

Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by Kedusha - 28 Nov 2010 02:23

The Posuk says in the beginning of Parshas Vayeishev that Yosef's brothers hated him - "and they could not speak peaceably with him." Targum Onkelos, apparently recognizing that it's not literally true that the brothers were unable to speak to Yosef in a nice way, translates the Posuk: "and they did not want to speak peaceably with him."

Many times when we tell ourselves that we're unable to do something good (get up for Minyan, stay clean, etc.), what we really mean is that we don't want to do it. If we really wanted to succeed, we would work on taking whatever steps were necessary to, b'Ezras Hashem, help us be successful.

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by frumfiend - 28 Nov 2010 02:50

An addict is powerless

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by Kedusha - 28 Nov 2010 04:30

[Frumfiend The star wrote on 28 Nov 2010 02:50:](#)

An addict is powerless

If that were the entire story, what's the purpose of AA, SA, or GYE for that matter?

An addict may be powerless to simply stop the addictive behavior by means of sheer will power. However, he is not powerless to make good choices, such as reaching out to others and to the RBS"O, and to taking steps that will help him enter recovery, one day at a time.

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by installed - 28 Nov 2010 06:37

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by frumfiend - 28 Nov 2010 12:49

That wasnt the impression the original post gave. This problem isnt comparable to getting up for minyan. This addiction needs a program. You cant do it on your own.

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Great point, Kedusha!

Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by Kedusha - 28 Nov 2010 15:17

Right, but there are people who say they just can't stay clean, program or no program. What they're really saying is that they would rather act out than work the program.

As for waking up for Minyan, this idea can be applied whether we're dealing with an addiction or not.

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by the.guard - 28 Nov 2010 16:37

We may be powerless over diabetes, but we aren't powerless to take our insulin!

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by frumfiend - 28 Nov 2010 17:02

Reb guard beautifully said

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by Kedusha - 28 Nov 2010 18:58

Yes, that's my point precisely.

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by DovInIsrael - 28 Nov 2010 19:56

ok - but some people are powerless.

imagine a TV .. which someone stuck a screwdriver into!

static .. zzz!

powerless to give a clear reception -

UNTIL someone pulls the screwdriver out!

but one has to WANT to pull the screwdriver out, and get better reception

dov.ii

if one medicine does not work - try another

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 28 Nov 2010 21:04

[guardureyes wrote on 28 Nov 2010 16:37:](#)

We may be powerless over diabetes, but we aren't powerless to take our insulin!

That was great. Did you rehearse that?

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by silentbattle - 28 Nov 2010 21:09

Wow. That is incredibly true, and *very* powerful.

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Re: Unable or Unwilling?

Posted by the.guard - 01 Dec 2010 16:47

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 28 Nov 2010 21:04:](#)

[guardureyes wrote on 28 Nov 2010 16:37:](#)

We may be powerless over diabetes, but we aren't powerless to take our insulin!

That was great. Did you rehearse that?

This is the ABC's of the GYE network (and the 12-Step programs) :D

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