

How far can being powerless take us?

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 15 Aug 2009 20:25

I'm still fascinated by the irony that admitting powerlessness to this addiction is the first step to getting back in control.

But, how far does this concept go?

If I have trouble controlling my anger, can I just say, "Anger is too powerful for me. I can't fight it. Just let G-d take over"?

Or, if I would like to memorize all of Shas, can I just say, "it's too difficult for me; I'll just let G-d do it instead"?

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Re: How far can being powerless take us?

Posted by TrYiNg - 16 Aug 2009 07:55

Was also wondering if and when it applies in other areas of yiddishkeit....

I think when we try to understand things , like why did this one get sick and why does someone who's so erlich have so many tzaros..etc. We can just understand that its too hard for us to understand... LET GO.admit that we are too small to know everything. Leave the cheshbonos up to hashem. LET GD.

Dono if I expressed myself clearly. makes sense?

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Re: How far can being powerless take us?

Posted by Will - 16 Aug 2009 08:33

Interesting....

It seems to me that admitting powerlessness is a crucial step, but definitely not the *only* step. A person needs to admit powerlessness so that he doesn't feel like he is battling alone, rather, the Creator Of The Universe is right there on the battlefield with him. This person needs to be constantly aware that Hashem is carrying him through this battle *provided that he is doing as much as possible to fend off what he can*, and taking the necessary steps towards recovery. If a person just admits powerlessness in the struggle and doesn't put forth effort to recover, nothing will happen. He will just become depressed that he is powerless in such a "hopeless" situation. On the other hand, if a person only puts forth effort, under the impression that he is battling the Yetzer Hara head on and alone, he will almost always fall and end up overwhelmed. BUT when a person combines both of these- realizing that he is powerless but Hashem is helping him, and doing *everything he possibly can* to win- he comes out on top.

So it seems that if a person had an anger problem, and he fully recognized that defeat of his anger *just may be* his tikkun in this world (which is why the anger was so intrinsically implanted in him)...then acknowledging his powerlessness and taking ALL of the necessary steps to get rid of his anger should remove it. Also with shas- if a person recognized his human frailty, knowing full well that Hashem really is Chonen HaDaas...AND he did everything within his power to accomplish this goal...theres nothing stopping him.

Will

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