

Just getting started

Posted by monseyid41 - 13 Mar 2023 03:24

Hello everyone, I am a new member of GYE and I am excited to be joining this chaburah of Yidden who are striving to come closer to Hashem. I would like to start out with a confession of sorts. I actually signed up about 2 months ago, not really knowing what this was all about, but hopeful that it could be helpful to me. Before I actually checked in or started any kind of program, I was reading a lot of the different comments from people in the forum, just to get a feel of what people were struggling with and to see if there was anything in common with my own struggles, and I was actually kind of turned off. Because when I was reading all the different stories of people with the challenges they have, I started thinking: "This is really not for me. True, I struggle with Shmiras Einayim, and I have looked at things and done things I shouldn't have, but these people are talking about addiction to porn, masturbating daily for years at a time, etc. these people have serious issues, I'm just a regular person who once in a while gets caught up with the Yetzer Hara. This is not the kind of crowd I belong in". Yes, that's the view that I had from up on my high horse. But some time after that I fell again, with porn and masturbation, and when I was feeling all guilty and horrible about myself, it hit me. Maybe I do need some help. Maybe I'm not any better than all those people in GYE that I so casually dismissed. So I went back on and started reading some more. And one of the first things I read in the forum was from Eerie, entitled "It's all in the name", and I literally broke down crying. Because I have so many things in common with his story. For one, I don't believe that I'm addicted, but it really doesn't matter if you give yourself (or anyone else) that label. The main thing is I have fallen many times in the past, and I am looking to improve myself, and that is true about everyone here. Also, I too am in chinuch and I am dealing with the same feelings that Eerie expressed about the hypocrisy of someone teaching Torah and giving over our heilige mesorah to the next generation when he himself gets caught up in the worst Aveiros (I read the responses as well and I found them very much on target). And then, when he mentioned that he discovered one computer in his school that had unfiltered internet, I almost fell off my chair. This literally happened to me as well (do we work in the same school?) So, thank you Eerie, for opening my eyes and allowing me to realize that we are all here for the same reason; not to judge anyone else and decide who's better than whom, but to grow together and help each other in our shared goal of Kirvas Elokim. And thank you as well to everyone else (if you're still reading at this point, double thank you!) for allowing me to join you all in this holy endeavor. I haven't actually gotten to my story yet, but I think this is enough for now. I would like to wish you all much Hatzlacha in your Avodas Hakodesh and I hope this can be a fresh start for me as well.

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by monseyid41 - 22 Mar 2023 16:27

Ugghhh! I'm so stressed. My wife is sick in bed so I had to get everyone up and out – make breakfast, find their clothes, pack lunches, make ponies (help!), etc. I have two sons. One has down syndrome and is on the spectrum. He can be challenging. The other has ADHD. He is EXTREMELY challenging (and that's when the meds are working). Add to that my 4-year-old twins, who are delicious when Mommy's around but now Mommy's not around. I was up at 6 but didn't get to daven till 9:30 (at home), and then I had to bring my son to school because he missed his ride (he goes to school in a different city so that's an extra hour on my already late start to the day).

I know I sound like a baby (I mean, who doesn't have a stressful life) but that's how I feel. I just want to veg in front of a screen right now. Nothing ??? of course, just some sports, and maybe a little politics (Ben Shapiro usually makes me laugh. Oh, and Kamala Harris ALWAYS makes me laugh, though not for the same reason, but I digress) Can I please get a ??? from one of the Chashuve Rabbonim here on the forum. Just for an hour. And It won't lead to anything else, I promise. No need to write a whole long ?????, just a simple ??? ??, will do. Unless you have a better idea. I'm always open to trying something new. Wait a minute. I'm starting to not feel so stressed. Strange.

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by Tomimtiyhieh - 22 Mar 2023 16:44

Life is so stressful, and it seems like you have an extra challenging day - but thanks for bringing some humor in!

