

A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey

Posted by BEHS - 29 Mar 2016 19:17

I'm a baseball fan and a numbers guy. And the numbers we discuss in baseball are typically percentage-based: Batting average, OBP, slugging percentage,... The numbers that represent actual occurrences are typically noted only when they are outliers. Hank Aaron's homeruns, Ricky Henderson's stolen bases, (don't tell the MLB that I'm mentioning this next one) Pete Rose's hits,... These are monumental feats that seem superhuman. In that second category would also be Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak, Orel Hershisier's scoreless innings streak, and Cal Ripken Jr's consecutive games played. These are superhuman feats that we never expected to happen and will probably never happen again. (See where I'm going with this yet...?)

I know I have trouble with lust. I'm a proverbial red-blooded male. It's been a problem with me for longer than it hasn't been. For me to have a significant streak would require superhuman strength which I don't have. But that doesn't mean I can't try to hit for average. I can't keep beating myself up over losing my streak when I don't have the *koach* in me to maintain it. That's up to Someone Else to give me that superhuman power. If He chooses to, I'll be tremendously grateful, but if not, I'll do what I can to get on base and bring in a few runs.

It's with this mindset that I'm changing my approach to the 90-day challenge. While I do hope to one day reach that tremendous milestone that currently seems so far out of reach, I have to begin by focusing on my batting average. And while I'll continue to track my streak, it's better for me to focus on percentages to keep upbeat about my progress.

I plan on updating this thread daily to track my ongoing "batting average" and welcome all to call me out if I begin skipping days. I may also reset the count every 90 days to test myself and see if I can hit better in subsequent periods and to give myself a target to beat.

As always, I welcome input from the *olam* as to whether this is a good idea that may need tweaking or if I should scrap it altogether.

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey

Posted by inastruggle - 20 May 2016 20:00

It's interesting that you connect not liking the spotlight with this struggle.

Since I've joined gye I really changed in this regard. While I still don't like having people look at me I've become a lot more comfortable with it. I still always think about what other people are thinking about me but I don't care nearly as much anymore.

I've also become a lot more outgoing and friendly. A lot has happened during these past few years so it probably isn't only gye that caused this but I do think it can claim some credit.

Dov always talks about how hiding is part of the problem.Maybe it is connected.

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by BEHS - 20 May 2016 21:27

46/52 = .885

I haven't been able to post the last couple nights since I've been getting home late from work.

I started reading the white book lately. I find it interesting that the first "tradition" listed makes personal recovery dependant on being a part of the group. I'm starting to realize that a little more lately. As I stated previously, I've always tried to deal with this by myself. I see now that that has to have played some part in why it hasn't worked.

Have a gut Shabbos everyone.

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by markz - 20 May 2016 21:32

Great post

KEEP ON POSTING

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by Watson - 21 May 2016 23:25

[BEHS wrote on 17 May 2016 03:46:](#)

I'm curious if it's common for people like us to always try to fade into the background in any situation

I don't know. My guess is that it's just as common with addicts as it is with non-addicts.

Do you have a therapist?

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by Watson - 21 May 2016 23:38

[BEHS wrote on 20 May 2016 21:27:](#)

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Can I ask you - why are you reading the White Book? Do you think you are a real addict?

Not everyone who has difficulty quitting their acting out is a real addict. Take a look at the second link in my signature, at the part entitled 'How can I tell if I'm addicted?'

If you are a real addict and really want to recover, I'd recommend reading page 63 of the White Book, especially the first paragraph.

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by BEHS - 22 May 2016 05:18

$47/54 = .870$

Watson,

Here are my answers to the 20 questions on page 8. Feel free to tell me your opinion.

- 1) Yes
- 2) Yes
- 3) Possibly
- 4) Yes
- 5) For Sure!!!
- 6) Yes

- 7) Possibly
- 8) Yes
- 9) Not typically, but it has happened
- 10) Not "party", but if I see a link...
- 11) No
- 12) Sometimes
- 13) Not sure about the question, so probably no
- 14) Not in physical terms, but emotionally
- 15) Yes
- 16) Yes
- 17) Not sure about the question, so probably no
- 18) Not "partner", but computer yes
- 19) Yes
- 20) No and hopefully never

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by Watson - 22 May 2016 07:39

I have no opinion.

