

A Tzadik Falls Seven Times and is Still Called a T

Posted by Mark18 - 12 Dec 2019 04:51

The possuk says sheva yipol tzadik v'kom a tzadik falls seven (or more) times and still gets up and goes on. Rav Tzadok says If he falls why is he still considered to be a tzadik are you a tzadik after you fall? Yes because you keep getting up again and again and again and you remain a tzadik. You keep getting up after you fall again and again and again and thats what makes you a tzadik.

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Re: A Tzadik Falls Seven Times and is Still Called a T

Posted by Dave M - 12 Dec 2019 13:56

[Mark18 wrote on 12 Dec 2019 04:51:](#)

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This passuk always moves me to tears. It really encapsulates the struggles we are go through. Certainly in the fight against lust, it is absolutely **Impossible** to quit cold turkey on the first day. There will always be ups and downs. A person needs to constantly fine tune his strategies to stay one step ahead in the game. Thanks for starting a thread on this.

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Re: A Tzadik Falls Seven Times and is Still Called a T

Posted by DavidT - 12 Dec 2019 15:15

There is actually much more to it.

As Rav Hutner wrote in a letter to a struggling talmud:

"Seven times does the righteous one fall and get up" does not mean that "even after falling

seven times, the righteous one manages to get up again." What it really means, is that it is **only and precisely *through repeated falls* that a person truly achieves righteousness**. The struggles – even the failures – are inherent elements of what can, with determination and perseverance, become an ultimate victory.

"A failing many of us suffer from is that when we consider the aspects of perfection of our sages, we focus on the ultimate level of their attainments, while omitting mention of the inner struggles that had previously raged within them. A listener would get the impression that these individuals came out of the hand of their Creator in full-blown form. Everyone is awed at the purity of speech of the Chofetz Chaim, z"tl, considering it a miraculous phenomenon. But who knows of the battles, struggles and obstacles, the slumps and regressions that the Chofetz Chaim encountered in his war with the yetzer hara (evil inclination)?"

There are many such examples, to which a discerning individual such as yourself can certainly apply the rule. The English expression, 'Lose a battle and win a war' applies. Certainly you have stumbled, and will stumble, and in many battles you will fall lame. I promise you, though, that after those losing campaigns you will emerge from the war with the laurels of victory upon your head. Lose battles, but win wars."

Our challenge in life is not to be perfect. That is unattainable and, according to Shlomo Hamelech, it is in some way undesirable, for one cannot become a tzaddik without falling. The challenge is to carry both sets of Luchos with us, to take pride in our successes and seek to repeat them and to recall and learn from our failures and be determined to transcend them.

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Re: A Tzadik Falls Seven Times and is Still Called a T

Posted by Mark18 - 12 Dec 2019 15:19

[Dave M wrote on 12 Dec 2019 13:56:](#)

[Mark18 wrote on 12 Dec 2019 04:51:](#)

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It always moves me to tears as well. I dont want to sound overly dramatic but sometimes its really important to go to a private preferably dark place and actually cry real tears from the depths of your heart and soul to Hashem/your Father to internalize and really connect with Him. The degree of chizuk and connection you get to Hashem/your Father is really very profound and very deep.

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