Good luck, stay strong and refua shelema at home!

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by chancy - 22 Mar 2023 16:50

There used to be a kosher place here on GYE where you can download kosher videos in times of need. I dont know if its still around.

But in my experience, nothing beats exercise. Makes you feel good and gets you going.

Watching a movei and wasting the day will make you feel horrible and draw you to do bad stuff.

Hashem Should help you speedily with everything you need and want

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by Eerie - 22 Mar 2023 19:39

[monseyid41 wrote on 22 Mar 2023 16:27:](#)

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Thanks for sharing, my friend! The only that bothered me is that you feel silly for venting. First of all, isn't that what friends are for, to help each other, to lend a compassionate ear? 2nd of all, you truly are having an extremely stressful day! 3rd of all, you are human and your stressed, so what can be funny or silly about venting? The fact that you are stressed is a fact, and having where to vent it is a bracha, and never feel silly. We care about you, we know you are human, and we want to hear what is going on. Keep trucking, my holy friend! Oh, and keep venting:)

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by excellence - 23 Mar 2023 10:31

Dear My,

Sorry to hear about your challenges. U truly must be a great man if ur being tested this way.

Generally having specific kosher sites that are unblocked ready for you to unwind, is alot safer than browsing the web for "kosher Fun" cos it can start going downhill...

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by m111 - 23 Mar 2023 21:59

[monseyid41 wrote on 22 Mar 2023 16:27:](#)

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We feel for you,

(I also have difficulty with my kids, not as difficult as you)

Life is tough sometimes, and we just wish to sooth it.

Chocolate is kosher but not as effective.

I also naturally look to the screen for comfort, whether Kosher or not, mabe even now being on GYE is my soother.

Yes life has stresses. Sometimes major stresses.

But what do we do with it?

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by monseyid41 - 24 Mar 2023 15:01

Excellence, every time you post, it gives me a boost. Your Avatar is so inspiring. It gives me the desire to get there someday. If you're ever having a hard time and thinking about giving in, just remember that there's a Yid in Monsey who looks up to you. Can't wait till you change it to 360!

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by monseyid41 - 30 Mar 2023 14:18

Just a couple of thoughts as I approach 30 days. It is amazing to me how it seems like it's been so easy. Once I've started posting and connecting with others, and I feel like I've turned a corner, it just doesn't appeal to me to go back to that old way. I'm not trying to be ???? ??? I'm just telling you how it's been. But it makes me a bit nervous. Is this real, or just the calm before the storm?

Another thing I noticed is that I've gained a certain contentment with just being clean from P/M, to the extent that when I have had a Nisayon of Histaklus, I haven't been putting up enough of a fight, because my Y'H is telling me: you're clean from the main problems, don't get caught up on the minor things.

I thought it would be the opposite. Until now, Histaklus wasn't even on my radar screen because I was doing even worse, so it would be silly to try to fight against that when I couldn't even get the more serious things under control (this isn't true, of course, I'm just saying that's what I had always told myself). But now, I expected that having been clean from P/M, I would be able to go

to the next level of Shmiras Einayim, but it's been challenging to make a fight out of that and not just be satisfied with my current level.

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by chancy - 30 Mar 2023 16:33

Reb MY41,

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The YH is changing tactics with you... he sees that you are able to stay away from P and M, so he is trying something new, its really simple.

From a mental and physical standpoint, your brain is still looking for the forbidden pleasures and when you dont look at P or M it will try to get some pleasure from just looking.

Please dont compare looking at P and/or M to seeing a women on the street..... looing at women on the street has been a nisoyan for thousands of years for every single yid, P on the other hand is a completely sick and overexaggerated convolution of the normal desire that a man has to look at a woman. So please dont compare them.

The g'mara i sent you regarding a yid going to a place where women are not dressed properly says that if he HAD to go that way he is not a Rasha, he had no choice. He is a Tzaddik if he still looks away, but not a rasha if he doesn't.