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by BEHS - 24 May 2016 00:57

I was listening to a shiur by Rav Akiva Tatz on free will. It essentially boiled down to discussing the concept of a *nekudas ha'bechira*. (Our past, along with the situations we have been handed,

determine the spiritual level we are on, but we are only truly tested on the actions we take at that level. A *tinok sh'nishba* isn't held accountable for the same things as Rav Moshe Feinstein, and Rav Moshe isn't rewarded for not behaving like someone who was raised in Harlem. We are held accountable and we are rewarded based on the choices we make at our level.) [Feel free to chime in or PM me if further clarification on the topic is required.]

Someone in the audience asked about people with addictions, and he essentially shrugged off the question saying that it only changes the degree of difficulty we face in making the right choices. But that doesn't change the fact that our actions when facing a test are 100% because of our free will. Nature didn't cause us to make the choice, our past didn't do it, our addiction didn't do it. We did the action because we chose to do it. Any other reason given undermines the idea of us having free will.

My initial reaction was that this is very empowering. It says that the buck stops with me and only I can stop it if I want to. But then I started wondering how this works with the 12 steps. Doesn't it fly right in the face of steps 1 and 3?

I'm curious what the GYE veterans have to say about this. Is it just that we give over our situations and *nekudas ha'bechira* to *Hashem*, or are we essentially saying "take back our right and ability to choose"?

48/56 = .857

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by Aryeh821 - 24 May 2016 02:06

I'm not a veteran 12 stepper at all -I've never done them in my life although I'd love too

but I don't see what the issue is we have a choice to keep on fighting and lose or to surrender to G-D and win

we also have a choice and free will to choose just a very different choice then everyone else - just my 15\$

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by Workingguy - 24 May 2016 04:27

[BEHS wrote on 24 May 2016 00:57:](#)

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I believe that Rabbo Twerski addresses it. From what I remember reading on his site about the twelve steps, I believe that he explained that an addict may not have free will to stop or even to

fight it, but he does have a choice to go to AA/SA so there is something he can do that is within his realm of free will.

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by Watson - 24 May 2016 20:19

Ah BEHS, I remember watching the exact same shiur and having the exact same thoughts.

In SA we have an expression:

Without G-d I can't; without me G-d won't.

I'm no philosopher. When it comes to GYE I tend to focus on just 1 question - is my approach working?

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by BEHS - 25 May 2016 03:13

[p]WG, I'll try look at Rabbi Twerski's site, but I'm looking more for a way to reconcile free will at the time of choice with the 12 step approach.

Watson, I'm still looking for the approach. (Maybe I should consult with Sherlock.

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by BEHS - 25 May 2016 03:26

WG, I'll make sure to look at Rav Twerski's site and see what he says. But I'm mostly looking for a way to reconcile free will at the time of the test with the 12-step approach.

Watson, I'm still looking for the approach. (Maybe I should consult with Sherlock.<https://mail.google.com/mail/e/1f601>) That saying sounds to me like it takes two: me and ???".

At first glance, that seems to contradict the whole point of the ??????. If I fall, Rav Akiva Tatz would say it's because I made the choice to fall. And while that empowers me to choose not to fall next time, it still means that I did it by myself this time. But if we say that it takes two, how do I know that I fell? Can't I just blame it on Him not helping?

I'm still not 100% sure about how it fits in with the ??????, but after I reread your saying a few times, it really puts the onus on me. If I fell, it's either because 1) I didn't let Him help, or 2) I didn't even show up to the challenge. Perhaps that's the choice that I make when faced with the challenge.

Maybe that's the mantra I've been looking for: show up to the fight, He's already there waiting. (Maybe we didn't need Sherlock after all!)

49/57 = .860

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Re: A New Approach to the 90-Day Journey
Posted by Watson - 25 May 2016 07:20

[BEHS wrote on 25 May 2016 03:26:](#)

I'm mostly looking for a way to reconcile free will at the time of the test with the 12-step approach.

I don't know about you but I know that I have lost the power of choice. You said "at the time of the test" - my friend that is way too late to start thinking about the 12 steps. If I leave it till then I will act out. That is a fact for me.

Part of my denial all those years was that occasionally I had strong urges and didn't give in to them. So I thought I had won that round. I didn't realise that I had not overcome the urge, I just delayed it a few days. I always fell in the end. I lost the power to decide that I would not act out any more.

The 12 steps are not an emergency tool to overcome urges, they are a way of growing spiritually and emotionally. They are worked daily in good times and bad, not reserved for the heat of the moment. Unfortunately they cannot be explained on a forum or in a book, they need to be done in a fellowship of real people doing the same. Otherwise it's like reading some books about carpentry but having no actual experience. Sure, you can talk about carpentry, quote lines about carpentry, explain carpentry, but can you actually build a table?

Hope that helps.

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