

Looking for direction

Posted by hunjy1 - 11 Nov 2013 10:56

I am new to GYE, but I wish I had found it much earlier. after just a few days of reading through some articles and posts I already feel like things are changing for the better.

I guess I'll start by telling my story (hopefully in short). I am a yungerman learning in kollel for a few years now and I doubt anyone who knows me suspects me of my dark secret. I grew up in a more modern family and was exposed to small amounts of inappropriate material on the internet when I was still young. I was good with computers and I guess I was curious. well, after that I got turned on to learning and went to yeshiva and really thrived there. but as much as I grew in my learning and in other areas, I would still somehow "fall" here and there. it really made me depressed to be living this sort of double life but I still convinced myself that each incident was isolated and I didn't realize how severe my problem was. my addictions are for websites with explicit pictures and videos (it's embarrassing to even write that but it's actually my first time ever openly admitting it in any way, so it also feels good to finally let it out).

I think the rest of my story is somewhat standard... got married thinking I would never relapse (and didn't for a while), "accidentally" ended up finding those old websites, and looking at them and being motzie z"l r"l.

I always wanted to seek guidance but was never brave enough. now that I have found GYE I believe I can really overcome this. my main problem with beginning the process is that I'm not sure how to classify my addiction. when I'm being pulled by my y"ch to lust, the temptations are so strong they are debilitating. I may find myself staying up until crazy hours, not being able to focus on my learning, not taking care of my responsibilities properly, and not treating those around me the right way. and of course looking at the websites and...

but the taavos aren't always there. in fact I sometimes go months at a time without an incident (although there are things I'm sure that I do subconsciously because of my addiction). so I don't think making these fences or shvuos will help me. I already have a pretty good filter set up and I desperately want to stop. of course there are cracks in the filter. and I've also found that I don't need all that much material to get my lusts going. the biggest issue is my smartphone which I had blocked all internet apps right away when getting it and my wife has password (she doesn't know anything about my addiction). but I "accidentally" found a way to get to internet through a different app and it's not so simple to block it.

sorry for not keeping short but when you're drowning it's hard to be precise. I can't face myself anymore and even though i'm not lusting right now I know the y"ch will sneak up on me eventually. please help me if you can. any thoughts on what to do next and chizuk would really help. thanks to all the members of this site and it's staff for being here for each other.

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by ???? ?????? - 22 Dec 2013 22:51

Thanks Dov

accepting everything, awareness is THE key ..

Dov

The problem is ignorance of its relevance to ourselves...

thanks, you so clearly explained what I had in mind by saying that dressing up the torah's mentchlickeit into rucniyus is a bubble need to be burst thanks, and you put it down that calling that 'avodas hashem' is running from ourselves

Dov

And I am not certain what you mean by 'white-knuckling'.... Being graded 'a tzaddik', 'beinoni', 'rosho', or whatever, is of little relevance to me. That's all G-d's affair. Thinking about that whole business is, for me, the children of the ego and nothing more

trying to explain my self, i'm sorry for using words doesn't tell what i want, by writing 'white knuckling' i simply means that i will keep up trying to do my best *technically* and *spiritually* even i will never reach a '*hechereh madraigah*' and '*I know I will fail at doing it perfectly*' and by using the term 'beinoni', i said to myself *and need to be patient with myself* hey you, you will never get your teenage dreams..

thank you

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by appreciate - 23 Dec 2013 09:44

i dont agree with you. of the 8 levels that you can fall under the 3rd is already considered being an addict. although he hasnt exhibited certain addictive habits he still could have the underlying issue. and it is a mountain.

hunjy1 you should read the SA book

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by Dov - 23 Dec 2013 22:44

[hunjy1 wrote:](#)

Believe me, I don't think I am in any way "cured" or that I will ever be. And I don't think that I am able to get recovery without doing real work. Work that is yet to be done. But am I crazy if I don't think an SA meeting is for me? Or if I don't want to put my wife through some horrible pain?

Looking for direction...

Gevalt. I do not know, chaver, if you are referring to me in these questions at all, but if you are including me in the questions, then let me say this:

Please tell me when/if I ever said that you need SA meetings? Did I ever *post* that to *anyone* here on GYE? I don't think so. If I did, it was an arrogant moment of mine, indeed, and I'd apologize. Please let me know if I *implied* it, too. Thanks.