Nowadays, just walking on the street in our own neighborhoods is difficult becuae the way most women dress today, and there isnt away around that, we are not supposed to stay home forever..... so you walk with you head donw and try not to look at anything, if you see something, as soon as you realize you are stating at something you shouldnt, just look away. No need to freak out that you saw something improper, thats not your fault at all! The B'nie yisoscher says so clearly, that a yid will not be tainted by the first thought or sight that comes into his head, the only thing thats asked from us is to not continue fantasizing once we realize what we are doing...

I dont know if this is too liberal for some people here but its the truth.

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by DavidT - 30 Mar 2023 18:44

[chancy wrote on 30 Mar 2023 16:33:](#)

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The first look is on Hashem and the second look is on us.

In other words, we can't help if we saw something triggering in the street unintentionally.

If we will have to be in an area where we know there will be a struggle, we can try to offer a

short prayer before leaving the house: "Please Hashem, help me not to take any second looks". And if we find that we do stumble and take a second look, we can quickly offer another short prayer and say, "Hashem, I surrender my lust to you! Please take it away from me".

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by Eerie - 30 Mar 2023 23:44

[monseyid41 wrote on 30 Mar 2023 14:18:](#)

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Hey, absolutely amazing, my friend! So nice to hear that you are finding this easy, and it's absolutely amazing to watch you grow!

As far as the increase in tests as far as shmiras einayim when working on breaking free, this is a sentiment many of us have expressed. I had the same. In the simplest sense this is probably caused by heightened sensitivity, and it seems that for most people this does not last very long. So keep trucking, and light up all of Monsey....and the whole world!

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Re: Just getting started

Posted by monseyid41 - 03 Apr 2023 15:12

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Re: Just getting started
Posted by m111 - 04 Apr 2023 19:50

[monseyid41 wrote on 03 Apr 2023 15:12:](#)

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Yes, even without getting rid of the Yetzer Hora, we can still be free from his slavery. That is, we **don't** have to think and feel that in certain situations we cannot control ourselves, and the taava is unmanagable. This is the breakthrough of being part of GYE.

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Re: Just getting started
Posted by monseyid41 - 20 Apr 2023 14:37

Hi everyone, I just wanted to share a feeling with you that I have been having recently as I read some of the members' stories on the forums. There is a famous letter from Rav Hutner Zt"l to a struggling Bochur, a Talmid of his, where he gives him tremendous Chizuk. The entire letter is a gold mine of good advice and Hashkofas Hatorah and I have received a tremendous boost from

reading it over and over throughout the years, but there is one line in that letter that I thought of recently.

He quotes the famous Passuk "??? ???? ???? ??" and he says that the foolish person thinks that what this means is that a tzaddik is someone who, despite falling numerous times, still gets up from the fall and continues onward. However, the wise person knows that what this really means is that the Tzaddik gets up BECAUSE OF his numerous falls, not in spite of them, meaning that the Tzaddik's struggles, his battles, and yes, even his falls, are all part of what has made him great. He has reached the level that he reached because of all the struggles he has gone through and at the end he has emerged victorious. (I am not doing justice to his words, I think it's really worthwhile to see it inside. Besides for the content, he also writes so beautifully).

The reason that I thought of this now is because I see so many heilige people here who are chronicling their stories, and inevitably that includes not just their successes but also sometimes their falls and I wonder to myself, how do they do it? How does someone post that he just fell after 20, 30, 50, 100, days but they are starting over again and are committed to keep going, keep trying, (or keep trucking, as R' Eerie likes to say). I myself don't know if I would be able to do that. But the answer is that these Tzaddikim seem to understand what Rav Hutner was telling his Talmid. That the fall is just another step on the journey, another road on the path leading to their greatness. They're not getting up despite their fall, but rather because of it. Thank you to all those that have inspired me and given me this insight.

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