

The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 09 Sep 2020 19:13

Hi guys, I am starting a new thread to post about my journey moving forward. In my other thread I kinda write inspirational thoughts and maybe some vague somethings about me struggling.

The truth is however that I really do struggle, even now at 140+ days clean. I Don't struggle as much and I have pretty much figured out (for the most part) what my "triggers" are, but when they come they can still freaks me out.

It's not a far fetched idea in my mind that I will someday have a full relapse and this too freaks me out. I don't expect it anytime soon but I don't imagine it as a non-possibility. This may be good or may not be, this thought process may keep me focused or it may give me ideas that I really don't want to think about.

Basically I want to use this thread to post only my struggles and all other inspiration and stuff I will post on my original thread. This way I hopefully will be able to be more aware of myself and my struggled and wont be hiding behind a mask of "oh I'm doing great, just look at my count..."

The other thing is that I never really opened up about what I actually am going through and over the next little while, hopefully I will be able to do a little of that.

Your thoughts and input are welcome.

All the bast,

Wilnevergiveup

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 29 Jun 2021 20:33

Taking a moment to write down some of the things that make up my value system in the area of lust.

The GYE bare minimum:

- Porn
- Masturbation with finish.?

?My personal values:

- Not looking at any women, even if they are dressed (in underwear and alone).
- Not looking at any woman in order to derive pleasure (with a three second grace period, non accumulative)
- Fantasizing about being with other women who I don't know.
- Fantasizing about being with other women who I do know.
- Looking for material to feed my lust, even if I don't find any.
- Masturbating, even if I don't finish.

These are things that I value in and of themselves, no streaks, no commitment, just because these are the things that I believe in.

I will try to post occasionally if I am clean by GYE standard, or by my standard. This is really just about clarity for me.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 29 Jun 2021 20:36

Today, clean by my standards.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 01 Jul 2021 05:04

Clean and clean.

Did some Pesach cleaning on my computer, it was necessary and could not be done by anyone else. It was a little triggering but I was able to do it in the least triggering way. I am really grateful).

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 07 Jul 2021 07:16

B"H been clean by GYE standards as well as mine.

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that I was able to do that (hope my wife doesn't realize

Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 12 Jul 2021 18:07

GYE: clean, my standards: 98% clean.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by gettingthere9 - 13 Jul 2021 22:47

If I would get a 98% on any test I would be pretty pumped...

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 16 Jul 2021 10:06

Earlier, I mentioned that I would be flying. In the past, I would spend 80% of the flight watching movies or other entertainment, often ones that were not clean at all.

I haven't been on a plane for close to two years (pre GYE) and was unsure how I would hold up this time around. Instinctively, I started looking through which movies were available and I reminded myself that I didn't *need* to watch anything to survive. My wife fell asleep and I started looking again, for things that I could only watch when she is asleep...

There was. I put my hand up on my screen and said to myself, "you are better than this."

Then I found some creepy movie about dead people and ghosts who thought they were alive...

Slept for a few hours, never done that on a plane before. Got off the plane thinking, "cool, I was on a plane, watched only one movie, and survived!"

Had a connection, on the second flight, I started watching a movie that didn't look like the most promising to be clean. First scene is a sex scene. I said ahhhhhhhhhhhhh! Now what! I looked over to see if my wife was noticed. I took off my headphones and asked her how it's going. she just smiled and said "I love you, thank you for all your help with the kids." That gave me the strength to find something clean to watch.

I don't know if she saw or not, but her response was what saved me. Hashem is looking out for me.

Sorry about this ramble, just proud of myself.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 21 Jul 2021 17:28

Had another fall.

A lot of pent up frustration. I had a deep and lengthy conversation with my father. I really opened up to him about many of my struggles including this one. It went really well, he listened and was very supportive.

With much gratitude from North America,

Wilnevergiveup

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Re: The Truth

Posted by Sapy - 21 Jul 2021 17:48

Wow, that's courage! Kudos to you!

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 10 Aug 2021 20:32

I had a rough couple of weeks. The good news is that instead of freaking out, I am looking at it as a learning experience. I really learned a lot about myself and some of the things that trigger me. There was something that I urged for that surprised me. I was lusting someone who wasn't particularly special in any way and I tried to figure out what it was about her that was making me crazy. Figuring out what it was was very eye opening.

I have this deep urge to be something special for someone, especially a woman. I want to be wanted, loved, and cared for, that is big part of my struggle. These things are what I see in (or fantasize) women that I fantasize about. Vulnerable women are a trigger because I think that I can help them and be their hero then gain their affection.

I am very grateful that at least I was able to gain something. The situations that I was in were ones that I have never been in since joining GYE and therefor I was really unprepared for them. It was rough and I now know that for the next time I need to have a different plan.

