a double standard, **even though it feels like one.**

I'm also not saying that it's automatic, and everyone always had that clarity during the struggle but after the fact, i think we can safely define it as such.

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim

Posted by connected - 29 May 2022 17:58

Hi all,

This is my first time posting on this thread and I'll be honest, I haven't read through all the messages. But the title and the concept are awesome! I wish I would've had this resource as a lonely struggling bachur 10+ years ago.

Ashreichem!

Keep up the great work!

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Face the challenge - 29 May 2022 18:05

[bochur23 wrote on 29 May 2022 06:14:](#)

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Ahhh I got it now. That's a cool/positive way of looking at things. I really like that story with the Lubavitcher rebbe-thanks for sharing!

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Vehkam - 29 May 2022 20:44

[Nitzachon wrote on 29 May 2022 17:40:](#)

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I'm also not saying that it's automatic, and everyone always had that clarity during the struggle but after the fact, i think we can safely define it as such.

Perhaps I misunderstood your post. In my understanding if something is not allowed in a Torah true life, then acting on those impulses can never be reconciled with our ultimate goal of leading a Torah life.

The only way to make peace with those actions is to compartmentalize and “turn off” your true values for the moment. This compartmentalization allows for a second identity that is not restricted by the rules that we follow in “real life”. It also cannot be reconciled with our true values.

as time goes on this second identity can become bolder and stronger and if that happens at some point the compartmentalization does not work any more and the double identity can create an unbearable strain.

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Markz - 30 May 2022 03:26

Double identity - yeah!

You might wanna checkout the famous GYE mascot [Captain Kirk!](#)

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Face the challenge - 01 Jun 2022 00:46

Bh got to day 58! After Friday/Shabbos which had some of the hardest moments since I started, things let up and so far I've been having a pretty easy week. Looking forward to getting to day 60 soon!!

That's it for now.

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Face the challenge - 01 Jun 2022 01:00

My latest find on the forum and I had to share it with everyone in case you haven't seen it yet. (And if you have seen it, it can't hurt to see it again).

Get ready for this!

A talmid of Rav Eliezer Geldzahler left his yeshivah, Ohr Yisroel, and went to learn in another yeshiva. The new yeshiva, in a European city, was different from what he was used to, and it was far from New York City, which was home. The young man felt homesick and unmotivated, and eventually, he took a day off, roaming through town instead of going to learn.

He did this for one day, and then the next day as well, walking the streets and relaxing in the local park rather than learning in yeshivah. He felt horrible, but it was too hard to stop. On the third day, he knew he had to call his rebbi, Rav Leizer.

It was an overseas call, an expensive proposition back then, and the rosh yeshivah wasn't easy to reach, but eventually, the boy got through.

"Rosh Yeshiva!" he cried out when he heard his rebbi's voice. "I'm so broken...I am in such a bad place."

Rav Leizer listened as the talmid admitted that he hadn't learned in several days and wasn't davening well either. "Listen to me," the rosh yeshiva said. "I think you should go and drink a l'chayim and rejoice - you're a fortunate young man." It seemed a strange comment and the talmid wondered if his rebbi had heard him correctly.

"Yes, drink a l'chayim," Reb Leizer reiterated, and he explained. "The Ribbono shel Olam has over 7 billion people in His world. How many of them do you think experience pain and heartache when they don't sit by a gemara for a few days? How many feel the anguish of being distant from Him? So few. You are a minority of a minority, a person perceptive and sophisticated enough to know his mission and to feel misery at having missed a few days - ashrecha, how fortunate you are, how sensitive you are! Go drink a l'chayim to celebrate what you feel, and then go start again!"

This is an excerpt from *Nishmas* by Yisroel Besser and I think it's relevant for all of the chevra here at GYE.

We are sometimes very down in our struggles and feel terrible about falling. Don't get me wrong - obviously we don't want to fall. But we have to realize that the fact that we are on GYE in the first place means that we really care about stopping and enhancing our relationship with the Ribbono shel Olam and thats something we should all appreciate about ourselves and not something that we should take for granted that we have this ability.

Hopefully this gave at least one person some chizzuk.

credit for this post goes to E.h.

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim
Posted by Face the challenge - 03 Jun 2022 04:01

Day 60 let's go!!! Have a great Yom tov everyone!! Thank you for all for your support-I couldn't have done it without you guys!!

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim
Posted by Face the challenge - 07 Jun 2022 02:57

One of the hardest Yom tovim I ever had. I ate at a couples meal that I didn't realize some of my friends wives were not in the same place that they used to be (not to go into any details...). But I was having some of the strongest urges that I ever felt since I started this journey. Shavuos morning davening after staying up the whole night was murderous. I was overtired and my yetzer hara made me keep thinking about that meal for hours straight. I didn't want to go to sleep because I was afraid of having a wet dream after having so many hirhurim. In middle of mussaf I managed to muster the strength to go get a ???? and I learned for about 10-15 minutes during davening. (I don't care whether it was halachically correct to be learning out loud during chazaras hashatz, I needed to do whatever I could to get my mind into a different place.) Anyway it worked for the most part. When I got home I read a book in my bed until my eyes wouldn't function anymore and bh I made it through clean. After that episode I was still struggling over Yom tov but not nearly as bad as that first day and I managed to keep clean for the rest of Yom tov. Now I feel great that I succeeded.

That's it for now!

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim
Posted by Face the challenge - 07 Jun 2022 03:22

On another note, starting this week im only going to have access to gye once every week or two. I got rid of all internet on my phone so i will only be able to access the site from my tablet (which has while-listed internet), and i will only have access to Wi-Fi about once a week. So, i will no longer be able to be as active as i was on the site.

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