And while we r at it, please tell me when/if I ever wrote anything like "once an addict always an addict" to anyone here on GYE? Never, I think. It's a complex topic that has some good application, but certainly not 'The Truth'. It's a whole discussion - too bad the 'we-are-sick-for-life' concept is so readily thrown around here...

Hope this didn't come off as critical - I am really trying to just clarify my own position here, and hope what I did write never implied those two ideas to you.

Thanks, chaver! And keep up the great work, all of us.

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by hunjy1 - 24 Dec 2013 00:54

[Dov wrote:](#)

Please tell me when/if I ever said that you need SA meetings?

No you didn't direct me to an SA meeting. That wasn't exactly my point, sorry for misquoting.

I just meant to say that I understand the value in opening up... Just this forum has helped me tons. But I keep getting the message that the only way to undo my secret habits rooted in gayvoh and self-righteousness is to knock me clear off my horse. And the only way to do that (it sounds like) is to tell someone who I thought previously respected me for my other lifestyle and reveal to him/her my secret one.

Meaning the embarrassment of exposing myself will help me change.

I do believe that this would help me become more real. I'm just saying that if this is not the only way to reach my goals, then it may not be the best way.

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by Pidaini - 24 Dec 2013 01:05

I am going to offer my humble (and that is an understatement since you have Dov answering you) opinion on the matter.

[hunjy1 wrote:](#)

..tell someone who I thought **previously** respected me for my other lifestyle and reveal to him/her my secret one.

Meaning the **embarrassment** of exposing myself will help me change.

I do not look at it that way. First of all, I don't think it has to be anybody that knew you before at all!! The only one that wil get new information will be.....yourself!!

Which leads us to the second thing, there is no embarrasment, just simple truth!! We are constantly tricking ourselves, telling ourselves lies about who we are, and who we aren't. Opening up to anyone is a way of showing *ourselves* who we really are!!

It's not a scaring method, rarely did that work for me, and even when it did, the scare didn't last too long before I was back to P & M. The point is that in order for oursleves to grow, we need to know who we are!! Only then can we begin to really change.

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by gibbor120 - 24 Dec 2013 03:09

hunjy1. It is evident that you are desperately trying to avoid telling someone. At the same time, you must feel deep down that it's the right thing to do, or you wouldn't spend so much time and energy thinking about it.

Am I right?

From my experience (and others here). It's scary to do beforehand, but it's a BIG relief afterwards. What do you have to lose?

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by hunjy1 - 24 Dec 2013 09:08

[gibbor120 wrote:](#)

hunjy1. It is evident that you are desperately trying to avoid telling someone. At the same time, you must feel deep down that it's the right thing to do, or you wouldn't spend so much time and energy thinking about it.

Am I right?

From my experience (and others here). It's scary to do beforehand, but it's a BIG relief afterwards. What do you have to lose?

Yes you are right. I do feel it is right to tell someone. I have spoken already with a safe GYE member and that was helpful.

But you ask what I have to lose. If I were to tell someone who knows me, I could possibly lose their respect, or I could damage a good relationship...

Maybe I don't deserve that respect anyway, but before I go take that plunge I wanted to make sure it was the right move. so that's why I am spending so much time on this topic. I want real change, but I am treading carefully... Sometimes over-analyzing is foolish and sometimes being too hasty is foolish... call me crazy... so what?

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by gibbor120 - 24 Dec 2013 22:28

That is what I like about the forum. I can learn a bit about someone before I decide to call them. If someone is on this forum, you will not lose their respect or damage a relationship. If anything, they will respect you more, and if they happen to know you (not so likely) you will be lucky to have a real friend to share with.

When I told my rav (sort of against my will) he told me and my wife how much he respects me.

Hatzlacha.

You are welcome to call me if you like. Just send me a PM.

I know how you feel. I went through the same dilemma. I'm happy that I told a few people and can call them to talk.

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by Dov - 25 Dec 2013 03:27

If I'd be a religious fanatic, I'd respond something silly like, "Well, shouldn't you care more about saving your relationship with Hashem, than about preserving a relationship with one who is 'just' a bosor v'dom (and that is already based on false information anyway)?"