It's really strange how different places and situations (I am not referring to triggering stuff) can really make me into a different person. When I am with certain people or in certain places, I can totally lose all sense of rational and logic that I have anywhere else I am. All I can say is that it's really bizarre and I will have a lot to go over with my therapist next time we meet.

Thanks for listening, it means a lot to me.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 22 Aug 2021 05:59

I am a little uncomfortable writing this because something is telling me "just get over it and move on" but on the other hand it's still nagging at me. Maybe writing it here can help me get past this.

So, there is this girl, actually, she is really a woman now but I've known her casually for quite a while. She is a little younger than me, single and very pretty. She is somewhere on her way back from being off the derech, is very sweet, kind and sincere. We bump into each other every once in a while and she makes herself available to shmooze with me for as long as I please. she could sit on the couch or at the table for hours just chatting and every time this happens, I find myself prying myself away from her because I am uncomfortable.

She dresses and gives of the vibes that she is available for me (no not like that...) and that she is really interested in me and my life. That's a **BIG** trigger for me.

I'm usually okay in the moment, I say hi, tell her what I am up to in life ask her what she is up to (vegetarian these days) then I find some way to escape in the least awkward way possible. then I spend the rest of the evening trying not to look in her direction. It's a hard but doable.

Now it's a week later and I still fantasize about her. I think about what it would be like if we could just shmooze for hours, what it would be like if we could become close friends etc.

It's not like I want to marry her and it's not like I even like her. I actually think that she is really weird and eccentric. She is vegetarian (I mentioned that) she rides her bike in shorts all around town (not the type of person I typically hang around with) and surely not someone who I would get along with as our values really don't line up well. I don't compare her with my wife, I don't dislike my wife because of her, it's not a competition, my wife has everything for me and she has almost nothing.

Except that she makes me feel wanted. She makes me feel cared for. She shows interest in me and what I am doing. She provides me (at least in fantasy) the feeling that someone wants me. It's like I have this big hole that she fits right into and fills.

It's hard to explain but yes, my wife provide for me all those things, but it's just not enough. I think that it doesn't mean the same thing to me because she is just doing what a good wife does, but when I get it from someone who doesn't "have to" it's just different.

And yes I go to therapy, maybe I will discuss this next session.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by Hashem Help Me - 22 Aug 2021 20:24

Sometimes these situations arise that we try to fill a void with a substance that just won't do the job. In more modern communities it happens that guys sometimes socialize with girls who they never intend to marry. (Of course this also happens to an extent in other communities, just less openly...) In the end, usually there end up being two broken hearts. They truly gave so much to each other, validated each other's feelings, made the other feel important and needed, etc. For your sake, **and for hers**, cut the relationship. Let's not create an emotional challenge for either of you when this "giving each other attention" comes to an end.

There is a very good book "Running on Empty" that describes the challenge those amongst us

(many of us) who somehow did not get enough emotional nurturing as kids and teens, and enter married life quite needy. Learning to accept the reality, and understanding that the hole may never get completely filled is step one in attaining emotional balance.

In addition to paragraph one, let's face it. We live in crazy times. Society at large is extremely permissive - and it rubs off on us. What begins as a completely innocent relationship - making each other feel important and listened to, can chas v'shalom quickly develop into a touchy feely friendship, when one party "really just needs a healthy hug", and then it go even further than that..... Be smart. Cut it now. Take care of yourself. Understand your needs. Let your therapist help you accept that your wife may never give you everything you need, and that that is ok. May Hashem give you (and the thousands like you) menuchas hanefesh and fulfillment.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by wilnevergiveup - 24 Aug 2021 08:37

I am disappointed. I let myself down.

I have to figure out what it is that I want from myself.

I am not quite sure...

It's frustrating because I know what the issue is, and I don't know how to fix it. I am trying my best to work on it with my therapist, I just wish that my issues didn't always lead me to masturbate.

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Re: The Truth

Posted by Sapy - 24 Aug 2021 14:36

I feel for you.

Is there anyway to coupe "with" the issue, before "fixing" it?

It sounds like you have many great people you talk to, would it have helped if you spoke with your brother/father/rebbe etc? Not for help, or ideas, just to share and be listened to?

Also sometimes the issue itself isnt what gets us, it's the way we feel "we need to get rid of the issue" that is harder on ourselves. Sometimes when we accept that we have this issue, and it's okay even while we still have it, it gets much easier, and it's like a weight lifted off our heads....

Dont know if any of this is relevant to you, (hence I dont even know which kind of "issue" your going threw) just sharing some of the realizations that have helped me in the past.

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