

making the silent battle...not.

Posted by silentbattle - 04 Dec 2009 04:12

Because isn't that why I'm here? And silent battles are always more difficult to fight. There are very few people in the "real world" (you know, the one where people lie, cheat, steal, and are) that I can talk to about this - so this is my chance, I guess.

I'm in my late 20s, single. I learned in Eretz Yisroel for a bunch of years, and had tremendous success, both in learning, in middos, and general personal growth.

When I came back to america, though, things were different. I didn't have the same social framework of the yeshiva that I'd gotten used to. Most of my friends were married, in a different country/state, or both. And the few friends who were still around were crazy busy with their own things. So there I was, lonely, without any support system to speak of, having trouble with dating, and full of the standard drives that guys have. And no real outlet for any of my emotional and physical needs.

Speaking to Uri and reading his posts, yes, I suppose I have a deeper neediness, and to me, "loneliness" includes that - the feeling of not having people to rely on, not feeling wanted, needed, etc.

So I started going to various websites - I started by using them as fuel for fantasies, but eventually ended up meeting women in real life. And while I was honest with them, and made sure they were aware that it could never become something truly serious (how ironic, that my being frum influenced me even while I was doing these terrible aveiros!), I got involved in one unhealthy relationship after another. They provided a fleeting comfort, and even some support, but nothing lasting, and in retrospect, it's no surprise that my dating wasn't very successful (even though I wasn't in any other relationships at the time of dating, I just wasn't in a very healthy place overall).

And then...Hashem helped me. I'm very close with my rebbe, but I could never bring myself to tell him about this, even though I wished he would somehow find out. Well, he did - and I was horrified, but amazingly relieved at the same time. He directed me to a therapist, and the therapist mentioned this website - so here I am.

So, the major issue I'm dealing with is not meeting people in real life - but while I'm at it, my therapist recommended trying for complete abstinence - and I thought, "why not?" After all, if I'm looking to improve myself on a ruchniyos level, then I should try to stop mz"l too, right? And, so far, so good. Clearly, Hashem has been helping me. I've been clean over a month from unhealthy relationships, and something like 11 days on the WOH.

Thank you, everyone, for being part of this group.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 07 Feb 2010 02:55

OK, so continuing with my ideas for a program...please, share your thoughts about any/all aspects of what I'm writing here, I could use the input - tell me what you agree with, disagree with, can add to, enhance, modify, etc.

I think that every program, whether it's therapy, or 12 steps, or GYE, or...well, anything...is going to have two basic focuses (focii?): sur meira, v'asei tov. Which I see as (asei tov) focusing on the person you want to be, the person you really are, and the values that you have; what you truly think is important; living life; improving, growing, being happier. And (sur meira), remembering what's dangerous, and just how dangerous it is - and staying far away (or as far away as possible); being honest about tests, dangers, triggers, and feelings, with oneself, and ideally, with someone else.

So, my thoughts are as follows: Keep going with GYE. This helps me focus both on how I'm growing, and also makes me examine where my tests are. And makes me admit to them, we're I've succeeded, where I haven't.

Keep in touch with a partner/sponsor, eventually via phone. I may have found someone to do this with, we'll see how it works out.

Be in touch with my rebbe and friend, both of whom know and understand my issues.

Continue to grow - learn, work, schooling, make sure that I feel like I'm moving forward in life. I'm looking into starting to go to a shiur, with the possibility of getting closer to the guy giving it, having a rebbe that's local. Not going to be the same as my rebbe in Eretz Yisorel, who knows me incredibly well, has been with me for YEARS, and everything - but he is here, and that has definite advantages.

Please, add to my thoughts?

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by sci1977 - 07 Feb 2010 04:22

First off I think you need to figure out a plan of attack. If plan A doesn't work then proceed to plan b. So on and so forth. I think that a lot of your ideas are great. An addict in recover is still and addict. You need to make sure you stay in recovery.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 07 Feb 2010 17:02

Sci - You mean a concrete plan for moments of temptation?

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by sci1977 - 07 Feb 2010 19:17

[silentbattle wrote on 07 Feb 2010 17:02:](#)

Sci - You mean a concrete plan for moments of temptation?

Yes, and you can do the same with your whole recovery. See I think you can come up with ways to deal with everything if you sit down, think about yourself and try to understand why things happen regarding your addiction. Make a plan and see if it works. Plans can always be changed to make sure they are working.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 07 Feb 2010 21:20

Sci - I agree that concrete plan are important, building in plans - kinda like when you're driving down a highway, and you see a hole in the middle of the road, you train yourself to swerve out of the way.