But I am *not* one of those and realize that we all in fact **do** care much more about what *people* think of us than about what *Hashem* thinks of us - and He knows it! (He is very, very smart, you know.) That kind of response is just more familiar old twisted mussar schmooze...religious negative-trickery and self bashing. Been there, done that with myself

So instead:
enough, so I do not dare use *that* hammer on others any more, either...

I am referring to asking a real recovering person, not stam to walk up to your chavrusa and tell him all your dirt, c"v, or to your rov, or whoever.

You speak the language of 'shame' and 'embarrassing'...that's too bad. But that is how you see things, still.

And as others here have pointed out, none of this 'opening up' stuff has *anything* to do with embarrassing ourselves. Do you honestly think that embarrassing yourself would stop you, anyway? That you would eventually sneak around even the people you vomited all the dirty truth onto, too? Of course you would, I would, all of us would! And therefore that is not at all what we are talkign about here. Shaming ourselves does not work ***at all***.

But being honest *does*.

Now, whom can you be honest to, without losing your same sense of worth and beauty? For myself, I share everything with my recovery friends and lose no honor in the process at all. For we are all the same, in a respect. No shame, no embarrassment.

Your shame has got to go.

R' Elimelech of Lizhensk wrote that, as you know, in the tzet'l kotton #13. "A trusted friend"... "and not to hold back anything due to shame". Was he talking about punishing ourselves by embarrassing ourselves? If that was it, then he'd have said to find a bimah to klop on!

Do you hear? It's OK, you can do this if you want to, and it is not brutalizing yourself.

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Re: Looking for direction
Posted by Pidaini - 25 Dec 2013 18:57

[Dov wrote:](#)

R' Elimelech of Lizhensk wrote that, as you know, in the tzet'l kotton #13. "A trusted friend"... "and not to hold back anything due to shame". Was he talking about punishing ourselves by embarrassing ourselves? If that was it, then he'd have said to find a bimah to klop on!

Just to add another mareh makom (you can start using this one as well, Dov)

[LeHavote Aish wrote:](#)

[Pidaini wrote:](#)

from the Hanhagos of R' Asher of Karlin, brought in Beis Aharon

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Translation is welcome

One should be careful to have a good and trustworthy friend and can keep secrets and should talk to him even half an hour every day and uncover his most deepest secrets and thoughts and feelings of the Evil Inclination because it waits upon the man to kill him etc'...

Sorry, I don't know exactly how to translate the rest...

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by SIB101854 - 26 Dec 2013 04:34

I would suggest that anyone who struggles with the desire unsuccessfully and denies that he is an addict is at risk for becoming an addict. That's because we all rationalize many aspects of our behavior that really are beyond the pale of being rationalized, and rationalizing this desire can , as it did in my case, lead to a full fledged addiction.

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by SIB101854 - 26 Dec 2013 04:40

Actually, if you sit down with a competent therapist, and start writing here Blashon Nikiyah , it can be a very cathartic process in helping you recover. I credit my therapist for letting me describe how I began with masturbation and porn years ago, and how my desire for both increased , replete with telling him what I saw, watched, read and printed over the years. Admissions and acknowledgments of whatyou actually did, are vital before one even thinks of concrete measures.

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Re: Looking for direction

Posted by SIB101854 - 26 Dec 2013 04:46

???? ?????? ?????wrote in part:

"I think that for normals there really is a mehalech of avodah that doesn't require one to see

himself as powerless, as Dov said. I don't much care for it but it seems to be valid for some people. I believe the tachlis is serving Hashem from a real sense of dependency on Him because that's the truth anyways. But until we are there, we can also serve Him from a place where we see ourselves as separate and hence rely on our "own" strength. Does that make sense to anyone?"

I think that this makes a lot of sense. When Yaakov Avinu prepared to meet Esau HaRasha, Rashi mentions that Yaakov davened and took positive steps that we would call Hishtadlus. I heard a prominent rav point out that becoming a Ben Torah , let alone aTalmid Chacham, requires both Tefilah and Hishtadlus in the form of Talmud Torah Lishmah B Ameilus UHasmada Rabah. One cannot succeed without both Tefilah and Hishtadlus.

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Re: Looking for direction
Posted by Ezrasyid - 26 Dec 2013 10:39

Here is one way...join the call. Share your step 1. That is a great big start...

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