That's step 1. And you're right, I still need to work on that. Part of this plan is also to keep me aware of what's happening with me in general, and with the addiction in particular. But I'm also working on, and incorporating that into, step 2 - a more general framework for growing, being aware of dangers and avoiding them - I don't want to swerve to avoid obstacles, I want to be on a different highway! I want to be a different person, the *real* me!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by OneLife - 08 Feb 2010 13:53

SB,

you are serious!!

i will tell you what i think about your plan.

look, you are a good man in your deep.

our acting out is just a peels that have grown because of some reasons, each one and his reasons.

each one fell to this addiction not because he wanted to.

so now when you recover yourself impressively (i see you almost hit the 90) , those peels will be B"H taken off of you by themselves, and the good man, the real SB will be exposed.

actually, what i mean?

i mean that you have to be responsible of the *sur meira*,

the *aise tov* will be by the way, by itself.

your clean spirit will take you where you want to without "orders" from you.

of course you need a concrete plan for moments of temptation (as you said), a sponsor to speak with, rebbe, or anything else which can keep you clean also after a long time.

i tell you that because of my little experience,

i feel on myself that everyday i continue to stay clean i go up in *ruchaniut*.

you are the real soldier of HASHEM, just ask what you want from him and b"h he will give it to after all, he don't have any reason why not. SB is almost as YOSSEF HAZADIK,

love you GEVER!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by sci1977 - 08 Feb 2010 14:48

[silentbattle wrote on 07 Feb 2010 21:20:](#)

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Everytime you choose to be clean, you are on a different road. G-d's road. On that road you find life. Maybe this sounds simple but just live. Obviously work on what you need for yourself, but just live.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 08 Feb 2010 16:00

Sci - that's true, but as much as possible, I don't *want* to have to choose to stay clean - that requires an expectation of power, and as much as possible, I want to be OK with being powerless - so as much as possible, I want to avoid anything that will tempt me - if I see it coming, I want to avoid it, from as far away as possible.

OL - I respectfully disagree - asei tov does NOT happen by itself. We have to work to grow. Look around you, man - Does everyone who's clean become a gadol hador? Start learning every spare minute? Improve all their middos?

Of course, being clean helps, makes it easier, makes it sweeter - but there's still a lot of effort that we need to put in.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by sci1977 - 08 Feb 2010 17:02

staying clean is and should be all of our goals. I feel like if at first we choose to be clean eventually it will lead to being powerless towards it. Almost like that is a way to rewire our brains.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by 7yipol - 08 Feb 2010 19:27

Hi SB!

Thanks for the personal invitation.

I have read over the past few pages to try and get a feel for whats going on in your life.

I apologize that I no longer do this on a regular basis (but the heads up on my thread was the way to do it!)

[silentbattle wrote on 07 Feb 2010 02:55:](#)

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Seems to me you have thought this through very well and are on the correct track.

Retaining a strong support group is vital for success.

As you said, this includes GYE, phone support, sponsors etc. The more safety nets you have set up in advance, the less likely you will even need them. Sometimes just knowing that there is someone or something out there to catch you can be enough to *prevent* the fall.

Your positive plans are also well balanced in my opinion. Shiurim and chavrusas will help you remain mentally stimulated and motivated towards growth *iyH*. Building a relationship with a Rav you can relate to is also very important.

I was very inspired reading how you deleted all your writing and books. As someone who writes too, I can easily imagine how difficult that must have been. Regardless of how *shmutzik* the topic may have been, writing is a part of yourself, and it took incredible bravery and strength to erase that. Personally, I think that this *karbon* alone will earn you tremendous respect in *shamayim*. I am honestly in awe.

But why waste that talent? "*Sur meira v'asei tov*" fits in perfectly here! The "*sur meira*" you've done - deleting the books. For the "*asei tov*", how about writing a new book? Perhaps also about *p*rn*, but from the other side? *HKBH* gives us talent in order for us to utilize it *l'shem shamayim*.

Im not sure this helped at all. If Im off track, please let me know.

With real respect,

7 UP

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by imtrying25 - 08 Feb 2010 21:48

[silentbattle wrote on 07 Feb 2010 21:20:](#)

I don't want to swerve to avoid obstacles, I want to be on a different highway! I want to be a different person, the *real* me!

Wow, this is exactly what the Rebbi Reb Dov has been preaching the last one thousand posts or so!!!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 09 Feb 2010 01:55

IT - wow...now THAT'S a compliment! ;D I'm not there yet, but I'd like to get there...

Sci - not sure I follow - can you elaborate?

7up - thank you so much!! For your wisdom, and also for popping by my thread at all! I know you're busy, and I appreciate your responding to my invitation/request.

Actually, although I write well, I've never really written for recreation. And there are few areas where I can get such fantastic reader response to help encourage my writing...I really should try writing, since it's a talent, and like you said, talents are made to be used. Just not sure exactly how...

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by teenagehelp - 09 Feb 2010 02:24

i'm surprised. after encouraging me so much with songwriting, its seems like you'd definitely be writing your own original stuff. i can only bring words of encouragement. ;D

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by Gabe - 09 Feb 2010 06:49

I'm ashamed to admit that I haven't posted in this thread yet.

SB, you are one of the truly remarkable people of this forum. You always have an encouraging word for others.

I wish you the best in your recovery.

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